
APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

This appendix contains an overview of certain significant differences between Chinese corporate and securities laws and regulations, the PRC Company Law, the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, and the Companies Ordinance, as well as additional regulatory requirements of the Stock Exchange concerning PRC joint stock limited companies. The principal objective of this summary is to provide potential [REDACTED] with an overview of the principal laws and regulations applicable to us. This summary is not intended to include all the information which may be important to the potential [REDACTED]. For a discussion of specific laws and regulations governing the businesses of our Company, please refer to the “Regulatory Overview” section in this document.

THE PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

The PRC legal system is based on the PRC Constitution (中華人民共和國憲法) (the “**Constitution**”), and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, separate regulations, autonomous regulations, rules and regulations of state departments, rules and regulations of local governments, and international treaties and other regulatory documents signed by the PRC government. Court decisions do not constitute binding precedents, although they are used for the purposes of judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the People’s Republic of China (中華人民共和國立法法) (the “**Legislation Law**”), which was last amended by the NPC on 13 March 2023 and became effective on 15 March 2023, the NPC and the SCNPC are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing criminal and civil matters, state organs and other matters. The SCNPC is empowered to formulate and amend laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend any parts of laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided such supplements and amendments are not in conflict with the basic principles of such laws.

The State Council is the highest organ of state administration and has the power to formulate administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws. The people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of their respective administrative areas, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The people’s congresses of cities divided into districts and their standing committees may formulate local regulations on matters such as urban and rural construction and management, environmental protection and historical and cultural protection based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of such cities, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of such provinces or autonomous regions. Where laws have other stipulations on matters of local regulations formulated by cities divided into districts, such stipulations shall prevail. The local regulations of cities divided into autonomous regions for approval before implementation.

The standing committees of the people’s congresses of provinces or autonomous regions shall examine the legality of local regulations submitted for approval, and such approval should be granted within four months if they are not in conflict with the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of their respective provinces or autonomous regions. People’s congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomous regulations and separate regulations in the light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality (nationalities) in the areas concerned. The ministries, commissions, PBOC, NAO of the State Council and institutions with administrative functions directly under the State Council may formulate rules and regulations within the jurisdiction of their respective departments based on the laws and the administrative regulations, decisions and rulings of the State Council.

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The Constitution has supreme legal authority and no laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations or separate regulations or rules may contravene the Constitution. The authority of laws is greater than that of administrative regulations, local regulations and rules. The authority of administrative regulations is greater than that of local regulations and rules. The authority of the rules enacted by the people’s governments of the provinces and autonomous regions is greater than that of the rules enacted by the people’s governments of the cities divided into districts within their respective administrative regions.

The National People’s Congress has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate laws enacted by the SCNPC, and to annul any autonomous regulations and separate regulations which have been approved by the SCNPC but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law; the SCNPC has the power to annul administrative regulations that contravene the Constitution and laws, to annul local regulations that contravene the Constitution, laws and administrative regulations, and to annul autonomous regulations and separate regulations which have been approved by the standing committees of the people’s congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the Central Government, but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law; the State Council has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate ministerial rules and rules of local governments; the people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate local regulations enacted or approved by their respective standing committees; the standing committees of the local people’s congresses have the power to annul inappropriate rules enacted by the people’s governments at the corresponding level; the people’s governments of provinces and autonomous regions have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate rules enacted by the people’s governments at a lower level.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law, the power to interpret laws is vested in the SCNPC. According to the Decision of the SCNPC Regarding the Strengthening of Interpretation of Laws (全國人民代表大會常務委員會關於加強法律解釋工作的決議) passed by the SCNPC and effective on 10 June 1981, where further clarification or supplementary provisions are required regarding the provisions of laws and regulations themselves, the SCNPC shall provide interpretations or stipulate them by decree. Where issues arise concerning the specific application of laws and regulations in court adjudication, the Supreme People’s Court shall provide interpretations. Where interpretations by the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate involve fundamental differences, they shall be submitted to the SCNPC for interpretation or decision. Matters concerning the specific application of laws and statutes not pertaining to judicial or procuratorial work shall be interpreted by the State Council and the competent departments.

Where the provisions of local regulations need to be further defined or additional stipulations need to be made, the standing committees of the people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government which have enacted these regulations shall provide the interpretations or make the stipulations. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of local regulations shall be provided by the competent departments of the people’s governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

PRC JUDICIAL SYSTEM

According to the Constitution and the Law of the PRC of Organization of the People’s Courts (中華人民共和國人民法院組織法) last amended by the SCNPC on 26 October 2018 and becoming effective on 1 January 2019, the People’s Court is made up of the Supreme People’s Court, the local people’s courts, and special people’s courts. The local people’s courts are divided into three levels, namely the basic people’s courts, the intermediate people’s courts and the higher people’s courts. The basic people’s courts may set up certain people’s tribunals based on the status of the region, population and cases. The Supreme People’s Court shall be the highest judicial organ of the state.

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The Supreme People’s Court shall supervise the administration of justice by the local people’s courts at all levels and by the special people’s courts. The people’s courts at a higher level shall supervise the judicial work of the people’s courts at lower levels.

According to the Constitution and the Law of Organization of the People’s Procuratorate of the PRC (中華人民共和國人民檢察院組織法) last amended by SCNPC on 26 October 2018 and taking effect on 1 January 2019, the People’s Procuratorate is the law supervision organ of the state. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate shall be the highest procuratorial organ. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate shall direct the work of the local people’s procuratorates at all levels and of the special people’s procuratorates; the people’s procuratorates at higher levels shall direct the work of those at lower levels.

