# THIS CIRCULAR IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

If you are in any doubt as to any aspect of this circular or as to the action to be taken, you should consult a stockbroker or other registered dealer in securities, a bank manager, solicitor, professional accountant or other professional adviser.

If you have sold or transferred all your shares in China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited (the "Company"), you should at once hand this circular, together with the enclosed form of proxy, to the purchaser or transferee or to the bank, stockbroker or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

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# China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited

中 國 楓 葉 教 育 集 團 有 限 公 司<sup>\*</sup>

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock code: 1317)

# PROPOSED RE-ELECTION OF RETIRING DIRECTORS AND PROPOSED GRANTING OF GENERAL MANDATES TO REPURCHASE SHARES AND TO ISSUE SHARES AND NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The notice convening the Annual General Meeting (the "AGM") of the Company to be held at Falcon Room I, Basement, Gloucester Luk Kwok Hong Kong, 72 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong on Wednesday, 22 January 2020 at 9:00 a.m. is set out on pages 15 to 19 in this circular.

Whether or not you are able to attend the AGM, please complete and sign the enclosed form of proxy in accordance with the instructions printed thereon and return it to the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited, at Level 54, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong as soon as possible but in any event not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the AGM or the adjourned meeting thereof. Completion and return of the form of proxy will not preclude shareholders from attending and voting in person at the AGM if they so wish. Such form of proxy is also published on the websites of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (http://www.hkexnews.hk) and the Company (http://www.mapleleaf.cn).

\* For identification purposes only.

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# DEFINITIONS

In this circular, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

"2019 AGM"	the annual general meeting held on 23 January 2019
"AGM"	the annual general meeting of the Company to be held at Falcon Room I, Basement, Gloucester Luk Kwok Hong Kong, 72 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong on Wednesday, 22 January 2020 at 9:00 a.m., to consider and, if appropriate, to approve the resolutions contained in the notice of the meeting which is set out on pages 15 to 19 of this circular, or any adjournment thereof
"Articles of Association"	the articles of association of the Company currently in force
"Board"	the board of Directors
"Company"	China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited (中國楓葉 教育集團有限公司*), a company incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability, the Shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange
"Director(s)"	the director(s) of the Company
"Group"	the Company and its subsidiaries from time to time or, where the context so requires, in respect of the period prior to our Company becoming the holding company of its present subsidiaries, such subsidiaries as if they were subsidiaries of our Company at the relevant time
"HK\$"	Hong Kong dollars, the lawful currency of Hong Kong
"Hong Kong"	the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
"Issuance Mandate"	a general mandate proposed to be granted to the Directors to allot, issue or deal with additional Shares of not exceeding 20% of the total number of issued shares of the Company as at the date of passing of the proposed ordinary resolution contained in item 6 of the notice of the AGM as set out on pages 17 to 18 of this circular
"Latest Practicable Date"	12 December 2019, being the latest practicable date prior to the printing of this circular for ascertaining certain information in this circular
"Listing Rules"	the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange as amended from time to time

\* For identification purposes only.

# DEFINITIONS

"PRC"	the People's Republic of China, excluding, for the purpose of this circular, Hong Kong, Macau Special Administrative Region and Taiwan		
"Post-IPO Share Option Scheme"	the share option scheme approved and adopted by the Company on 10 November 2014		
"SFO"	the Securities and Futures Ordinance, Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong		
"Share(s)"	ordinary share(s) of US\$0.0005 each in the issued capital of the Company or if there has been a subsequent sub-division, consolidation, reclassification or reconstruction of the share capital of the Company, shares forming part of the ordinary equity share capital of the Company		
"Share Repurchase Mandate"	a general mandate proposed to be granted to the Directors to repurchase Shares on the Stock Exchange of not exceeding 10% of the total number of issued shares of the Company as at the date of passing of the proposed ordinary resolution contained in item 5 of the notice of the AGM as set out on page 16 of this circular		
"Shareholder(s)"	holder(s) of Share(s)		
"Sherman Investment"	Sherman Investment Holdings Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands on 13 April 2007 and is indirectly wholly-owned by a discretionary trust, Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen is the founder of the discretionary trust		
"Stock Exchange"	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited		
"Takeovers Code"	The Code on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Buy-backs approved by the Securities and Futures Commission as amended from time to time		
"US\$"	United States dollars, the lawful currency of the United States		
"%""	per cent		



