## **REGULATIONS RELATED TO ROAD TRANSPORTATIONS**

According to the Regulations on Road Transportation of the PRC (《中華人民共和國道 路運輸條例》) promulgated by the State Council on April 30, 2004 and most recently amended on March 29, 2022, and the Provisions on Administration of Road Freight Transportation and Stations/sites (《道路貨物運輸及站場管理規定》) issued by the Ministry of Transport of the PRC (the "**MOT**") on June 16, 2005 and last amended on September 26, 2022, enterprise that engaged in freight transportation business shall obtain the Road Transportation Operation Permit and conduct freight transportation business within the scope of the Road Transportation Operation Permit. Enterprise engaged in freight transportation business in the absence of such permits shall be ordered to stop operation by competent road transportation authorities and be subject to administrative penalty.

On April 15, 2016, the Stated Council promulgated the Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on In-depth Implementation of the "Internet + Circulation" Action Plan (《國務院辦公廳關於深入實施"互聯網+流通"行動計劃的意見》), among which the pilot program in non-vehicle operating carriers for road freight transportation is first time raised and non-vehicle operating carriers within the scope of the pilot program is allowed to provide transportation service. On August 26, 2016, the MOT promulgated the Opinions of the General Office of the Ministry of Transport on Promoting the Pilot Reform and Accelerating the Innovative Development of Non-vehicle Operating Carrier Logistics (交通運輸部辦公廳關於推進改革試點加快無車承運物流創新發展的意見), according to which provincial transportation departments shall formulate and implement pilot implementation plans from October 2016 to November 2017.

Since November 2017, the MOT promulgated a series of regulations in relation to the operation of non-vehicle operating carriers, including the Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Transport on Further Promoting the Pilot Program of Non-vehicle Operating Carriers (《交通運輸部辦公廳關於進一步做好無車承運人試點工作的通知》) on November 15, 2017 and the Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Transport on Promoting Pilot Work for Non-vehicle Operating Carriers (《交通運輸部辦公廳關於深入推進無車承運人試點 工作的通知》) on April 8, 2018. Sichuan Provincial Department of Transportation also issued a Notice on Promoting the Pilot Work for Non-vehicle Operating Carriers' Common Road Freight (《關於開展道路普通貨物運輸無車承運人試點工作的通知》) on May 6, 2019. Later, on the basis of systematically summarizing the pilot work of non-vehicle operating carriers, on September 6, 2019, the MOT and the SAT, jointly issued the Interim Measures for Administration of Road Freight Transportation Operation on Online Platform (《網絡平台道路 貨物運輸經營管理暫行辦法》, the "Interim Measure of Digital Freight Transportation"), which took effect on January 1, 2020 with a validity period for two years, and, pursuant to which, "digital freight transportation" operation refers to the road freight transportation operation activities in which an operator integrates and allocates transportation resources on an online platform, enters into a transport contract with the consignor in the capacity of a carrier, entrusts an actual carrier to complete the road freight transportation, and assumes the responsibility of the carrier. According to the Interim Measure of Digital Freight Transportation, besides the Road Transportation Permit with the business scope of digital

freight transportation, the operators of digital freight transportation business shall also meet the requirements on commercial internet information service pursuant to the Internet Measures. In addition, the operators of digital freight transportation business shall record the user registration information, identity authentication information, service information and transaction information of the actual carrier and the consignor, keep relevant tax-related materials, and ensure the authenticity, completeness and availability of such information in accordance with the requirements of the E-Commerce Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國電子商務法》), the Law on the Administration of Tax Collection of the PRC (《中華人民共和國稅收徵收管理法》) and its implementing rules. The authorities responsible for the supervision and administration of road transportation at the county level shall issue the operation licenses with the operators. On December 31, 2021, the MOT together with the SAT issued the Announcement on extending the validity period of the Interim Measures for Administration of Road Freight Transportation Operation on Online Platform which extends the validity period of the Interim Measure of Digital Freight Transportation to December 31, 2023.