The people’s courts employ a two-tier appellate system, and judgments or rulings of the second instance at the people’s courts are final. A party may appeal against the judgment or ruling of the first instance of a local people’s courts. The people’s procuratorate may present a protest to the people’s courts at the next higher level in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the laws. In the absence of any appeal by the parties and any protest by the people’s procuratorate within the stipulated period, the judgments or rulings of the people’s courts are final. Judgments or rulings of the second instance of the intermediate people’s courts, the higher people’s courts and the Supreme People’s Court and those of the first instance of the Supreme People’s Court are final. However, if the Supreme People’s Court or the people’s courts at the next higher level finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of the people’s court at a lower level, or if the chief judge of a people’s court at any level finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of such court, the case can be retried according to judicial supervision procedures.

The PRC Civil Procedure Law (中華人民共和國民事訴訟法), or the Civil Procedure Law, last amended by the SCNPC on 1 September 2023 and effective on 1 January 2024 sets forth the requirements for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people’s courts, the procedures to be followed for conducting a civil action and the procedures for enforcement of a civil judgment or order. All parties to a civil action conducted within the PRC must comply with the Civil Procedure Law. Civil cases are generally heard by the courts where the defendants are located. The court of jurisdiction in a civil action may be chosen by written agreement between the parties, provided that the court is located at a place that has direct connection with the dispute, such as the plaintiff’s or the defendant’s place of domicile, the place where the contract is performed or signed or the object of the action is located. However, in any case, the choice of people’s court by the parties shall not violate the provisions on jurisdictional hierarchy and exclusive jurisdiction.

A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign enterprise or a foreign organization must have the same litigation rights and obligations as a PRC citizen, legal person and other organizations when initiating or defending any proceedings at a people’s court. If a foreign court limits the litigation rights of PRC citizens, legal persons and other entities, the PRC People’s Court may apply the same principles to the litigation rights of the citizens, enterprises and entities of such foreign country. A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign enterprise and an entity must engage a PRC lawyer if such person needs to engage a lawyer in initiating or defending any proceedings at a people’s court. Under an international treaty or the principle of reciprocity signed or acceded to by the PRC, the people’s court and foreign courts may require each other to act on their behalf to serve documents, conduct investigations, collect evidence and take other litigation actions on behalf of each other. If the matters requested to assist by a foreign court would result in the violation of the PRC’s sovereignty, security or public interest, the people’s court shall decline the request.

All parties must comply with legally effective civil judgments and rulings. If any party to a civil action refuse to comply with a judgment or order made by a people’s court or an award made by an arbitration tribunal in the PRC, the other party may apply to the people’s court for enforcement

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within two years. Suspension or disruption of the time limit for applying for such enforcement shall comply with the provisions of the applicable law concerning the suspension or disruption of the time-barring of actions.

When a party applies to a people’s court for enforcing an effective judgment or ruling by a people’s court against a party who is not located within the territory of the PRC or whose property is not within the PRC, the party may apply to a foreign court with proper jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling.

A foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced by the people’s court according to the PRC enforcement procedures if the PRC has entered into, or acceded to, an international treaty with the relevant foreign country, which provides for such recognition and enforcement, or if the judgment or ruling satisfies the court’s examination according to the principle of reciprocity, unless among other exceptions, the people’s court finds that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling will result in a violation of the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or security, or for reasons of social and public interests.

THE PRC COMPANY LAW, TRIAL MEASURES OF OVERSEAS LISTING AND GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

A joint stock limited company established in the PRC seeking a listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is mainly subject to the following laws and regulations of the PRC.

The Company Law (公司法) was last amended on 29 December 2023 and came into effect on 1 July 2024.

The Trial Measures of Overseas Listing (境外上市試行辦法) and its five interpretative guidelines promulgated by the CSRC on 17 February 2023 came into effect on 31 March 2023 and were applicable to the direct and indirect overseas issues, listing and trading of securities by domestic companies.

According to the Trial Measures of Overseas Listing and its interpretative guidelines, where a domestic company directly offering and listing overseas, it shall formulate its articles of association in line with the Guidelines for Articles of Association of Listed Companies (上市公司章程指引) (the “Guidelines for Articles of Association”) last amended by CSRC and effective on 28 March 2025.

Set out below is a summary of the major provisions of the Company Law, the Trial Measures of Overseas Listing and the Guidelines for Articles of Association which are applicable to our Company.

General Provisions

“A joint stock limited company” means a corporate legal person incorporated under the Company Law, whose registered capital is divided into shares of equal par value. The liability of its shareholders is limited to the extent of the shares held by them and the liability of a company is limited to the full value of all the property owned by it.

A joint stock limited company must conduct its business in accordance with laws and regulations, in compliance with public and commercial ethics and the principle of honesty and integrity, and under the supervision of the government and the public. A company may invest in other companies. The laws stipulate that a company cannot be the capital contributor who has the joint liabilities associated with the debts of the invested enterprises.

Incorporation

A joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or subscription. A joint stock limited company may be incorporated by a minimum of one but not more than 200 promoters, and at least half of the promoters must have residence within the PRC.

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The promoters that incorporate the joint stock company shall convene an inaugural meeting of the company within 30 days after the share capital has been paid-up and shall notified all subscribers the date of the meeting or make an announcement in this regard 15 days before the meeting. The general meeting shall be held only when shareholders holding a majority of the voting rights are present. The convening and voting procedures for the founding meeting of a joint-stock limited company established by way of initiation shall be stipulated by agreement among the initiators. Powers to be exercised at the inaugural meeting include but not limited to the adoption of articles of association and the election of members of the board of directors and the supervisory committee of a company. The aforesaid matters shall be resolved by more than 50% of the votes to be casted by subscribers presented at the meeting.