# China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited 中國楓葉教育集團有限公司<sup>\*</sup>

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock code: 1317)

Executive Directors: Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer) Ms. Jingxia Zhang (Chief Financial Officer) Mr. James William Beeke

Non-executive Director: Mr. Howard Robert Balloch (Vice Chairman)

Independent Non-executive Directors: Mr. Peter Humphrey Owen Mr. Alan Shaver Mr. Lap Tat Arthur Wong Registered Office: Maples Corporate Services Limited P.O. Box 309, Ugland House Grand Cayman, KY1-1104 Cayman Islands

*Head Office:* Maple Leaf Educational Park 6 Central Street Jinshitan National Tourist Area Dalian, Liaoning Province 116650 China

Principal Place of Business in Hong Kong: Room 1302, 13/F., Tai Tung Building 8 Fleming Road, Wanchai Hong Kong

18 December 2019

To the Shareholders

Dear Sir/Madam,

# PROPOSED RE-ELECTION OF RETIRING DIRECTORS AND PROPOSED GRANTING OF GENERAL MANDATES TO REPURCHASE SHARES AND TO ISSUE SHARES AND NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this circular is to provide the Shareholders with information in respect of the resolutions to be proposed at the forthcoming AGM to be held on 22 January 2020 and give the shareholders notice of the AGM.

\* For identification purposes only.

#### 2. PROPOSED RE-ELECTION OF RETIRING DIRECTORS

In accordance with Article 16.18 of the Articles of Association, Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen, Mr. Howard Robert Balloch and Mr. Peter Humphrey Owen shall retire at the AGM. In addition, Mr. Alan Shaver who has been appointed by the Board on 31 August 2019 shall hold office until the next following general meeting pursuant to Article 16.2 of the Company's Articles of Association. All of the above retiring Directors, being eligible, will offer themselves for re-election at the AGM.

Mr. Peter Humphrey Owen and Mr. Alan Shaver, Independent Non-executive Directors of the Company, have confirmed their independence with reference to the factors set out in Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules.

The Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee has reviewed the structure and composition of the Board, the confirmations and disclosures given by the Directors, the qualifications, skills and experience, time commitment and contribution of the retiring Directors with reference to the nomination principles and criteria set out in the Company's Board Diversity Policy and Director Nomination Policy and the Company's corporate strategy, and the independence of all Independent Non-executive Directors. The Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee has recommended to the Board on re-election of all the retiring Directors including the aforesaid Independent Non-executive Directors who are due to retire at the AGM. The Company considers that the retiring Independent Non-executive Directors are independent in accordance with the independence guidelines set out in the Listing Rules and will continue to bring valuable business experience, knowledge and professionalism including but not limited to their expertise in education to the Board for its efficient and effective functioning and diversity.

Details of the retiring Directors proposed for re-election at the AGM are set out in Appendix I to this circular.

### 3. PROPOSED GRANTING OF GENERAL MANDATE TO REPURCHASE SHARES

At the 2019 AGM, a general mandate was granted to the Directors to repurchase Shares. Such mandate will lapse at the conclusion of the AGM. In order to give the Company the flexibility to repurchase Shares if and when appropriate, an ordinary resolution will be proposed at the AGM to approve the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate to the Directors to repurchase Shares on the Stock Exchange of not exceeding 10% of the total number of issued Shares of the Company as at the date of passing of the proposed ordinary resolution contained in item 5 of the notice of the AGM as set out on page 16 of this circular (i.e. a maximum of 299,532,092 Shares) remains unchanged on the date of the AGM). The Directors wish to state that they have no immediate plan to repurchase any Shares pursuant to the Share Repurchase Mandate.

An explanatory statement required by the Listing Rules to provide the Shareholders with requisite information reasonably necessary for them to make an informed decision on whether to vote for or against the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate is set out in Appendix II to this circular.

## 4. PROPOSED GRANTING OF GENERAL MANDATE TO ISSUE SHARES

At the 2019 AGM, a general mandate was granted to the Directors to issue Shares. Such mandate will lapse at the conclusion of the AGM. In order to give the Company the flexibility to issue Shares if and when appropriate, an ordinary resolution will be proposed at the AGM to approve the granting of the Issuance Mandate to the Directors to allot, issue or deal with additional Shares of not exceeding 20% of the total number of issued Shares of the Company as at the date of passing of the proposed ordinary resolution contained in item 6 of the notice of the AGM as set out on pages 17 to 18 of this circular (i.e. a maximum of 599,064,184 Shares on the basis that the issued share capital of the Company (i.e. 2,995,320,920 Shares) remains unchanged on the date of the AGM). An ordinary resolution to extend the Issuance Mandate by adding the number of Shares repurchased by the Company pursuant to the Share Repurchase Mandate will also be proposed at the AGM.

