
APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

This Appendix contains a summary of laws and regulations on companies and securities in the PRC, certain major differences between the PRC Company Law and Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and the Companies Ordinance as well as the additional regulatory provisions of the Stock Exchange on joint stock limited companies of the PRC. 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 with no intention to include all the information which may be important to the potential [REDACTED]. For discussion of laws and regulations specifically governing the business of the Company, please see section entitled “Regulatory Overview” in this Document.

PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

The PRC legal system is based on the Constitution of the PRC (《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 departments, rules and regulations of local governments, international treaties of which the PRC government is a signatory, and other regulatory documents. Court verdicts do not constitute binding precedents. However, they may be used as judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國立法法》), or the “Legislation Law,” lastly amended by NPC on March 13, 2023 and effective on March 15, 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 provisions 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 shall be submitted 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, National Audit Office 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 NPC has the power to amend or annul any inappropriate laws formulated 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 amend 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 amend 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 belongs to 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 June 10, 1981, the SCNPC shall give interpretation and make provisions by means of decrees on issues related to the further clarification or supplement of laws or decrees. The Supreme People’s Court shall give interpretations on questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in court trials. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate shall interpret all issues involving the specific application of laws and decrees in the procuratorial work. If there are principled differences in the interpretation of the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate, they shall be submitted to the SCNPC for interpretation or decision. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in areas unrelated to judicial and procuratorial work shall be provided by the State Council and competent authorities.

Where the scope of local regulations needs 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 which have enacted these regulations shall provide 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》) lastly amended by the SCNPC on October 26, 2018 and effective on January 1, 2019, the People’s Court is made up of the Supreme People’s Court, the local people’s courts, and other 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 higher levels 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》) lastly amended by SCNPC on October 26, 2018 and effective on January 1, 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-instance trial 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 become 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 president 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” lastly amended by the SCNPC on September 1, 2023 and effective on January 1, 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 Mainland China 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 express 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, the choice of the court cannot conflict with the regulations of different jurisdictions and exclusive jurisdictions in any case.

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 or 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 person or other organizations, the PRC court may apply the same limitations to the citizens, legal person or other organizations of such foreign country. A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign-invested enterprise or a foreign organization must engage a lawyer from Mainland China 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 Mainland China, 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 actions on behalf of each other. If the request 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 involved 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, 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 Mainland China or whose property is not within the Mainland China, 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 Mainland China enforcement procedures if the Mainland China 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 Mainland China, its sovereignty or security, or for reasons of social and public interests.

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

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

The Company Law was lastly revised on December 29, 2023 and came into effect on July 1, 2024.

The Overseas Listing Trial Measures and its five interpretative guidelines were promulgated by the CSRC on February 17, 2023 and came into effect on March 31, 2023 and were applicable to the direct and indirect overseas offering and listing of PRC domestic companies’ securities.

According to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures and its interpretative guidelines, where a domestic company directly conducts 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》), or the “Guidelines for Articles of Association”, which was lastly amended by the CSRC and came into effect on March 28, 2025.

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

General Provisions

A joint stock limited company refers to an enterprise legal person incorporated under the Company Law with its registered capital divided into shares of equal par value. The liability of its shareholders is limited to the amount of shares held by them and the company is liable to its creditors for an amount equal to the total value of its assets.

A joint stock limited company shall conduct its business in accordance with laws and regulations as well as public and commercial ethics, be honest and trustworthy and accept the supervision of the government and the public. A company may invest in other companies. If it is prescribed by any law that a company shall not become a capital contributor that shall bear the joint and several liability for the debts of the enterprises it invests in, such provisions shall prevail.

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 Mainland China.

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The Promoters of subscription of a joint stock company shall convene an inaugural meeting of the company within 30 days after the share capital has been paid up and shall notify all subscribers of the date of the meeting or make an announcement in this regard 15 days before the meeting. The inaugural meeting may be held only with the presence of subscribers holding more than 50% of the voting rights. The convening and voting procedures for the inaugural meeting of a joint stock limited company incorporated by promotion shall be stipulated in the agreement of the Promoters. Powers to be exercised at the inaugural meeting include but are 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 right, land use rights, shareholding or claims.

