

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

A. Taxation on Dividends

Individual Investors

Pursuant to the Individual Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法》) (the “**IIT Law**”) and the Implementation Provisions of the Individual Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法實施條例》), dividends distributed by PRC enterprises are subject to PRC withholding tax levied at a flat rate of 20%. For overseas individual investors receiving dividends from PRC enterprises, the tax shall generally be withheld and paid at a rate of 20%, unless it is exempted by the tax authorities of the State Council or reduced by applicable tax treaties.

Pursuant to the Circular on Certain Issues Concerning the Policies of Individual Income Tax (《關於個人所得稅若干政策問題的通知》) issued by the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on 13 May 1994, overseas individuals are exempted from the individual income tax for dividends or bonuses income received from foreign-invested enterprises. Meanwhile, according to the Notice on Issues Concerning Differentiated Individual Income Tax Policies on Dividends and Bonus of Listed Companies (《關於上市公司股息紅利差別化個人所得稅政策有關問題的通知》) (Cai Shui [2015] No. 101) issued by the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the CSRC on 7 September 2015 and came into effect on 8 September 2015, where an individual obtains shares of a listed company from the public offering and transfer market, if the holding period is more than one year, the dividend and bonus income shall be temporarily exempted from individual income tax, where an individual obtains shares of a listed company from the public offering and transfer market, if the holding period is within one month (inclusive), the dividend income shall be included in the taxable income in full; if the holding period is more than one month but less than one year (inclusive), the dividend income shall be included in the taxable income at the rate of 50%; the aforesaid income shall be subject to individual income tax at a uniform rate of 20%.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》), signed on 21 August 2006, the PRC Government has the authority to impose taxes on dividends paid by a PRC enterprise to Hong Kong residents (including natural persons and enterprise) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends payable by the PRC enterprise. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in a PRC enterprise, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the PRC enterprise.

The Fifth Protocol of the Arrangement between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《〈內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排〉第五議定書》), in effect since 6 December 2019, states that such treaty benefits shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of gaining such tax benefit. Exceptions are made when such benefits align with the Arrangement’s relevant objectives and goals.

Additionally, the application of the dividend clause of tax agreements is bound by the stipulations outlined in the relevant PRC tax laws and regulations, including the guidelines specified in the Notice of the State Taxation Administration 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》) (Guo Shui Han [2009] No. 81), in effect since 20 February 2009.

Enterprise Investors

Pursuant to the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) (the “**EIT Law**”) and the Implementation Regulations of the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》), a non-resident enterprise is subject to a 10% enterprise income tax on PRC-sourced income, including dividends distributed by a PRC resident enterprise that issues and lists shares in Hong Kong, if such non-resident enterprise does not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC or has an establishment or

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place of business in the PRC but the PRC-sourced income is not actually connected with such establishment or place of business in the PRC. Such withholding tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to an applicable treaty for the avoidance of double taxation. Such withholding tax payable by non-resident enterprises is deducted at source, where the payer, as the obligor for the withholding tax, is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise when such payment is made or due.

The Circular 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 (《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》) (Guo Shui Han [2008] No. 897), which was issued by the State Administration of Taxation on 6 November 2008, further clarified that a PRC resident enterprise must withhold corporate income tax at a rate of 10% on the dividends of years 2008 and onwards that it distributes to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of H Shares.

Tax Treaties

Non-PRC resident investors residing in countries which have entered into agreements for the avoidance of double taxation with the PRC are entitled to a reduction of the withholding taxes imposed on the dividends received from PRC companies. The PRC has entered into Avoidance of Double Taxation Arrangements with a number of countries and regions including but not limited to 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 income tax treaties or arrangements are required to apply to the PRC tax authorities for a refund of the withholding tax in excess of the agreed tax rate, and the refund payment is subject to approval by the PRC tax authorities.