The Directors wish to state that they have no immediate plan to issue any new Shares pursuant to the Issuance Mandate.

## 5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND PROXY ARRANGEMENT

The notice of the AGM is set out on pages 15 to 19 of this circular.

Pursuant to the Listing Rules and the Articles of Association, any vote of Shareholders at a general meeting must be taken by poll except where the chairman of such meeting, in good faith, decides to allow a resolution relating to a procedural or administrative matter to be voted on by a show of hands. An announcement on the poll results will be published by the Company after the AGM in the manner prescribed under the Listing Rules.

A form of proxy for use at the AGM is enclosed with this circular and such form of proxy is also published on the websites of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (http://www.hkexnews.hk) and the Company (http://www.mapleleaf.cn). To be valid, the form of proxy must be completed and signed in accordance with the instructions printed thereon and deposited, together with the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed or a certified copy of that power of attorney or authority at the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited, at Level 54, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong as soon as possible but in any event not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the AGM or the adjourned meeting thereof. Completion and delivery of the form of proxy will not preclude you from attending and voting at the AGM if you so wish.

## 6. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Directors consider that above-mentioned resolutions to be proposed at the AGM are fair and reasonable and are in the best interests of the Company and the Shareholders. Accordingly, the Directors recommend all Shareholders to vote in favour of the relevant resolutions to be proposed at the AGM.

Yours faithfully, For and on behalf of the Board China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited Shu Liang Sherman Jen Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

### APPENDIX I DETAILS OF THE RETIRING DIRECTORS PROPOSED TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following are details of the Directors who will retire and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election at the AGM.

#### (1) Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen

Shu Liang Sherman Jen ("Mr. Jen"), aged 65, is our controlling Shareholder (the "Controlling Shareholder") and founder. Mr. Jen was appointed as a Director in June 2007 and was re-designated as an executive Director and was appointed as chairman of the Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee of our Company, both taking effect on 28 November 2014, and is primarily responsible for the overall business and strategy of our Group, including the introduction of the dual diploma school model. He has been the chairman of the Board, chief executive officer ("CEO") of our Company since 2007, and co-chief executive officer ("Co-CEO") since March 2014. Mr. Jen was re-designated as CEO on 15 August 2016 following the resignation of the other Co-CEO and was appointed as the president of China operations on 1 September 2016.

Mr. Jen is also the president of Dalian Maple Leaf International School, a subsidiary of the Company, since 1995, the chairman of Dalian Maple Leaf Educational Group Co., Ltd., a consolidated affiliated entity, since 2003, and the director of Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited, a subsidiary of the Company, since 1992, Tech Global Investment Limited, a subsidiary of the Company, since 2007, Maple Leaf Education Asia Pacific Limited (formerly known as Hong Kong Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited), a subsidiary of the Company, since 2009 and Dalian Beipeng Educational Software Development Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, since 2011. His contributions lead us to become one of the leading international school service providers in China.

Mr. Jen has more than 24 years of experience in the education industry. In 2004, he was selected as one of the most influential figures in the private education industry in China by sohu.com. In 2005, he received the Outstanding Chinese Entrepreneur Award from the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the PRC. In 2011, he was honored as one of the "Top Ten Figures of our Time" by a group of media organizations and industry associations. In 2013, he received the Governor General's Medallion from Mr. David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, for his contributions to international education. In October 2014, he received the Chinese Government Friendship Award from the PRC Premier Mr. Li Keqiang and two Vice Premiers, which is the highest honor awarded by the Chinese government to foreign experts for their outstanding contributions to the modernized development of the PRC. In 2019, he was recognised as one of the "Top 10 Most Influential Education Leaders in China" by Knowledge Review, a United Kingdom leading education magazine and was honorably featured on the cover of the August 2019 edition. Mr. Jen is not a resident of Canada for Canadian taxation purposes.

Mr. Jen received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Arts from Beijing Foreign Languages University, PRC in May 1978, his Master of Business Administration by distance learning from the University of Wales, New Port, United Kingdom in September 2005 and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree (Hon. LL.D) from Royal Roads University in British Columbia ("**BC**"), Canada in June 2013.