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the registration authority for registration of the incorporation of the joint stock limited company. A company is formally established and has the status of a legal person after the business license has been issued by the relevant registration authority.

Registered Shares

Under the Company Law, shareholders may make capital contributions in cash, or with non-monetary property that may be valued in money and legally transferred, such as contribution in kind or with an intellectual property rights, land use rights, shareholding or claims.

The Trial Measures of Overseas Listing provides that domestic enterprises that are listed overseas may raise funds and distribute dividends in foreign currencies or Renminbi.

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to maintain a register of shareholders, detailing the following information: (i) the name and domicile of each shareholder; (ii) the class and number of shares subscribed for by each shareholder; (iii) the serial number of shares if issued in paper form; and (iv) the date on which each shareholder acquired the shares.

Allotment and Issue of Shares

All issue of shares of a joint stock limited company shall be based on the principles of equality and fairness. The same class of shares must carry equal rights. Shares issued at the same time and within the same class must be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. It may issue shares at par value or at a premium, but it may not issue shares below the par value.

Domestic enterprises issued and listed overseas shall file with the CSRC in accordance with Trial Measures of Overseas Listing, submit filing reports, legal opinions and other relevant materials, and truthfully, accurately and completely explain shareholder information and other information.

Increase in Share Capital

Under the Company Law, in the case of a joint stock limited company issuing new shares, resolutions shall be passed at the shareholders’ general meeting in respect of the class and number of new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end dates for the issuance of new shares and the class and number of the new shares proposed to be issued to existing shareholders, if any. If no par value stock is issued, over half of the proceeds from the issuance of the new stocks shall be included into the registered capital. Additionally, if a company intends to make public offering of shares, it is required to complete the registration with the securities regulatory authority of the State Council and announce the document.

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Reduction of Share Capital

A company may reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures prescribed by the Company Law: (i) to prepare a balance sheet and a property list; (ii) a company makes a resolution at shareholders’ general meeting to reduce its registered capital; (iii) a company shall inform its creditors within 10 days and publish an announcement in newspapers or the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days after the approval of resolution of reducing registered capital; (iv) the creditors shall have the right to require a company to repay its debts or provide corresponding guarantees within 30 days after receiving the notice or within 45 days after the announcement if the creditors have not received the notice; (v) when a company reduces its registered capital, it shall register the change with a company registration authority in accordance with the law.

When a company reduces its registered capital, it must reduce the amount of capital contribution or shares in proportion to the capital contribution or shares held by the shareholders, unless otherwise prescribed by any law, or agreed upon by all the shareholders of a limited liability company, or as specified in the articles of association of a joint stock limited company.

Share Buy-Back

Under the Company Law, a company shall not purchase its own shares. Except for any following circumstances: (i) reducing the registered capital; (ii) merging with other company that holds the shares of the company; (iii) using the shares for employee stocks plan or equity incentives; (iv) with respect to shareholders voting against any resolution adopted at the shareholders’ general meeting on the merger or division of our Company, the right to demand our Company to acquire the shares held by them; (v) using the shares for the conversion of convertible corporate bonds issued by the listed company; (vi) as required for maintenance of the corporate value and shareholders’ rights and interests of a listed company.

The purchase of shares of a company for reasons specified in the case of (i) to (ii) above shall be subject to the resolution of the general meeting; the purchase of shares of a company for reasons specified in the case of (iii), (v) and (vi) above shall be subject to the resolution of the Board meeting attended by more than two-thirds of the directors in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association or the authorization from the general meeting.

Following the purchase of a company’s shares by a company in accordance with the above provisions, such shares shall be canceled within 10 days from the date of buy-back in the case of item (i) above; such shares shall be transferred or canceled within six months in the case of items (ii) and (iv) above; the total numbers of share of our Company held by a company shall not exceed 10% of the total issued shares of a company, and shall be transferred or canceled within three years in the case of items (iii), (v) and (vi) above.

Transfer of Shares

Shares held by a shareholder may be transferred according to the law. Under the Company Law, a shareholder of a joint stock limited company should affect a transfer of his shares on securities established exchange according to the law or by any other means as required by the State Council. Registered shares may be transferred by endorsement of shareholders or by other means stipulated by laws or administrative regulations. After the transfer, a company shall record the name and address of the transferee in the register of shareholders. No changes of registration in the share register provided in the foregoing requirement shall be affected during a period of 20 days prior to the convening of shareholder’s general meeting or 5 days prior to the record date for a company’s distribution of dividends. However, if any law specifies otherwise for the modification of the register of shareholders of a listed company, such provisions should prevail.

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Under the Company Law, shares issued by a company prior to the public offering of shares shall not be transferred within one year from the date on which the shares of accompany are listed and traded on a securities exchange. The directors, supervisors and senior management of the company should declare to the company the shares they hold and the changes thereof. During the term of office as determined when they assume the posts, the shares transferred each year should not exceed 25% of the total shares they hold of the company. Shares of a company held by them shall not be transferred within one year from the date of a company’s listing on a securities exchange, nor within six months after their resignation from their positions with a company.

If the shares are pledged within the time limit for restricted transfer as provided for by laws and administrative regulations, the pledgee cannot exercise the pledge right within such restricted period.