B. Taxation on Share Transfer

Value-Added Tax and Local Surcharges

Under the guidelines outlined in the Notice on the Full Implementation of the Pilot Program for Transition from Business Tax to Value-Added Tax (《關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》) (Cai Shui [2016] No. 36) (“**Circular 36**”), the transfer of financial products, including the ownership transfer of marketable securities, is subject to a VAT rate of 6% on the taxable income. Taxable income, in this context, refers to the balance after deducting the purchase price from the selling price. This VAT obligation applies to both general and foreign VAT taxpayers. Notably, individuals are exempt from VAT obligations when engaging in the transfer of financial products.

As per the aforementioned regulations, non-resident individuals selling or disposing of H Shares are exempt from VAT in the PRC. However, if the holders are non-resident enterprises, they may avoid VAT in the PRC only if the buyers of the H shares are individuals or entities located outside of the PRC. Conversely, the holders might be subject to VAT in the PRC if the buyers of the H shares are individuals or entities situated within the PRC.

Income Taxes

(a) Individual Investors

Under the IIT Law, gains arising from the transfer of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises are subject to individual income tax at a rate of 20%. However, in accordance with the Circular of the Ministry of Finance (“**MOF**”) and the STA on Declaring that Individual Income Tax Continues to be Exempted over Income of Individuals from Transfer of Shares (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》) (Cai Shui Zi [1998] No. 61), issued jointly by the MOF and STA on March 30, 1998, gains obtained by individuals from the transfer of shares of listed companies have been temporarily exempted from individual income tax since January 1, 1997.

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On December 31, 2009, the MOF, the STA, and the CSRC 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》) (Cai Shui [2009] No. 167). This circular stipulates that individuals’ income derived from the transfer of listed shares acquired through public offerings and trading on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange remains exempt from individual income tax, except for the relevant shares which are subject to sales limitation as defined in the Supplementary Circular on Related Issues on Levying Individual Income Tax over the Income Received by Individuals from Transfer of the Listed Shares Subject to Sales Limitations (《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》) (Cai Shui [2010] No. 70), jointly issued by the three aforementioned departments and effective from November 10, 2010.

As of the Latest Practicable Date, there are no provisions expressly stating that individual income tax shall be imposed on non-PRC resident individuals for the transfer of shares in PRC resident enterprises listed on overseas stock exchanges.

(b) Enterprise Investors

In accordance with the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law and its implementation regulations, non-resident enterprises are typically subject to a 10% enterprise income tax on income sourced within the PRC. This includes gains realized from the disposal of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise. However, this taxation applies only if the non-resident enterprise does not maintain a physical establishment or premises in the PRC, or if it does have such establishments or premises in the PRC, but its PRC-sourced income is not genuinely connected with those establishments or premises. The withholding of income tax for non-resident enterprises is executed at the source, with the entity making the payment acting as the withholding agent. This withholding agent is obliged to deduct the income tax from each payment or due payment made to the non-resident enterprise. It’s important to note that the tax liability may be reduced or exempted in accordance with applicable tax treaties or agreements on the 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》), as issued by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, the PRC stamp duty is applicable to all kinds of documents which are legally binding in the PRC and protected by the PRC laws. Therefore, the PRC stamp duty does not apply to the acquisition or disposal of H Shares outside the PRC.

Estate Duty

Under prevailing PRC legislation, there is presently no imposition of estate duty within the jurisdiction.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The lawful currency of the PRC is Renminbi (“RMB”). The SAFE, under the authorization of the PBOC, is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange.

On January 29, 1996, the State Council promulgated the Regulations on Foreign Exchange Administration of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) (the “**Regulations on Foreign Exchange Administration**”), which became effective on April 1, 1996. The Regulations on Foreign Exchange Administration classifies all international payments and transfers into current account items and capital account items. The Regulations on Foreign Exchange Administration were subsequently amended on January 14, 1997, and August 5, 2008. The latest amendment to the Regulations on Foreign Exchange Administration clearly states that PRC will not impose any restriction on international payments and transfers under the current account items.