## APPENDIX I

#### DETAILS OF THE RETIRING DIRECTORS PROPOSED TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Mr. Jen was interested in 1,537,584,010 Shares, of which Mr. Jen had beneficial interest in 52,342,850 Shares and he was deemed to be interested in 1,483,639,818 Shares held by Sherman Investment which is indirectly held by a discretionary trust of which HSBC International Trustee Limited is the trustee and Mr. Jen is the founder. Mr. Jen also had beneficial interest in 1,600,000 underlying Shares to be derived from the share options granted by the Company pursuant to the Post-IPO Share Option Scheme and had also deemed interest in 1,342 Shares held by Ms. Meichen Amy Yan, the spouse of Mr. Jen.

Mr. Jen has signed an executive director service agreement with a fixed term of appointment for a period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022 and is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meetings of the Company in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Mr. Jen receives a fixed salary of HK\$4,000,000 per annum and a discretionary year-end bonus of an amount which may be recommended by the Board or the Remuneration Committee (as applicable) as per the executive director service agreement. He also received salary and allowance of HK\$25,000 and share-based payment of HK\$664,915 for the year ended 31 August 2019.

Save as disclosed above, Mr. Jen (i) does not hold any other position with any members of the Group, (ii) is not related to any Director, senior management, substantial shareholder or controlling shareholder of the Company or other members of the Group, (iii) is not interested in other Shares within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO and, (iv) did not hold any directorships in other listed public companies in the last three years.

Save for the information disclosed above, there is no information which is discloseable nor is Mr. Jen involved in any of the matters required to be disclosed pursuant to any of the requirements under Rule 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules and there are no other matters concerning Mr. Jen that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders.

## (2) Mr. Howard Robert Balloch

**Howard Robert Balloch** ("**Mr. Balloch**"), aged 68, was appointed as a Director in March 2008 and was re-designated as a non-executive Director and was appointed as a member of the Remuneration Committee, both taking effect on 28 November 2014. Mr. Balloch is responsible for supervising the overall management and strategic planning of our Group. He was appointed as vice chairman of the Board on 3 January 2017.

Mr. Balloch is a retired Canadian diplomat. Prior to joining our Group, he served as Canadian Ambassador to the PRC and Mongolia from April 1996 to July 2001, and to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from March 2000 to July 2001. Subsequently, he served as the president and chief executive officer of the Canada China Business Council, a private, non-profit business association that facilitates and promotes trade and investment between Canada and China, from 2001 to 2006, and subsequently as its vice chairman until September 2016. Mr. Balloch founded and served as president and chairman of The Balloch Group from 2001 to 2011, a boutique investment bank that advised domestic and multinational

## DETAILS OF THE RETIRING DIRECTORS PROPOSED TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

corporations in China. The Balloch Group was acquired in 2011 by Canaccord Genuity Group Inc., a Canadian company listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange ("**TSX**") (stock code: CF) and the London Stock Exchange (stock code: CF). Mr. Balloch served as Chairman of Canaccord Genuity Asia, the Asian subsidiary of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. from 2011 to 2013. From January 2002 to January 2015, he served as a director of Ivanhoe Energy Inc., a company involved in heavy oil exploration and production technology and listed on the TSX (stock code: IE) and NASDAQ (stock code: IVAN) until it was delisted in March 2015. Mr. Balloch has also served as the director of several companies outside the Group. He has been a director of Methanex Corp. from December 2004 to April 2019, a company listed on both the TSX (stock code: MX) and NASDAQ (stock code: MEOH), which is engaged in the supply, distribution and marketing of methanol to major international markets. He has also served as a director of Sinopec Canada, a non-public subsidiary of Sinopec International Petroleum Exploration and Production Corporation, since April 2014 and a partner of PacBridge Partners (Canada) Ltd, a company specializes in providing early stage and growth capital to companies since January 2018.

**APPENDIX I** 

Mr. Balloch received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree from McGill University, Canada in June 1972 and June 1974, respectively.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Mr. Balloch was interested in 9,864,986 Shares, of which 7,903,644 Shares were held by Balloch Investment Holdings Limited ("**Balloch Investment**"), a company which is owned as to 50% by each of Mr. Balloch and his spouse. Accordingly, Mr. Balloch is deemed to be interested in all the Shares held by Balloch Investment. Mr. Balloch also had interest in 800,000 underlying Shares to be derived from share options granted by the Company under the Post-IPO Share Option Scheme.