Shareholders

Under the Company Law and Guidelines for Articles of Association the rights of a shareholder of ordinary shares of a joint stock limited company include:

- to attend or appoint a proxy to attend shareholders’ general meetings and to exercise voting rights;
- to transfer shares in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the provisions of the articles of association;
- to inspect the company’s articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of shareholder’s general meetings, resolutions of meetings of the board of directors, resolutions of meetings of the board of supervisors and financial and accounting reports and to make proposals or enquiries on the company’s operations;
- Shareholders shall have the right to request the People’s Court to revoke resolutions passed at shareholders’ meetings or board meetings that violate the articles of association;
- Shareholders shall receive dividends and other forms of profit distribution in proportion to their shareholdings;
- Upon termination or liquidation of the company, participate in the distribution of the company’s residual assets in proportion to their shareholding; and
- Other rights conferred by laws, administrative regulations, other normative documents, and the company’s articles of association.
- Shareholders’ obligations include complying with the company’s articles of association, paying subscription amounts according to their subscribed shares and capital contribution methods, bearing the company’s debts and liabilities within the scope of their subscribed shareholdings, and fulfilling any other shareholder obligations stipulated in the company’s articles of association.

Shareholder’s General Meetings

Under the Company Law, the shareholders’ general meeting of a joint stock limited company is made up of all shareholders. The shareholders’ general meeting is the organ of authority of a company, which exercises the following functions and powers: (i) to elect and replace directors and supervisors and to decide on matters relating to the remuneration of directors and supervisors; (ii) to examine and approve reports of the board of directors; (iii) to examine and approve reports of the supervisory committee; (iv) to examine and approve a company’s profit distribution plans and loss recovery plans; (v) to resolve on the increase or reduction of a company’s registered capital; (vi) to resolve on the issuance of corporate bonds; (vii) to resolve on the merger, division, dissolution, liquidation or change of corporate form of a company; (viii) to amend the company’s articles of association; (ix) other functions and powers specified in provision of the articles of association.

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Under the Company Law, annual shareholders’ general meetings are required to be held once every year. An extraordinary shareholders’ general meeting is required to be held within two months after the occurrence of any of the following circumstances: (i) the number of directors is less than the number stipulated in the Company Law or less than two-thirds of the number specified in the articles of association; (ii) when the unrecovered losses of a company amount to one-third of the total paid-up share capital; (iii) shareholders individually or jointly holding 10% or more of the company’s shares request; (iv) when deemed necessary by the Board; (v) the supervisory committee proposes to convene the meeting; (vi) other circumstances as stipulated in the articles of association.

Shareholders’ general meetings shall be convened by the board of directors, and presided over by the chairman of the board of directors. In the event that the chairman is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, the meeting shall be presided over by the vice chairman. In the event that the vice chairman is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, a director nominated by more than half of directors shall preside over the meeting.

If the board of directors is incapable of performing or is not performing its duties to convene the general meeting, the supervisory board should convene and preside over shareholders’ general meeting in a timely manner. If the supervisory board fails to convene and preside over shareholders’ general meeting, shareholders individually or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the company’s shares for 90 days or more consecutively may unilaterally convene and preside over shareholders’ general meeting.

If the shareholders who separately or aggregately hold more than 10% of the shares of the company request to convene an interim shareholders’ meeting, the board of directors and the board of supervisors should, within 10 days after the receipt of such request, decide whether to hold an interim shareholders’ meeting and reply to the shareholders in writing.

Notice of general meeting shall state the time and venue of and matters to be considered at the meeting and shall be given to all shareholders 20 days before the meeting. A notice of extraordinary general meeting shall be given to all shareholders 15 days prior to the meeting.

Shareholders who individually or jointly hold more than 1% of the company’s shares may put forward interim proposals and submit them to the board of directors in writing 10 days before the general meeting of shareholders. The board of directors shall notify other shareholders within two days after receiving the proposal and submit the contents of the interim proposal at the general meeting for consideration.

Under the Company Law, a shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend a shareholders’ general meeting, and it should clarify the matters, power and time limit of the proxy. The proxy shall present a written power of attorney issued by the shareholder to a company and shall exercise his voting rights within the scope of authorization. There is no specific provision in the Company Law regarding the number of shareholders constituting a quorum in a shareholders’ general meeting.

Under the Company Law, shareholders present at a shareholders’ general meeting have one vote for each share they hold, except the shareholders of classified shares. However, shares held by the company itself are not entitled to any voting rights.

The cumulative voting system may be adopted for the election of directors and supervisors at the shareholders’ general meeting in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association or the resolutions of the shareholders’ general meeting. Under the accumulative voting system, each share shall have the same number of voting rights as the number of directors or supervisors to be elected at the shareholders’ general meeting, and shareholders may consolidate their voting rights when casting a vote.

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Under the Company Law and the Guidelines for Articles of Association, the passing of any resolution requires affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than half of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the shareholders’ general meeting. Matters relating to merger, division or dissolution of a company, increase or reduction of registered capital, change of corporate form or amendments to the articles of association must be approved by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting.

Board of Directors

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company should have a board of directors, which consists of more than three members. The term of office of a director shall be stipulated in the articles of association, but each term of office shall not exceed three years. Directors may serve consecutive terms if re-elected.

Meetings of the board of directors shall be convened at least twice a year. All directors and supervisors shall be noticed 10 days before the meeting for every meeting. The Board exercises the following functions and powers: (i) to convene shareholder’s general meetings and report its work to the shareholder’s general meetings; (ii) to implement the resolutions of the shareholder’s general meeting; (iii) to decide on a company’s business plans and investment plans; (iv) to formulate a company’s profit distribution plan and loss recovery plan; (v) to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of a company’s registered capital and the issue of corporate bonds; (vi) to formulate plans for cake, division, dissolution or change of corporate form of a company; (vii) to decide on the internal management structure of a company; (viii) to decide on the appointment or dismissal of the manager of a company and their remuneration; (ix) To decide on the appointment or dismissal of the deputy manager and financial officer of a company based on the nomination of the manager and as well as remuneration; (x) to formulate a company’s basic management system; (xi) other functions and powers specified in the articles of association or granted by the shareholders’ meeting.