The Overseas Listing Trial Measures 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 issues 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. A joint stock limited company may issue shares at a 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 the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, submit filing reports, legal opinions and other relevant materials, and truthfully, accurately and completely explain shareholders information and other information. Where a domestic enterprise directly issues and is listed overseas, the issuer itself shall file with the CSRC.

Increase of 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’ 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 original shareholders, if any. If no par value stock is issued, more than one-half of the proceeds from the issuance of the new stocks shall be included in the registered capital. Additionally, if a company intends to make public [REDACTED] 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’ 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.

Repurchase of Shares

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’ 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 shareholders’ 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 meetings attended by more than two-thirds of the directors in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association or the authorization from the 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 our 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 exchange established 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 shareholders’ meeting or 5 days prior to the record date for a company’s distribution of dividends. However, where there are separate provisions by law on alternation of registration in the share register of listed companies, those provisions shall prevail.

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Under the Company Law, shares issued by a company prior to the [REDACTED] of shares shall not be transferred within one year from the date on which the shares of the company are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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 transfer period.

Shareholders

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

- the right to attend or appoint a proxy to attend general meetings and to vote thereat;
- the right to transfer shares in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and provisions of the articles of association;
- the right to inspect the Company’s articles of association, share register, counterfoil of Company debentures, minutes of general meetings, resolutions of meetings of the board of directors, resolutions of meetings of the supervisory committee and financial and accounting reports and to make proposals or enquiries on the Company’s operations;
- the right to bring an action in the people’s court to rescind resolutions passed by general meetings and board of directors where the articles of association is violated by the above resolutions;
- the right to receive dividends and other forms of profit distribution according to the proportion of shares they hold;
- in the event of the termination or liquidation of the Company, the right to participate in the distribution of the residual properties of the Company in proportion to the number of shares held; and
- other rights granted by laws, administrative regulations, other regulatory documents and the Company’s articles of association.

The obligations of a shareholder include the obligation to abide by the Company’s articles of association, to pay the subscription moneys in respect of the shares subscribed for and in accordance with the form of making capital contributions, to be liable for the Company’s debts and liabilities to the extent of the amount of his or her subscribed shares and any other shareholders’ obligation specified in the Company’s articles of association.

Shareholders’ Meetings

Under the Company Law, the shareholders’ meeting of a joint stock limited company is made up of all shareholders. The shareholders’ 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

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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.

Under the Company Law, annual shareholders’ meetings are required to be held once every year. An interim shareholders’ 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 of directors; (v) the supervisory committee proposes to convene the meeting; (vi) other circumstances as stipulated in the articles of association.

Shareholders’ meeting shall be convened by the board of directors and presided over by the chairperson of the board of directors. In the event that the chairperson is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, the meeting shall be presided over by the vice chairperson. In the event that the vice chairperson 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’ meeting in a timely manner. If the supervisory board fails to convene and preside over shareholders’ 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’ 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 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 interim 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 shareholders’ meeting. The board of directors shall notify other shareholders within two days after receiving the proposal and submit the interim proposal to the shareholders’ meeting for consideration.

Under the Company Law, a shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend a shareholders’ 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’ meeting.

Under the Company Law, shareholders present at a shareholders’ 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’ meeting in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association or the resolutions of the shareholders’ 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’ 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’ 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

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 offices 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 notified 10 days before the meeting for every meeting. The board of directors 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; 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; (ix) to formulate a company’s basic management system; (x) other functions and powers specified in the articles of association or granted by the shareholders’ meeting.

The 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/she 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 offense 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) a person who was legal representative 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 chairperson, who shall be elected by more than half of all the directors. The chairperson shall exercise the following functions and powers (including but not limited to): (i) to preside over shareholders’ meetings and convene and preside over board meetings; and (ii) to examine the implementation of resolutions of the board of directors; (iii) to exercise other powers conferred by the board of directors.