Mr. Balloch has signed a letter of appointment with a fixed term of appointment for a period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022 and is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meeting of the Company in accordance with the Articles of Association. Mr. Balloch receives a base fee of HK\$500,000 per annum as per the appointment letter. He also received discretionary payment of HK\$20,000 and share-based payment of HK\$800,854 for the year ended 31 August 2019.

Save as disclosed above, Mr. Balloch (i) does not hold any other position with any members of the Group, (ii) is not related to any Director, senior management, substantial shareholder or controlling shareholder of the Company or other members of the Group and, (iii) is not interested in other Shares within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO.

Save for the information disclosed above, there is no information which is discloseable nor is Mr. Balloch involved in any of the matters required to be disclosed pursuant to any of the requirements under Rule 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules and there are no other matters concerning Mr. Balloch that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders.

## APPENDIX I

## DETAILS OF THE RETIRING DIRECTORS PROPOSED TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## (3) Mr. Peter Humphrey Owen

**Peter Humphrey Owen** ("**Mr. Owen**"), aged 72, was appointed as an independent nonexecutive Director in June 2014, and was appointed as the chairman of the Remuneration Committee and a member of our Audit Committee and Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee, all taking effect on 28 November 2014. Mr. Owen is primarily responsible for supervising and providing independent judgment to our Board.

Prior to joining the Group, Mr. Owen served as the vice chair of the Workers Compensation Review Board of BC in 1986. He subsequently held various positions at the Ministry of Education of the BC provincial government until May 2011, including the positions of director, executive director, and assistant deputy minister, responsible for education related legislation, governance, international education, policy and planning, and a variety of program areas.

Mr. Owen received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Simon Fraser University, Canada in May 1976 and a Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB) from the University of British Columbia, Canada in May 1979.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Mr. Owen was interested in 121,342 Shares and had also interest in 861,600 underlying Shares to be derived from share options granted by the Company under the Post-IPO Share Option Scheme.

Mr. Owen has signed a letter of appointment with a fixed term of appointment for a period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022 and is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meeting of the Company in accordance with the Articles of Association. Mr. Owen receives a base fee of HK\$360,000 per annum as per the appointment letter. He also received a discretionary fee of HK\$55,000 and share-based payment of HK\$584,167 for the year ended 31 August 2019.

Save as disclosed above, Mr. Owen (i) does not hold any other position with any members of the Group, (ii) is not related to any Director, senior management, substantial shareholder or controlling shareholder of the Company or other members of the Group, (iii) is not interested in other Shares within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO and, (iv) did not hold any directorships in other listed public companies in the last three years.

Save for the information disclosed above, there is no information which is disclosable nor is Mr. Owen involved in any of the matters required to be disclosed pursuant to any of the requirements under Rules 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules and there are no other matters concerning Mr. Owen that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders.

## (4) Mr. Alan Shaver

Alan Shaver ("Mr. Shaver"), aged 72, has been appointed as an Independent nonexecutive Director of the Company and a member of the Audit Committee, Remuneration Committee and Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee with effect from 31 August 2019.

## **APPENDIX I**

#### DETAILS OF THE RETIRING DIRECTORS PROPOSED TO BE RE-ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr. Shaver is a member and the chair of the board of director of Innovate BC, a British Columbia provincial Crown Agency whose mission is to promote the growth of BC's high tech economy. Prior to that, he served as the president and vice chancellor of Thompson Rivers University from 2010 to 2018, and served as the vice president academic and provost of Dalhousie University from 2006 to 2010. From 1975 to 2006, Mr. Shaver held various positions in McGill University, including assistant professor, associate professor, professor, chair of the Department of Chemistry, and dean of the Faculty of Science. He also worked at the University of Western Ontario from 1972 to 1975, where he served as a National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow and Department of Chemistry teaching fellow.

Mr. Shaver completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Carleton University majoring in chemistry in 1969, and obtained his doctorate degree in Organometallic Chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1972.

As at the Latest Practicable Date, Mr. Shaver does not have any interest in the Shares of the Company.

Mr. Shaver has signed a letter of appointment with a fixed term of appointment for the period from 31 August 2019 to 30 August 2022 and is subject to retirement by rotation and reelection at the annual general meeting of the Company in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Mr. Shaver is entitled to receive a base fee of HK\$360,000 per annum.