Board meetings shall be held only if more than half of the directors are present. If a director is unable to attend a board meeting, he may appoint another director by a power of attorney specifying the scope of the authorization for another director to attend the meeting on his behalf. If a resolution of the board of directors violates the laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association, and as a result of which the company suffers serious losses, the directors participating in the resolution shall be liable to compensate the company. However, if it can be proved that a director expressly objected to the resolution when the resolution was voted on, and that such objection was recorded in the minutes of the meeting, such director may be exempt from such liability.

Under the Company Law, a person may not serve as a director of a company if he/she is: (i) a person without capacity or with restricted capacity; (ii) a person who has been sentenced to any criminal penalty due to an offence of corruption, bribery, encroachment of property, misappropriation of property, or disrupting the order of the socialist market economy, or has been deprived of political rights due to a crime, where a five-year period has not elapsed since the date of completion of the sentence; if he/she is pronounced for suspension of sentence, a two-year period has not elapsed since the expiration of the suspension period; (iii) a person who was a director, factory manager or manager of a company or enterprise which has entered into insolvent liquidation and who was personally liable for the insolvency of such company or enterprise, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the completion of the insolvency and liquidation of such company or enterprise; (iv) persons who were legal representatives of a company or enterprise which had its business license revoked due to violation of the law and had been closed down by order, and who were personally liable, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the revocation of the business license of the company or enterprise or the order for closure; and (v) being listed as one of “dishonest persons subject to enforcement” by the people’s court due to his/her failure to pay off a relatively large amount of due debts.

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The board of directors shall have one chairman, who shall be elected by more than half of all the directors. The chairman shall exercise the following functions and powers (including but not limited to): (i) to preside over shareholders’ general meetings and convene and preside over board meetings; (ii) to examine the implementation of resolutions of the Board; (iii) to exercise other powers conferred by the Board.

The Supervisory Committee

A joint-stock limited company may establish an audit committee consisting of directors within the board of directors in accordance with its articles of association to exercise the powers of the supervisory committee as stipulated in the Company Law, without the need to establish a supervisory committee.

A joint-stock limited company that is relatively small in scale or has a relatively small number of shareholders may not establish a supervisory committee, but shall appoint one supervisor to exercise the powers of the supervisory committee as prescribed by this Law.

With the exception of the above two cases, a joint stock limited company shall have a supervisory committee composed of not less than three members. The supervisory committee shall comprise shareholder representatives and an appropriate proportion of the company’s staff representatives, of which the proportion of staff representatives shall not be less than one-third and the specific proportion shall be stipulated in the articles of association. Employee representatives of the supervisory committee shall be democratically elected by the company’s employees at the employee representative assembly, employee general meeting or otherwise. Directors or senior management may not act concurrently as supervisors.

The supervisory committee shall have one chairperson and may have one vice chairperson. The chairperson and vice chairperson of the supervisory committee shall be elected by a majority vote of all supervisors. The chairperson of the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over meetings of the supervisory committee. If the chairman of the supervisory committee is unable to perform or fails to perform his or her duties, the vice chairman shall convene and preside over meetings of the supervisory committee. If the vice chairman is unable to perform or fails to perform his or her duties, a supervisor jointly nominated by a majority of supervisors shall convene and preside over meetings of the supervisory committee.

The term of office for supervisors shall be three years per term, and they may be re-elected for consecutive terms. If supervisors are not re-elected upon the expiration of their term, or if a supervisor resigns during their term resulting in the number of supervisory committee members falling below the statutory minimum, the original supervisors shall continue to perform their duties in accordance with laws, administrative regulations, and the Articles of Association until the newly elected supervisors assume office.

The supervisory committee shall convene at least once every six months. Pursuant to the Company Law, resolutions of the supervisory committee shall be adopted by a majority vote of all supervisors.

The supervisory committee exercises the following powers:

- To review the company’s financial affairs;
- To supervise the directors and senior management in their performance of their duties and to propose the removal of directors and senior management who have violated laws, regulations, the articles of association or resolutions of shareholders’ general meetings;
- To demand rectification by a director or senior management when relevant acts are harmful to the company’s interest;

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- To propose the convening of extraordinary general meetings, and to convene and preside over shareholders’ general meetings when the Board fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over shareholders’ general meetings under the Company Law;
- To submit proposals to the shareholders’ general meeting;
- To initiate legal proceedings against directors and senior management;
- Other functions and powers specified in the articles of association; and
- Supervisors may attend board meetings and may raise questions or make suggestions regarding matters decided by the board.

If the supervisory committee discovers abnormal business operations, it may conduct investigations; when necessary, it may engage an accounting firm to assist in its work, with the costs borne by the company.

Pursuant to the Guidelines for the Articles of Association, the company’s board of directors shall establish an audit committee to exercise the supervisory powers prescribed by the Company Law.

Managers and Senior Management

Under the Company Law, a company should have a manager who is appointed or removed by the board of directors. The manager exercises his/her functions and powers according to the Articles of Association or the authorization of the board of directors. Where the Articles of Association provide otherwise for the powers of the manager, such provisions shall prevail.

The manager attends the meetings of the board of directors as a non-voting member. Unless a manager also serves as a director, he or she shall have no voting rights at board meetings.

According to the Company Law, senior management shall refer to the manager, deputy manager(s), financial controller, secretary of the board of directors (in the case of a listing company) and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association of the company.

