

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

1. TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

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

This discussion does not address any aspects of PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital tax, VAT, stamp duty and estate duty. Prospective investors are urged to consult their financial advisers regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H Shares.

The PRC Taxation

Taxation on Dividends

Individual Investor

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 Notice on Matters Concerning the Levy and Administration of Individual Income Tax after the Repeal of Guo Shui Fa [1993] No. 045 (《國家稅務總局關於國稅發[1993]045號文件廢止後有關個人所得稅徵管問題的通知》) issued and implemented by the State Taxation Administration (“**STA**”) on June 28, 2011, domestic non-foreign-invested enterprises issuing shares in Hong Kong may, when distributing dividends to overseas resident individuals in the jurisdiction of the tax treaty, withhold individual income tax at the rate of 10%. When a tax rate of 10% is not applicable, the withholding company shall: (a) return the excessive tax amount pursuant to due procedures if the applicable tax rate is lower than 10%; (b) withhold such foreign individual income tax at the effective tax rate agreed on if the applicable tax rate is between 10% and 20%; or (c) withhold such foreign individual income tax at a rate of 20% if no taxation treaty is applicable.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Meanwhile, pursuant to the Notice on Issues Concerning the Differentiated Individual Income Tax Policies on Dividends and Bonuses 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》) promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on September 7, 2015 and came into effect on September 8, 2015, where an individual acquires the stocks of listed companies from the market of public offerings and transfer of stock, to the extent that the holding period is over one year, the income from the dividends and bonuses thereof are temporarily exempted from individual income tax. Where an individual acquires the stocks of listed companies from the market of public offering and transfer of stock, to the extent that the holding period is one month or less (one month inclusive), the income from dividends thereof shall be included in the taxable income in full amount; and to the extent that the holding period is more than one month and up to one year (one year inclusive), the incomes from the dividends thereof shall be included in the taxable income at a tax rate of 50%. The aforesaid income is subject to an individual income tax at a flat rate of 20%.

Enterprise Investors

In accordance with the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) (“**EIT Law**”) issued by NPC on March 16, 2007 and latest amended on December 29, 2018 and the Implementation Provisions of the Corporate Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) issued by the State Council on December 6, 2007, came into effect on January 1, 2008 and amended on April 23, 2019, the rate of corporate 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), 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.

Notice from the State Taxation Administration on Issues Concerning Withholding the Corporate Income Tax on Dividends Paid by Chinese Resident Enterprises to H-share Holders which are Overseas Non-Residents Enterprises (《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 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》) (the “**Arrangement**”) which was signed on August 21, 2006, the mainland government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

PRC resident company to Hong Kong residents (including natural persons and legal entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends paid by the PRC resident company unless such Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in the PRC resident company, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends paid by the PRC resident company. The Fifth Protocol of the Arrangement (《<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 the 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 laws and regulations, such as the Notice of the STA on the Issues Concerning the Application of the Dividend Clauses in Tax Treaties (《國家稅務總局關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》).

Tax Treaties

Non-resident investors residing in jurisdictions which have entered into treaties or adjustments for the avoidance of double taxation with the PRC might be entitled to a reduction of the Chinese corporate income tax imposed on the dividends received from PRC resident companies. The PRC currently has entered into avoidance of double taxation treaties or arrangements with a number of countries and regions including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macau Special Administrative Region, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States and etc. Non-PRC resident enterprises entitled to preferential tax rates in accordance with the relevant taxation treaties or arrangements are required to apply to the relevant PRC 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 relevant PRC tax authorities.

Taxation on Share Transfer

VAT and Local Additional Tax

Pursuant to Notice of the MOF and the STA on Full Launch of the Pilot Scheme on Levying VAT in Place of Business Tax (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》) (the “**Circular 36**”) which was implemented on May 1, 2016, entities and individuals engaged in the services sale in the PRC are subject to VAT and “engaged in the services sale in the PRC” means that the seller or buyer of the taxable services is located in the PRC. Circular 36 also provides that transfer of financial products, including transfer of the ownership of marketable securities, shall be subject to VAT at 6% on the taxable revenue (which is the balance of sales price upon deduction of

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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 MOF and STA 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》) coming effective on January 1, 2009 and Provisions on the Transitional Policies Concerning the Pilot Scheme on Levying Value-added Tax in Place of Business Tax (《營業稅改徵增值稅試點過渡政策的規定》) promulgated by the MOF and STA and came into effect on May 1, 2016. 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.

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) in the PRC urban city.

Income tax

Individual Investors

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 MOF and STA on March 30, 1998, from January 1, 1997, income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises continues to be exempted from individual income tax.

On December 31, 2009, the MOF, STA and CSRC jointly issued the Notice on Related Issues Concerning Levying Individual Income Tax over the Income Received by Individuals from the Transfer of Listed Shares Subject to Sales Limitation (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的通知》), which came into effect on the same day, which states that individuals’ income from the transfer of listed shares obtained from the public offering of listed companies and transfer market in 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 aforesaid notice and the Supplementary Notice on Related Issues Concerning Levying Individual Income Tax over the Income Received by Individuals from the Transfer of Listed Shares Subject to Sales Limitation (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的補充通知》) which was jointly issued and implemented by MOF, STA and CSRC 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-PRC resident individuals on the transfer of shares in the PRC resident enterprises listed on overseas stock exchanges.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Enterprise Investors

In accordance with the EIT Law and its implementation rules, 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 arrangements on avoidance of double taxation.