Saves as disclosed above, Mr. Shaver (i) does not hold any other position with any of the Group, (ii) is not related to any Director, senior management, substantial shareholder or controlling shareholders of the Company or other members of the Group, (iii) is not interested in any Shares of the Company within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO and, (iv) did not hold any directorships in other listed public companies in the last three years.

Save for the information disclosed above, there is no information which is disclosable nor is Mr. Shaver involved in any of the matters required to be disclosed pursuant to any of the requirements under Rule 13.51(2)(h) to (v) of the Listing Rules and there are no other matters concerning Mr. Shaver that need to be brought to the attention of the Shareholders.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE SHARE REPURCHASE MANDATE

The following is an explanatory statement required by the Listing Rules to provide the Shareholders with requisite information reasonably necessary for them to make an informed decision on whether to vote for or against the ordinary resolution to be proposed at the AGM in relation to the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate.

## 1. SHARE CAPITAL

As at the Latest Practicable Date, the total issued Shares of the Company is 2,995,320,920.

Subject to the passing of the ordinary resolution set out in item 5 of the notice of the AGM in respect of the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate and on the basis that the issued share capital of the Company remains unchanged on the date of the AGM, i.e. being 2,995,320,920 Shares, the Directors would be authorized under the Share Repurchase Mandate to repurchase, during the period in which the Share Repurchase Mandate remains in force, up to 299,532,092 Shares, representing 10% of the total number of Shares in issue as at the date of the AGM.

### 2. REASONS FOR SHARE REPURCHASE

The Directors believe that the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate is in the best interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole.

Shares repurchase may, depending on the market conditions and funding arrangements at the time, lead to an enhancement of the net asset value per Share and/or earnings per Share and will only be made when the Directors believe that such repurchases will benefit the Company and the Shareholders.

#### 3. FUNDING OF SHARE REPURCHASE

The Company may only apply funds legally available for share repurchase in accordance with its Articles of Association, the laws of the Cayman Islands and/or any other applicable laws, as the case may be.

#### 4. IMPACT OF SHARE REPURCHASE

There might be a material adverse impact on the working capital or gearing position of the Company (as compared with the position disclosed in the audited accounts contained in the annual report of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2019) in the event that the Share Repurchase Mandate was to be carried out in full at any time during the proposed repurchase period. However, the Directors do not intend to exercise the Share Repurchase Mandate to such extent as would, in the circumstances, have a material adverse effect on the working capital requirements of the Company or the gearing levels which in the opinion of the Directors are from time to time appropriate for the Company.

## **APPENDIX II**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE SHARE REPURCHASE MANDATE

### 5. MARKET PRICES OF SHARES

The highest and lowest prices per Share at which Shares have traded on the Stock Exchange during each of the previous 12 months up to and including the Latest Practicable Date were as follows:

Month	Highest	Lowest	
	HK\$	HK\$	
D 1 0010	2 (0	2.10	
December 2018	3.68	3.10	
January 2019	3.64	3.02	
February 2019	4.08	3.32	
March 2019	4.03	3.52	
April 2019	4.94	3.60	
May 2019	3.68	2.97	
June 2019	3.34	2.92	
July 2019	3.30	2.83	
August 2019	2.88	2.23	
September 2019	2.74	2.35	
October 2019	2.90	2.35	
November 2019	2.73	2.24	
December 2019 (up to the Latest Practicable Date)	2.84	2.57	

### 6. GENERAL

To the best of their knowledge and having made all reasonable enquiries, none of the Directors nor any of their respective close associates (as defined in the Listing Rules) have any present intention to sell any Shares to the Company in the event that the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate is approved by the Shareholders.

The Company has not been notified by any core connected persons (as defined in the Listing Rules) of the Company that they have a present intention to sell any Shares to the Company, or that they have undertaken not to sell any Shares held by them to the Company in the event that the granting of the Share Repurchase Mandate is approved by the Shareholders.

The Directors have undertaken to the Stock Exchange to exercise the power of the Company to repurchase Shares pursuant to the Share Repurchase Mandate in accordance with the Listing Rules and the applicable laws of the Cayman Islands.

#### 7. TAKEOVERS CODE

If as a result of a repurchase of Shares pursuant to the Share Repurchase Mandate, a Shareholder's proportionate interest in the voting rights of the Company increases, such increase will be treated as an acquisition of voting rights for the purposes of the Takeovers Code. Accordingly, a Shareholder or a group of Shareholders acting in concert (within the

## **APPENDIX II**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE SHARE REPURCHASE MANDATE

meaning under the Takeovers Code), depending on the level of increase in the Shareholder's interest, could obtain or consolidate control of the Company and thereby become obliged to make a mandatory offer in accordance with Rule 26 of the Takeovers Code.