Duties of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Management

Directors, supervisors and senior management of the company are required under the Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the articles of association, and have fiduciary and diligent duties to the company.

Directors, supervisors and senior management are prohibited from:

- embezzling the company’s property or misappropriating of the company’s capital;
- depositing the company’s capital into accounts under his own name or the name of other individuals;
- giving bribes or accepting any other illegal proceeds by taking advantage of their power;
- accept and possess commissions paid by a third party for transactions conducted with the company;
- unauthorized divulgence of confidential business information of the company;
- other acts in violation of their fiduciary duty to the company.

If any director, supervisor or senior management directly or indirectly concludes a contract or conducts a transaction with the company, he/she should report the matters relating to the conclusion of the contract or transaction to the board of directors or shareholders’ meeting, subject to the

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approval of the board of directors or shareholders according to the articles of association. The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall apply if any near relatives of the directors, supervisors or senior management, or any of the enterprises directly or indirectly controlled by the directors, supervisors or senior management or any of their near relatives, or any related parties with any other related-party relationship with the directors, supervisors or senior management, concludes a contract or conducts a transaction with the company, i.e. reporting to the board of directors or shareholders’ meeting matters related to the conclusion of contracts or transactions, and obtain approval through resolutions of the board of directors or shareholders’ meeting in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Neither director, supervisor or senior management may take advantage of his/her position to seek any business opportunity that belongs to the company for himself/herself or any other person except under any of the following circumstances:

- where he/she has reported to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting and has been approved by a resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting according to the Articles of Association;
- where the company cannot make use of the business opportunity as stipulated by laws, administrative regulations or the Articles of Association.

Where any director, supervisor or senior management fails to report to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting and obtain an approval by resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting according to the articles of association, he/she may not engage in any business that is similar to that of the company where he/she holds office for himself/herself or for any other person.

A director, supervisor or senior management who contravenes any law, regulation or the company’s articles of association in the performance of his duties resulting in any loss to the company shall be personally liable for the damages to the company. The Guidelines for the Articles of Association stipulate that directors and senior management of the company owe a duty of loyalty and diligence to the company. For example, directors shall exercise the powers conferred by the company prudently, conscientiously, and diligently to ensure that the company’s business activities comply with national laws, administrative regulations, and various economic policies, and that such activities do not exceed the scope of business specified in the company’s business license. Directors shall treat all shareholders equally. Shareholders shall be promptly informed of the company’s operational and management status. Directors and senior management must sign written confirmation opinions on the company’s periodic reports and ensure the disclosed information is true, accurate, and complete. Directors and senior management shall provide accurate information and materials to the supervisory committee and shall not interfere with the supervisory committee or supervisors in the performance of their duties. Directors and senior management shall also fulfill other duties prescribed by laws, administrative regulations, departmental rules, and the Articles of Association.

Finance and Accounting

Under the Company Law, a company shall establish its financial and accounting systems according to laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council. At the end of each fiscal year, the company shall prepare a financial and accounting reports which shall be audited by an accounting firm in accordance with the law. The financial and accounting reports shall be prepared in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council.

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Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company shall make its financial and accounting reports available at the company for inspection by the shareholders 20 days before the convening of an annual general meeting of shareholders. A joint stock limited company issuing its shares in public must publish its financial and accounting reports.

When distributing each year’s after-tax profits, the company shall set aside 10% of its profits into its statutory reserve fund. The company can no longer withdraw statutory reserve fund if it has accumulated to more than 50% of the registered capital. If the statutory reserve fund of the company is insufficient to make up for the losses of the previous years, the current year profits shall be used to make up for the losses before making allocations to the statutory reserve in accordance with the preceding paragraph. After the company has made an allocation to the statutory reserve fund from its after-tax profit, it may also make an allocation to the discretionary reserve fund from its after-tax profit upon a resolution of the general meeting or the shareholders’ general meeting.

A joint stock limited company may distribute profits in proportion to the number of shares held by its shareholders, except for profit distributions that are not in proportion to the number of shares held in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of the joint stock limited company.

The premium over the nominal value of the shares of a joint stock limited company from the issue of shares, the amount of share proceeds from the issuance of no-par shares that have not been credited to the registered capital and other incomes required by the financial department of the State Council to be treated as the capital reserve fund shall be accounted for as the capital reserve fund of the company.

The reserve fund of the company shall be used to make up losses of the company, expand the production and operation of the company or increase the capital of the company. Where the reserve fund of a company is used for making up losses, the discretionary reserve and statutory reserve shall be firstly used. If losses still cannot be made up, the capital reserve can be used according to the relevant provisions. When the statutory reserve fund is converted to increase registered capital, the balance of the statutory reserve shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital before such conversion.

The company shall not keep accounts other than those provided by law.

Appointment and Retirement of Accounting Firms

Pursuant to the Company Law, the engagement or dismissal of an accounting firm responsible for the company’s auditing shall be determined by a shareholders’ general meeting, the board of directors or the board of supervisors in accordance with the articles of association. The accounting firm should be allowed to make representations when the general meeting, the board of directors or the board of supervisors conduct a vote on the dismissal of the accounting firm. The company should provide true and complete accounting evidence, accounting books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting information to the engaged accounting firm without any refusal or withholding or falsification of information.

The Guidelines for Articles of Association provides that the company guarantees to provide true and complete accounting vouchers, accounting books, financial accounting reports and other accounting materials to the employed accounting firm, and shall not refuse, conceal or falsely report. And the audit fee of the accounting firm shall be decided by the general meeting of shareholders.

Profit Distribution

Pursuant to the Company Law, the company shall not distribute profits before offsetting losses and setting aside statutory reserves.