Supervisory Committee

A joint stock limited company may establish an audit committee composed of directors of the board of directors in accordance with the company’s bylaw which exercises the functions of the board of supervisors specified in this Law and is not required to have a board of supervisors or supervisors.

A joint stock limited company that is small or has a small number of shareholders is not required to establish a board of supervisors but shall have one supervisor who exercises the functions of the board of supervisors as provided for in this Law.

Except for the above-mentioned two special circumstances, a joint stock limited company shall have a supervisory committee composed of not less than three members. The supervisory committee is made up of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the employees of the company. The actual proportion shall be stipulated in the articles of association, provided that the proportion of representatives of the employees shall not be less than one third of the supervisors. Representatives of the employees of the company in the supervisory committee shall be democratically elected by the employees at the employees’ representative assembly, employees’ general meeting or otherwise. A director and a senior officer of the company shall not serve concurrently as a supervisor.

The supervisory committee shall have a chairman and may have a vice chairman. The chairman and deputy chairman of the supervisory committee shall be elected by more than half of all supervisors. The chairman of the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over the meetings of the supervisory committee. Where the chairman of the supervisory committee is unable or fails to perform his/her duties, the vice chairman of the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over the meetings of the supervisory committee. Where the vice chairman is unable or fails to perform his/her duties, the meetings shall be convened and presided over by a supervisor jointly nominated by more than half of all the supervisors.

Each term of a supervisor shall be three years, and a supervisor may continue to serve his post if he is re-elected. A supervisor shall continue to perform his duties in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and articles of association until a duly re-elected director takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his term of office, or if the resignation of supervisors’ results in the number of supervisors being less than the quorum.

The supervisory committee shall convene a meeting at least every six months. According to the Company Law, the supervisory committee shall make resolutions with the consent of a majority of all supervisors.

The supervisory committee exercises the following functions and power:

- to review the company’s financial position;
- to supervise the directors and senior management in the performance of their duties and to propose the dismissal of directors or senior management who violate laws, regulations, the articles of association or resolutions of the general meeting;
- when the acts of directors and senior management are harmful to the company’s interests, to require correction of those acts;

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- to propose the convening of extraordinary general meetings and to convene and preside over general meetings when the board of directors fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over general meetings under the Company Law;
- to initiate proposals for resolutions to general meetings;
- to initiate proceedings against directors and senior management;
- other powers and functions stipulated by the articles of association; and

The supervisors may attend the meetings of the board and may inquire about or put forth proposals on matters covered by resolutions of the board. The supervisory committee may initiate investigations into any irregularities identified in the operation of the company and, where necessary, may engage an accounting firm to assist their work at the company’s expense.

According to Guidelines for Articles of Association, the company’s board of directors shall establish an audit committee to exercise the supervisory authority stipulated by the “Company Law”.

Manager and Senior Management

Pursuant to the Company Law, a company shall have a manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors. The manager shall exercise his/her powers in accordance with the company’s articles of association or the authorization of the board of directors. Other provisions in the articles of association on the manager’s powers shall also be complied with.

The manager shall be present at meetings of the board of directors. However, the manager shall have no voting rights at meetings of the board of directors unless he/she concurrently serves as a director.

According to the Company Law, senior management shall mean the manager, deputy manager(s), person-in-charge of finance, board secretary (in case of a listed company) of a company and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

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. The directors, supervisors and senior management are prohibited from:

- embezzling the property of the company and misappropriating the funds of the company;
- depositing the company’s capital into accounts under his own name or the name of other individuals;
- taking advantage of power to accept bribes or other illegal income;
- accepting and possessing 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 the duty of loyalty to the company;

Where directors, supervisors and senior management who directly or indirectly contract or conduct a transaction with the company shall report to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting on matters related to the contracting or conducting the transaction, and seek approval by resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting in accordance with the company’s

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bylaw. If the close relatives of directors, supervisors, and senior management, enterprises under direct or indirect control of directors, supervisors, senior management, or their close relatives, and affiliates in any other affiliation relationship with directors, supervisors, and senior management contract or conduct transactions with the company, the provisions of the preceding paragraph shall report to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting on matters related to the contracting or conducting the transaction, and seek approval by resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting in accordance with the company’s articles of association.