To the best knowledge of the Directors, as at the Latest Practicable Date, Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen ("**Mr. Jen**") and Sherman Investment Holdings Limited (indirectly wholly owned by a discretionary trust, of which Mr. Jen is the founder who can influence how the trustee exercises his discretion) are the controlling shareholders of the Company (as defined in the Listing Rules), were interested or deemed to be interested in 1,537,584,010 Shares and 1,483,639,818 Shares respectively (representing approximately 51.33% and 49.53% of the total issued share capital of the Company respectively). In the event that the Directors exercise the proposed Share Repurchase Mandate in full and no other Shares would be issued or repurchased following the Latest Practicable Date, the shareholding of Mr. Jen and Sherman Investment Holdings Limited would be increased to approximately 57.04% and 55.04% respectively.

Save as aforesaid, the Directors are not aware of any consequences which may give rise to an obligation to make a mandatory offer under Rule 26 of the Takeovers Code. The Directors do not have the intentions to exercise the power to repurchase shares to such an extent as would, in the circumstances, give rise to an obligation to make a mandatory offer in accordance with Rule 26 of the Takeovers Code and/or result in the aggregate number of Shares held by the public shareholders falling below the prescribed minimum percentage required by the Stock Exchange.

## 8. SHARE REPURCHASE MADE BY THE COMPANY

During the 6 months prior to the Latest Practicable Date, the Company had not repurchased any of the Shares (whether on the Stock Exchange or otherwise).



# China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited 中國楓葉教育集團有限公司<sup>\*</sup>

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

## (Stock code: 1317)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (the "AGM") of China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited (the "Company") will be held at Falcon Room I, Basement, Gloucester Luk Kwok Hong Kong, 72 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong on Wednesday, 22 January 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company and the reports of the directors and auditors for the year ended 31 August 2019.
- 2. To declare a final dividend of HK\$5.6 cents per share for the year ended 31 August 2019.
- 3. To consider and approve, each as a separate resolution, if thought fit, the following resolutions:
  - (a) To re-elect Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen as Executive Director.
  - (b) To re-elect Mr. Howard Robert Balloch as Non-executive Director.
  - (c) To re-elect Mr. Peter Humphrey Owen as Independent Non-executive Director.
  - (d) To re-elect Mr. Alan Shaver as Independent Non-executive Director.
  - (e) To authorize the board of Directors (the "**Board**") to fix the respective Directors' remuneration.
- 4. To re-appoint Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as the auditors and to authorize the Board to fix their remuneration.

<sup>\*</sup> For identification purposes only.

5. To consider and, if thought fit, pass with or without amendments, the following resolution as an ordinary resolution:

## "THAT:

- (a) subject to paragraph 5(b) below, a general mandate be and is hereby generally and unconditionally given to the directors of the Company to exercise during the Relevant Period (as defined below) all the powers of the Company to repurchase its shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") or on any other stock exchange on which the securities of the Company may be listed and recognized by the Securities and Futures Commission and the Stock Exchange for this purpose, subject to and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations including the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange ("Listing Rules") or of any other stock exchange on which the securities of the Company may be listed as amended from time to time;
- (b) the total number of shares of the Company to be repurchased pursuant to the mandate in paragraph 5(a) above shall not exceed 10% of the total number of issued shares of the Company as at the date of passing of this resolution, and if any subsequent consolidation or subdivision of shares is conducted, the maximum number of shares that may be repurchased under the mandate in paragraph 5(a) above as a percentage of the total number of issued shares at the date immediately before and after such consolidation or subdivision shall be the same; and
- (c) for the purposes of this resolution:

"**Relevant Period**" means the period from the passing of this resolution until whichever is the earliest of:

- (i) the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company;
- (ii) the expiration of the period within which the next annual general meeting of the Company is required by the articles of association of the Company or any applicable laws to be held; and
- (iii) the date on which the authority set out in this resolution is revoked or varied by an ordinary resolution of the shareholders in general meeting."