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Amendment of Articles of Association

Any amendment to the company’s articles of association must follow the procedures stipulated therein. If involving registered matters, the company must apply for registration changes with the registration authority. Pursuant to the Company Law, resolutions to amend the articles of association passed by the shareholders’ meeting must be approved by shareholders holding more than two-thirds of the voting rights present at the meeting.

Pursuant to the Guidelines for the Articles of Association, a company shall amend its articles of association in any of the following circumstances: (i) where provisions of the articles of association conflict with amended laws and/or administrative regulations following amendments to the Company Law or other applicable laws or administrative regulations; (ii) where changes in the company’s circumstances result in inconsistencies with the content recorded in the articles of association; and (iii) where the shareholders’ meeting resolves to amend the articles of association.

Dissolution and Liquidation

According to the Company Law, a company shall be dissolved for the following reasons: (i) the term of business stipulated in the Articles of Association has expired or other events of dissolution specified in the Articles of Association have occurred; (ii) the general meeting or the shareholders’ general meeting resolves to dissolve the company; (iii) dissolution is necessary due to a merger or division of the company; (iv) the business license is revoked, or the business license is ordered to be closed or revoked in accordance with laws; (v) where the company encounters serious difficulties in its operation and management and its continuance shall cause a significant loss in the interest of shareholders, and where this cannot be resolved through other means, shareholders who hold more than 10% of the total shareholders’ voting rights of the company may present a petition to a people’s court for the dissolution of the company with the support of the judgment.

If any of the situations as mentioned in the preceding paragraph arises, a company shall publicize the situations through the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within ten days.

Where the company is dissolved in accordance with sub-paragraph (i) above, it may carry on its existence by amending its articles of association or upon a resolution of the shareholders’ meeting, which must be approved by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the shareholders’ general meeting. Where the company is dissolved pursuant to sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iv) or (v) above, it shall be liquidated. The directors, who are the liquidation obligors of the company, shall form a liquidation group to carry out liquidation within 15 days from the date of occurrence of the cause of dissolution. The liquidation group shall be composed of the directors, unless it is otherwise provided for in the company’s Articles of Association or it is otherwise elected by the shareholders’ meeting. The liquidation obligors shall be liable for compensation if they fail to fulfill their obligations of liquidation in a timely manner, and thus any loss is caused to the company or the creditors.

The liquidation group fails to be formed within the time limit or fails to carry out the liquidation after its formation, any interested party may request the people’s court to designate relevant persons to form a liquidation group. The people’s court shall accept such request and organize a liquidation group to carry out the liquidation in a timely manner.

The liquidation group shall exercise the following functions and powers during the liquidation period: (i) to liquidate the company’s property and respectively prepare balance sheet and list of property; (ii) to notify creditors by notice or public announcement; (iii) to deal with the outstanding business of the company involved in the liquidation; (iv) to pay all outstanding taxes and taxes arising in the course of liquidation; (v) to liquidate claims and debts; (vi) distributing the remaining property of the company after paying off debts; (vii) to participate in civil litigations on behalf of the company.

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The liquidation group shall notify the company’s creditors within ten days as of its formation and shall make a public announcement in the newspaper or on the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 60 days. The creditors shall file their proofs of claim with the liquidation group within 30 days as of the receipt of the notice or within 45 days as of the issuance of the public announcement in the case of failing to receive such notice.

The remaining property of the company after the payment of liquidation expenses, employees’ wages, social insurance expenses and statutory compensation, outstanding taxes and the company’s debts, shall be distributed to shareholders in proportion to their shareholdings. During the liquidation period, the company shall continue to exist but shall not carry out any business activities unrelated to the liquidation. The company’s assets shall not be distributed to the shareholders before the liquidation in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

If the liquidation group, having thoroughly examined the company’s assets and having prepared a balance sheet and an inventory of assets, discovers that the company’s assets are insufficient to pay its debts in full, it shall file an application to a people’s court for bankruptcy liquidation. After the people’s court accepts the application for bankruptcy, the liquidation group shall hand over the liquidation matters to the bankruptcy administrator designated by the people’s court.

Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation group shall prepare a liquidation report to be submitted to the shareholders’ general meeting or the people’s court for confirmation, and submit to the company registration authority to apply for cancelation of the company’s registration.

The members of the liquidation group performing their duties of liquidation are obliged to loyalty and diligence. Any member of the liquidation group who neglects to fulfill his/her liquidation duties, thus causing any loss to the company shall be liable for compensation, and any member of the liquidation group who cause any loss to any creditor due to his/her intentional or gross negligence shall be liable for compensation.

Where, after three years since the business license of a company is revoked, or the company is ordered to close down or is revoked, the company fails to apply for its deregistration with the company registration authority, the said authority may announce the company’s deregistration through the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System for a period of no less than 60 days. If there is no objection after the announcement period expires, the company registration authority may deregister the company.

Overseas Listing

According to the Trial Measures of Overseas Listing, a domestic enterprise shall file with the CSRC within 3 working days after submitting the application documents for overseas issuance and listing. If an issuer issues securities in the same overseas market after overseas issuance and listing, it shall file with the CSRC within 3 working days after the completion of the issuance. If an issuer issues and lists in other overseas markets after overseas issuance and listing, it shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of the Article 16.1 under the Trial Measures of Overseas Listing.

Loss of Share Certificates

A shareholder may, in accordance with the public notice procedures set out in the Civil Procedure Law, apply to a people’s court if his share certificate(s) in registered form is either stolen, lost or destroyed, for a declaration that such certificate(s) will no longer be valid. After the people’s court declared that such certificate(s) will no longer be valid, the shareholder may apply to the company for the issue of a replacement certificate(s).