Stamp Duty

Pursuant to the Stamp Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》), which was issued on June 10, 2021, which came into effect on July 1, 2022, which stipulate that all entities and individuals who conclude taxable documents and engage in securities transactions within the territory of the PRC shall be taxpayers of stamp tax, and shall pay stamp tax in accordance with the Stamp Tax Law of the PRC, thus the requirements of the stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC listed companies shall not apply to the transfer and disposal of H Shares by non-PRC investors 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.

2. PRINCIPAL TAXATION OF OUR COMPANY IN THE PRC

Please refer to the chapter “**Regulatory Overview**” of this document.

3. FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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

The Administrative Regulations on Foreign Exchange of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) (the “**Foreign Exchange Administrative Regulations**”), 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

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

transaction documents and the consistency of 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 administrative authorities. For capital items, overseas organizations and overseas individuals making direct investments in the PRC shall, upon approval by the relevant authorities in charge, process registration formalities with the foreign exchange administrative 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 misbalance, or the national economy encounters or may encounter a severe crisis, the State may adopt necessary safeguard and administrative 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 items.

According to the Announcement on Improving the Reform of the Renminbi 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 Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. The PBOC would publish the closing price of the exchange rate of the Renminbi 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 Renminbi transactions on the following working day.

According to the relevant laws and regulations in the PRC, PRC enterprises (including foreign investment enterprises) which need foreign exchange for current item transactions may, without the approval of the foreign exchange administrative authorities, effect payment through foreign exchange accounts opened at the designated foreign exchange bank, on the strength of valid transaction receipts and proof. Foreign investment enterprises which need foreign exchange for the distribution of profits to their shareholders and PRC enterprises which, in accordance with regulations, are required to pay dividends to their shareholders in foreign exchange (such as our Company) may, on the strength of resolutions of the board of directors or the shareholders' meeting on the distribution of profits, effect payment from foreign exchange accounts at the designated foreign exchange bank, or effect exchange and payment at the designated foreign exchange bank.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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 repatriation and settlement of the proceeds raised from the overseas listing of the foreign shares into Renminbi domestic accounts.

According to 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》) 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 listing issuance, register the overseas listing with the local branch office of state administration of foreign exchange at the place of its establishment; the proceeds from an overseas listing of a domestic company may be repatriated to the domestic account or deposited in an overseas account, but the use of the proceeds shall be consistent with the content of the document and other disclosure documents.

In accordance with the Administrative Provisions on Foreign Exchange in Domestic Direct Investment by Foreign Investors (《外國投資者境內直接投資外匯管理規定》), which was promulgated on May 10, 2013 with effect from May 13, 2013, amended on October 10, 2018 and partially abolished on December 30, 2019, the administration by SAFE or its local branches over direct investment by foreign investors in the PRC must be conducted by way of registration and banks shall process foreign exchange business relating to the direct investment in the PRC based on the registration information provided by SAFE and its branches.

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》), 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 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 Notice of the SAFE on Reforming the Management Mode of Foreign Exchange Capital Settlement of Foreign Investment Enterprises (《國家外匯管理局關於改革外商投資企業外匯資本金結匯管理方式的通知》), promulgated on March 30, 2015, coming effective on June 1, 2015 and partially abolished on December 30, 2019, 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 Renminbi (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, unless otherwise provided by laws and regulations; (c) to provide entrusted RMB loans (unless permitted in the business scope), repay loans between enterprises (including advances by third parties) or repay Renminbi 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).

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

According to the Circular of the SAFE on the Policies for Reforming and Standardizing Management of Foreign Exchange Settlement under the Capital Account (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) which was promulgated by the SAFE, implemented on June 9, 2016 and was amended on December 4, 2023, foreign exchange receipts under capital account (including the repatriation of the proceeds from overseas listing) on which discretionary settlement have been clearly imposed under relevant policies, may be settled with banks according to actual business needs of the domestic institutions.

According to the Notice of the SAFE of the PRC on Further Deepening Reform and Promoting the Facilitation of Cross border Trade and Investment (《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》) which was promulgated by the SAFE and implemented on December 4, 2023, the competent authorities have relaxed the restrictions on the scale of upfront expenses for overseas direct investment and lifted the limit on the cumulative amount of upfront expenses remitted by domestic enterprises for overseas direct investment not exceeding the equivalent of US\$3 million, but the cumulative amount of remitted expenses shall not exceed 15% of the total amount of investment proposed by the Chinese side. Moreover, the domestic equity transferor (including institutions and individuals) can directly remit the equity transfer consideration funds paid by domestic entities in foreign currency, as well as the foreign exchange funds raised by domestic enterprises going public overseas, to the settlement account under the capital account. The funds in the settlement account under the capital account can be used for independent foreign exchange settlement. The domestic equity transferor can directly transfer the equity transfer consideration funds paid by foreign-invested enterprises with RMB funds obtained through foreign exchange settlement (sourced from direct foreign exchange settlement or RMB funds in the accounts to be paid) to the domestic equity transferor’s RMB account.