6. To consider and, if thought fit, pass with or without amendments, the following resolution as an ordinary resolution:

## "THAT:

- (a) subject to paragraph 6(c) below, a general mandate be and is hereby generally and unconditionally given to the directors of the Company during the Relevant Period (as defined below) to allot, issue and deal with additional shares in the capital of the Company and to make or grant offers, agreements and options which might require the exercise of such powers;
- (b) the mandate in paragraph 6(a) above shall authorize the directors of the Company to make or grant offers, agreements and options during the Relevant Period which would or might require the exercise of such powers after the end of the Relevant Period;
- (c) the aggregate number of shares allotted and issued or agreed conditionally or unconditionally to be allotted and issued by the directors pursuant to the mandate in paragraph 6(a) above, otherwise than pursuant to:
  - (i) a Rights Issue (as defined below);
  - (ii) the exercise of options under a share option scheme of the Company; and
  - (iii) any scrip dividend scheme or similar arrangement providing for the allotment of shares in lieu of the whole or part of a dividend on shares of the Company in accordance with the articles of association of the Company,

shall not exceed 20% of the total number of issued shares of the Company as at the date of passing of this resolution, and if any subsequent consolidation or subdivision of shares is conducted, the maximum number of shares that may be issued under the mandate in paragraph 6(a) above as a percentage of the total number of issued shares at the date immediately before and after such consolidation or subdivision shall be the same; and

(d) for the purposes of this resolution:

"**Relevant Period**" means the period from the passing of this resolution until whichever is the earliest of:

- (i) the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company;
- (ii) the expiration of the period within which the next annual general meeting of the Company is required by the articles of association of the Company or any applicable laws to be held; and
- (iii) the date on which the authority set out in this resolution is revoked or varied by an ordinary resolution of the shareholders in general meeting.

"**Rights Issue**" means an offer of shares open for a period fixed by the directors to holders of shares of the Company or any class thereof on the register on a fixed record date in proportion to their then holdings of such shares or class thereof (subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to fractional entitlements or having regard to any restrictions or obligations under the laws of any relevant jurisdiction or the requirements of any recognized regulatory body or any stock exchange)."

7. As special business, to consider and, if thought fit, pass with or without amendments, the following resolution as an ordinary resolution:

"THAT conditional upon the passing of the resolutions set out in items 5 and 6 of the notice convening this meeting (the "Notice"), the general mandate referred to in the resolution set out in item 6 of the Notice be and is hereby extended by the addition to the aggregate number of shares which may be allotted, issued and dealt with or agreed conditionally or unconditionally to be allotted and issued by the directors pursuant to such general mandate of the number of shares repurchased by the Company pursuant to the mandate referred to in resolution set out in item 5 of the Notice, provided that such number of shares shall not exceed 10% of the total number of issued shares of the Company as at the date of passing of this resolution."

By Order of the Board China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited Shu Liang Sherman Jen Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong, 18 December 2019

#### Notes:

- 1. All resolutions at the meeting will be taken by poll (except where the chairman decides to allow a resolution relating to a procedural or administrative matter to be voted on by a show of hands) pursuant to the Listing Rules. The results of the poll will be published on the websites of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and the Company in accordance with the Listing Rules.
- 2. Any shareholder of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a shareholder of the Company. If more than one proxy is appointed, the number of shares in respect of which each such proxy so appointed must be specified in the relevant form of proxy. Every shareholder present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote for each share held by him.
- 3. In order to be valid, the form of proxy together with the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a certified copy of that power of attorney or authority, must be deposited at the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited, at Level 54, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the above meeting or the adjourned meeting thereof. Completion and return of the form of proxy shall not preclude a shareholder of the Company from attending and voting in person at the meeting and, in such event, the instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to be revoked.
- 4. For determining the entitlement to attend and vote at the above meeting, the Register of Members of the Company will be closed from Thursday, 16 January 2020 to Wednesday, 22 January 2020, both dates inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. In order to be eligible to attend and vote at the AGM, unregistered holders of shares of the Company shall ensure that all transfer documents accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited, at Level 54, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong for registration not later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 January 2020.
- 5. For determining the entitlement to the proposed final dividend (subject to approval by the shareholders at the AGM), the Register of Members of the Company will be closed from Tuesday, 4 February 2020 to Wednesday, 5 February 2020, both dates inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. In order to qualify for the proposed final dividend, unregistered holders of shares of the Company shall ensure that all transfer documents accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited, at Level 54, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, for registration not later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, 3 February 2020.
- 6. A circular containing further details concerning items 3, 5, 6 and 7 set out in the above notice will be sent to all shareholders of the Company together with the 2019 Annual Report.