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Suspension and Termination of Listing

The Company Law has deleted provisions governing suspension and termination of listing. The Securities Law (證券法) has also deleted provisions regarding suspension of listing. Where listed securities fall under the delisting circumstances stipulated by the stock exchange, the stock exchange shall terminate its listing and trading in accordance with the business rules.

According to the Trial Measures of Overseas Listing, in case of active or compulsory termination of listing, the issuer shall report the specific situation to the CSRC within 3 working days from the date of occurrence and announcement of the relevant matters.

Mergers and Splits

Where a company merges, a merger agreement shall be executed, and the relevant companies shall prepare their respective statements of financial position and inventories of assets. The company shall notify its respective creditors within 10 days from the date of passing the merger resolution and publish a merger notice in newspapers or the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days. Creditors may demand payment of any outstanding debts or provision of corresponding security within 30 days of receiving the notice, or within 45 days of the announcement date if no notice was received. Upon merger, the surviving or newly established company shall assume the rights and obligations of the merging parties.

If a company splits, its assets shall be divided accordingly, and a statement of financial position and an asset inventory shall be prepared. If a resolution for company split is passed, the company shall notify all creditors within 10 days from the date of passing the resolution and publish an announcement in newspapers or the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days. Unless the company has reached a written agreement with creditors regarding debt repayment prior to the division, the relevant liabilities and obligations existing before the division shall be jointly and severally borne by the companies resulting from the division.

Any changes to industrial and commercial registration matters arising from a company merger or division shall be registered with the relevant administration for industry and commerce. If a company is dissolved, it shall complete the cancellation registration in accordance with the law. The registration for establishing a new company shall be completed in accordance with the law.

SECURITIES LAW AND REGULATIONS

The Securities Law of the People’s Republic of China (中華人民共和國證券法), promulgated by the SCNPC on 29 December 1998, was last amended on 28 December 2019, and took effect on 1 March 2020. It comprehensively regulates activities in China’s securities market, including securities issuance and trading, listed companies, acquisitions of securities exchanges and securities companies, and the duties of securities regulatory authorities. The Securities Law further stipulates that domestic enterprises issuing securities directly or indirectly overseas or listing their securities abroad must comply with relevant State Council regulations. Specific measures for subscribing to and trading shares of domestic companies in foreign currencies shall be separately prescribed by the State Council. The CSRC, established by the State Council, serves as the securities regulatory authority responsible for supervising and managing the securities market in accordance with the law, maintaining market order, and ensuring lawful market operations. Currently, the issuance and trading of H-shares are primarily regulated by laws and rules promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

Pursuant to the Securities Law of the People’s Republic of China (2019 Revision) (中華人民共和國證券法 (2019修訂)) and the Measures for the Administration of Acquisitions of Listed Companies (上市公司收購管理辦法), through securities transactions on a securities exchange, an investor (including an overseas investor) holding, or jointly holding with others through agreements or other arrangements, voting shares (including A-shares and H-shares) of a listed company that

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have been issued, reaching five percent, shall, within three days from the date such fact occurs, submit a written report to the CSRC and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, notify the listed company, and make an announcement. For each one percent increase or decrease in the proportion of voting shares held in the listed company, the investor shall notify the listed company on the day following the occurrence of such change and make an announcement.

ARBITRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ARBITRAL AWARDS

Under the Arbitration Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國仲裁法》), or the Arbitration Law, last amended by the Standing Committee of the NPC on 1 September 2017 and effective on 1 January 2018, the Arbitration Law is applicable to economic disputes involving foreign parties, and all parties have entered into a written agreement to refer the matter to an arbitration committee constituted in accordance with the Arbitration Law. An arbitration committee may, before the promulgation by the PRC Arbitration Association of arbitration regulations, formulate interim arbitration rules in accordance with relevant regulations under the Arbitration Law and the Civil Procedure Law. Where both parties have agreed to settle disputes by means of arbitration, the people’s court will refuse to take legal action brought by a party in the people’s court.

Under the Arbitration Law, an arbitral award is final and binding on the parties. If a party fails to comply with an award, the other party to the award may apply to the people’s court for enforcement according to the Civil Procedure Law. Where there is evidence proving any of the following circumstances: the parties did not agree on an arbitration clause in the contract or did not subsequently reach a written arbitration agreement; the respondent did not receive notice from the designated arbitration institution or of the arbitration proceedings, or was unable to present arguments due to other reasons not attributable to the respondent; the composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitration procedures did not comply with the arbitration rules; the matters decided by the award fall outside the scope of the arbitration agreement or the arbitration committee lacks jurisdiction to arbitrate, the people’s court may rule not to enforce. A party seeking to enforce an arbitral award of foreign arbitration commission against a party who or whose property is not within the PRC shall apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for recognition and enforcement. Similarly, an arbitral award made by a foreign arbitration body may be recognized and enforced by the people’s court in accordance with the principles of reciprocity or any international treaty concluded or acceded to by the PRC.

According to the Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court on Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的安排》) promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on 24 January 2000 and effective on 1 February 2000, and the Supplementary Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court on Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的補充安排) promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on 26 November 2020 and effective on 27 November 2020, awards made by PRC arbitral authorities can be applied for enforcement in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong arbitration awards are also enforceable in the PRC.

Judicial Decisions and Enforcement

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Mutual Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區法院相互認可和執行民商事案件判決的安排), promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on 25 January 2024, and effective on 29 January 2024, any party may apply to the PRC people’s court or the courts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for recognition and enforcement pursuant to the Arrangement.