Directors, supervisors and senior management shall not take advantage of his position to take a business opportunity belonging to the company for himself or another person, except under any of the following circumstances:

- which has been reported to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting and received approval by resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting according to the Company’s articles of association.
- the company is unable to take the business opportunity according to laws, administrative regulations, or the company’s articles of association.

Directors, supervisors and senior management shall not conduct the same kind of business as the company on his own account or on the account of another person, without reporting to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting, without approval by resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting according to the company’s articles of association.

Directors, supervisors and senior management who contravene any law, regulation or the company’s articles of association in the performance of his/her duties and result in any loss to the company shall be personally liable to the company.

The Guidance for Articles of Association provides that a company’s directors and senior management shall have duties of diligence towards the company, for example, the directors shall be prudent, serious and diligent in exercising the authority conferred by the company to ensure that the business activities of the company comply with state’s laws, administrative regulations and various economic policy requirements and that the business activities do not go beyond the scope of business activities specified in the company’s business license; the directors shall treat all shareholders equally; the shareholders shall keep abreast of the company’s business management status; both the directors and the senior management shall sign written statements confirming periodic reports of the company and ensure that the information disclosed by the company is true, accurate and complete; both the directors and the senior management shall provide accurate information and materials to the board of supervisors and shall not interfere with the performance of duties by the board of supervisors or individual supervisors; both the directors and the senior management shall have other diligence duties prescribed by laws, administrative regulations, departmental rules and the company’s 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 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.

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 meeting of shareholders. A joint stock limited company issuing its shares in public must publish its financial and accounting reports.

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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 shareholders’ 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’ 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 shareholders’ 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.

According to the Guidelines for Articles of Association, the company shall guarantee to provide true and complete accounting vouchers, accounting books, financial accounting reports and other accounting materials to the hired accounting firm, and shall not refuse, conceal or make false reports. The audit fee of an accounting firm shall be decided by the shareholders’ meeting.

Distribution of Profits

According to the Company Law, a company shall not distribute profits before losses are covered and the statutory common reserve is drawn.

Amendments to Articles of Association

Any amendments to the company’s articles of association must be made in accordance with the procedures set out in the company’s articles of association. In the event of a company registration, the amendments to the articles of association shall be registered with the relevant registration

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authorities. Pursuant to the Company Law, the resolution of a shareholders’ meeting regarding any amendment to a company’s articles of association requires affirmative votes by more than two-thirds of the votes held by shareholders attending the meeting.

Pursuant to the Guidance for Articles of Association, the company shall amend its articles of association under any of the following circumstances: (i) where, after any amendment to the Company Law or any other applicable law or administrative regulation, the provisions of the articles of association conflict with the law and/or administrative regulations amended; (ii) where the company’s circumstances change to such an extent that they are inconsistent with what is recorded in the articles of association; and (iii) where the shareholders’ general meeting decides 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 shareholders’ 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 company is ordered to close down or is 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.

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 item (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’ meeting. Where the company is dissolved pursuant to items (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 to conduct liquidation. 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) to distribute 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’ meeting or the people’s court for confirmation, and submit to the company registration authority to apply for cancellation 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 Overseas Listing Trial Measures, the domestic enterprise shall report the application documents for issuance and listing to the CSRC for record-filing within three working days after submission of the application documents for issuance and listing overseas. 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 first paragraph of Article 16 of the Overseas Listing Trial Measures.

Suspension and Termination of Listing

The Company Law has deleted provisions governing suspension and termination of listing. The Securities Law 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 Overseas Listing Trial Measures, 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.