According to the Announcement of The People’s Bank of China on Reforming the RMB Exchange Rate Regime issued by the PBOC (《中國人民銀行關於完善人民幣匯率形成機制改革的公告》) (PBOC Announcement [2005] No. 16) on July 21, 2005, starting from July 21, 2005, the PRC will reform the exchange rate regime by moving into a managed floating exchange rate regime based on market supply

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and demand with reference to a basket of currencies. Therefore, the Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. The PBOC will announce the closing price of a foreign currency such as the U.S. dollar traded against the RMB in the interbank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each working day, and will make it the central parity for the trading against the RMB on the following working day.

On October 23, 2014, the State Council promulgated 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》) (Guo Fa [2014] No. 50), which decided to cancel the approval requirement of the SAFE and its branches for the remittance and settlement of the proceeds raised from the overseas listing of the foreign shares into RMB domestic accounts.

On December 26, 2014, the SAFE promulgated and implemented the Notice of the SAFE on Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration of Overseas Listing (《國家外匯管理局關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) (Hui Fa [2014] No. 54), pursuant to which, a domestic company shall, within 15 business days from the date of the end of its overseas listing issuance, register the overseas listing with the Administration of Foreign Exchange at the place of its establishment; the proceeds from an overseas listing of a domestic company may be remitted to the PRC or deposited overseas, but the use of the proceeds shall be consistent with the contents as specified in the prospectus and other disclosure documents.

According to the Notice of the SAFE 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》) (Hui Fa [2015] No. 13) promulgated by the SAFE on February 13, 2015 and took effect on June 1, 2015, two of the administrative examination and approval items, being the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment have been canceled, the foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and overseas direct investment shall be directly examined and handled by banks. The SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reforming and Regulating Policies on the Administration of Foreign Exchange Settlement under Capital Accounts (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) (Hui Fa [2016] No. 16) issued by the SAFE and came into effect on June 9, 2016, the settlement of foreign exchange receipts under the capital account (including the foreign exchange capital, external debts and funds recovered from overseas listing, etc.) that are subject to discretionary settlement as already specified by relevant policies may be handled at banks based on the domestic institutions’ actual requirements for business operation. The proportion of discretionary settlement of domestic institutions’ foreign exchange receipts under the capital account is temporarily determined as 100%. The SAFE may, based on the international balance of payments, adjust the aforesaid proportion at appropriate time.

On January 26, 2017, the SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Promoting the Reform of Foreign Exchange Administration and Improving the Examination of Authenticity and Compliance (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步推進外匯管理改革完善真實合規性審核的通知》) (Hui Fa [2017] No. 3) to further expand the scope of settlement for domestic foreign exchange loans, allow settlement for domestic foreign exchange loans with export background under goods trading; allow repatriation of funds under domestic guaranteed foreign loans for domestic utilization; allow settlement for domestic foreign exchange accounts of foreign institutions operating in the Free Trade Pilot Zones; and adopt the model of full-coverage RMB and foreign currency overseas lending management, where a domestic institution engages in overseas lending, the sum of its outstanding overseas lending in RMB and outstanding overseas lending in foreign currencies shall not exceed 30% of its owner’s equity in the audited financial statements of the preceding year.

On October 23, 2019, the SAFE issued the Circular of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Promoting Cross-border Trade and Investment Facilitation (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》) (Hui Fa [2019] No. 28), which, among other things, allows

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all foreign investment enterprises to use Renminbi converted from foreign currency denominated capital for equity investments in China, as long as the equity investment is genuine, does not violate applicable laws, and complies with the negative list on foreign investment.

According to the Circular of the State Administration for Foreign Exchange on Optimizing Foreign Exchange Administration to Support the Development of Foreign-related Business (《國家外匯管理局關於優化外匯管理支持涉外業務發展的通知》) (Hui Fa [2020] No. 8) promulgated with effect from April 10, 2020, by the SAFE, the reform of facilitating the payments of incomes under the capital accounts shall be promoted nationwide. Under the prerequisite of ensuring true and compliant use of funds and compliance and complying with the prevailing administrative provisions on use of income from capital projects, enterprises which satisfy the criteria are allowed to use income under the capital account, such as capital funds, foreign debt and overseas listing, etc., for domestic payment, without the need to provide proof materials for veracity to the bank beforehand for each transaction.