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Merger and Demerger

A merger agreement shall be signed by merging companies and the involved companies shall prepare respective statements of financial position and inventory of assets. The companies shall within 10 days of the date of passing the resolution approving the merger notify their respective creditors and publicly announce the merger in newspapers or the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days. A creditor may, within 30 days of receipt of the notification, or within 45 days of the date of the announcement if he has not received the notification, request the company to settle any outstanding debts or provide relevant guarantees. In case of a merger, the credits and debts of the merging parties shall be assumed by the surviving or the new company.

In case of a division, the company’s assets shall be divided and a statement of financial position and an inventory of assets shall be prepared. When a resolution regarding the company’s division is approved, the company should notify all its creditors within 10 days of the date of passing such resolution and publicly announce the division in newspapers or the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days. Unless an agreement in writing is reached with creditors before the company’s division in respect of the settlement of debts, the liabilities of the company which have accrued prior to the division shall be jointly borne by the divided companies.

Changes in the business registration of the companies as a result of the merger or division shall be registered with the relevant administration authority for industry and commerce.

In accordance with the laws, cancelation of a company shall be registered when a company is dissolved and incorporation of a company shall be registered when a new company is incorporated.

SECURITIES LAW AND REGULATIONS

The Securities Law of the People’s Republic of China, which was promulgated by the SCNPC on December 29, 1998, and was latest amended on December 28, 2019 and took effect on March 1, 2020, comprehensively regulating activities in the PRC securities market including issuance and trading of securities, takeovers by listed companies, securities exchanges, securities companies and the duties and responsibilities of securities regulatory authorities, etc. The Securities Law further regulates that a domestic enterprise issuing securities overseas directly or indirectly or listing their securities overseas shall comply with the relevant provisions of the State Council and for subscription and trading of shares of domestic companies using foreign currencies, detailed measures shall be stipulated by the State Council separately. The CSRC is the securities regulatory body set up by the State Council to supervise and administer the securities market according to law, maintain order in the market, and ensure the market operates in a lawful manner. Currently, the issue and trading of H shares are principally governed by the regulations and rules promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

According to the Securities Law of the PRC (2019 Revision) (《中華人民共和國證券法(2019修訂)》) and the Administrative Measures on Acquisition of Listed Companies (《上市公司收購管理辦法》), where the shares held by an investor (including an overseas investor) through securities transactions on a stock exchange or jointly with others through an agreement or other arrangements attain 5% of the issued voting rights shares (including A-shares and H-shares) of a listed company, the investor shall submit a written report to the CSRC and SZSE within three days, notify the listed company and make an announcement. Whenever the investor’s shares with voting rights in the said listed company are increased or reduced by 1%, the investor shall notify the listed company on the day following such occurrence, and make an announcement.

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ARBITRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ARBITRAL AWARDS

Under the Arbitration Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國仲裁法》), or the Arbitration Law, last amended by the SCNPC on September 1, 2017 and effective on January 1, 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. If there is evidence to prove that any of the following circumstances exists: the parties have not stipulated an arbitration clause in the contract or have not reached a written arbitration agreement afterwards; the respondent has not been notified of the appointment of the Court of Arbitration or the arbitration proceedings or failed to present views for other reasons for which the respondent is not responsible; the composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitration procedures are not in accordance with the arbitration rules; the matters awarded are outside the scope of the arbitration agreement, or the arbitration committee has no jurisdiction to arbitrate, the people’s court may rule not to enforce such award. A party seeking to enforce an arbitral award of foreign arbitration commission against a party who or whose property is not within the Mainland China 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 January 24, 2000 and effective on February 1, 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 November 26, 2020 and effective on November 27, 2020, awards made by arbitral authorities in Mainland China can be applied for enforcement in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong arbitration awards can also be applied for enforcement in the Mainland China.

Judicial Judgment and its Enforcement

According to the Arrangement on Mutual Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland China and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《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 January 25, 2024 and implemented on January 29, 2024, in the case of effective judgment of a civil and commercial case or civil damages in a criminal case made by the court of China and the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, any party concerned may apply to the People’s Court of China or the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for recognition and enforcement based on this arrangement.