On September 24, 2019, the MOT promulgated three guidelines on digital freight transportation, including the Service Guidelines on the Road Freight Transportation Operation on Online Platform (《網絡平台道路貨物運輸經營服務指南》), the Guidelines on the Construction of Provincial Digital Freight Information Monitoring System (《省級網絡貨運信息監測系統建設指南》) and the Access Guidelines on the Ministerial Digital Freight Information Interaction System (《部網絡貨運信息交互系統接入指南》), all of which came into effect at the same date. Among those, the Service Guidelines on the Road Freight Transportation Operation on Online Platform sets forth that digital freight transportation operators shall meet the requirements include: (i) obtaining the value-added telecommunication business operation licenses, (ii) complying with state's requirements for graded protection of information monitoring system, and (iv) equipped with features including information release, online transaction, full-process monitoring, online financial payment, consultation and complaint, query statistics and data retrieval.

Regulations have also been promulgated on provincial level to further encouraging and indicating the implement of Interim Measure of Digital Freight Transportation and the three guidelines. For example, Fujian Provincial Department of Transportation issued Implementation Opinions on Promoting the Development of Digital Freight Transportation (《關於加快推進網絡貨運發展的實施意見》) on November 12, 2019. On December 23, 2019, Hubei Provincial Department of Transportation also issued a Notice on Implementing the Interim Measure of Digital Freight Transport (《關於貫徹落實<網絡平台道路貨物運輸經營管 理暫行辦法>的通知》).

## **REGULATIONS RELATED TO VALUE-ADDED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

#### **Regulations on Value-added Telecommunications Services**

Pursuant to the Telecommunications Regulations of the PRC (《中華人民共和國電信條例》, the "Telecommunications Regulations") promulgated by the State Council on September 25, 2000, amended on July 29, 2014 and February 6, 2016, which provide a regulatory framework for telecommunications services providers in the PRC, telecommunications services are categorized into basic telecommunications services and value-added telecommunications services and the telecommunications services providers are required to obtain operating licenses prior to the commencement of their operations. Pursuant to the Classification Catalog of Telecommunications Business (2015 version) (《電信業務分類 目錄(2015年版)》), which was amended on June 6, 2019, internet information services we provide are classified as value-added telecommunications services.

The Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services (《互聯網信息服務管理辦 法》, the "Internet Measures") which were promulgated by the State Council on September 25, 2000 and amended on January 8, 2011, set out the guidelines on the provisions of Internet information services. The Internet Measures classified Internet information services into commercial Internet information services and non-commercial Internet information services, and a commercial Internet information services provider must obtain a value-added telecommunications business operation license (《增值電信業務經營許可證》, the "ICP License") from the appropriate telecommunications authorities. The content of the Internet information services operators are required to monitor their websites. The PRC government may order the holder of ICP License that violates the content restrictions to correct those violations or revoke their ICP Licenses.

The MIIT released the Circular on Regulating the Use of Domain Names in Internet Information Services (《工業和信息化部關於規範互聯網信息服務使用域名的通知》) on November 27, 2017, effective from January 1, 2018, which provides that the domain names used by the internet information service provider in providing internet information services shall be registered and owned by such internet information service provider, and if the internet information service provider is a legal entity, the domain name registrant shall be the legal entity (or any of its shareholders), or its principal or senior manager.

# Regulations on Foreign Investment Restriction on Value-Added Telecommunications Services

Pursuant to the Regulations for the Administration of Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises (2022 Revision) (《外商投資電信企業管理規定(2022修 訂)》), which were promulgated by the State Council on December 11, 2001 and last amended on March 29, 2022, the foreign investors may acquire up to 50% of the equity interests of value added telecommunications enterprises, unless otherwise stipulated by the government. Moreover, foreign invested enterprises must obtain approvals from the MIIT for their commencement of value-added telecommunications business in the PRC.

On July 13, 2006, the Ministry of Information Industry of the PRC (the "MII", which is the predecessor of MIIT) promulgated the Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Foreign Investment and Operation of Value-added Telecommunications Business (《關於加強 外商投資經營增值電信業務管理的通知》) (the "MIIT Circular"), pursuant to which, a domestic company that holds a value-added telecommunications business operation licenses is prohibited from leasing, transferring or selling the license to foreign investors in any form, and from providing any assistance, including providing resources, sites or facilities, to foreign investors that conduct value-added telecommunications business illegally in China. In addition, under the MIIT Circular, the Internet domain names and registered trademarks used by a foreign-invested value-added telecommunications service operator shall be legally owned by that operator or its shareholders.

The Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for the Access of Foreign Investment (2020 version) (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)》(2020年版), the "Negative List 2020"), were issued on 23 June 2020 and came into effect on 23 July 2020. On 27 December, 2021, the NDRC and MOFCOM jointly issued the Special Administrative Measure (Negative List) for the Access of Foreign Investment (2021 Version) (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)》, the "Negative List 2021"), effective as of 1 January, 2022, replacing the Negative List 2020. According to the Negative List 2021, the equity ratio of foreign investment in the value-added telecommunications enterprises shall not exceed 50% except for the investment in e-commerce operation business, domestic multi-party communication business, information storage and re-transmission business or call center business.

## **REGULATIONS RELATED TO CYBER SECURITY AND PRIVACY PROTECTION**

## **Regulations on Cyber Security**

On December 28, 2000, the SCNPC promulgated the Decisions on Protection of Cyber Security (《關於維護互聯網安全的決定》), last amended and became effective on August 27, 2009, indicating several situations where one may be subject to administrative or criminal liabilities for harming the cyber security. On December 13, 2005, the Ministry of Public Security of the PRC (the "MPS") enacted the Provisions on Technical Measures of the Cyber Security Protection (《互聯網安全保護技術措施規定》, the "Technical Measures of Cyber Security Protection"), effective as of March 1, 2006. The Technical Measures of Cyber Security Protection sets out several technical measures for the protection of cyber security, including (i) technical measures for preventing any matter or act that may harm the network security; (ii) measures for backing up any redundant disaster of key data base or major systematic equipment; (iii) Technical measures for recording and keeping the login and exit time of uses, advocate calls, accounts, internet web addresses or domain names and log files of system maintenance; and (iv) any other technical measures for the protection of internet security as prescribed by other laws, regulations or rules. According to the Technical Measures of Cyber Security Protection, the providers and entity uses of internet services shall be responsible for carrying out effective technical measures for the protection of cyber security and shall guarantee the functioning of the technical measures for the protection of cyber security.

On November 7, 2016, the Standing Committee of National People's Congress (the "SCNPC") promulgated the Cybersecurity Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國網絡安全法》

, the "Cybersecurity Law"), effective as of June 1, 2017, which applies to the construction, operation, maintenance and use of networks as well as the supervision and administration of cybersecurity in the PRC. The Cybersecurity Law defines "network" as a system comprising computers or other information terminals and relevant facilities used for the purpose of collecting, storing, transmitting, exchanging and processing information in accordance with specific rules and procedures. "Network operators", who are broadly defined as owners and administrators of networks and network service providers, are subject to various security protection-related obligations, including: (i) complying with security protection obligations under graded system for cybersecurity protection requirements, which include formulating internal security management rules and operating instructions, appointing cybersecurity responsible personnel and their duties, adopting technical measures to prevent computer viruses, cyber-attack, cyber-intrusion and other activities endangering cybersecurity, adopting technical measures to monitor and record network operation status and cybersecurity events; (ii) formulating a emergency plan and promptly responding and handling security risks, initiating the emergency plans, taking appropriate remedial measures and reporting to regulatory authorities in the event comprising cybersecurity threats; and (iii) providing technical assistance and support to public security and national security authorities for protection of national security and criminal investigations in accordance with the law.

On July 30, 2021, the State Council promulgated the Regulations for Safe Protection of (《關鍵信息基礎設施安全保護條例》, Critical Information Infrastructure the "CII Regulations") which took effect on September 1, 2021. Pursuant to the CII Regulations, critical information infrastructure refers to important network infrastructure and information system in public telecommunications, information services, energy sources, transportation and other critical industries and domains, in which any destruction or data leakage will have severe impact on national security, the nation's welfare, the people's living and public interests. The CII Regulations provide specific requirements for the responsibilities and obligations of the operator: (i) the operator shall establish and improve the cybersecurity protection system and responsibility system, and ensure the input of manpower, financial and material resources; (ii) the operator shall set up a special security management department, and review the security background of the person in charge of the special security management department and the personnel in key positions; (iii) the operator shall guarantee the operation funds of the special security management department, allocate corresponding personnel, and have the personnel of the special security management department participate in the decision-making relating to cyber security and informatization; (iv) the operators shall give priority to the purchase of safe and reliable network products and services; network products and services procured that may affect the national security shall be subject to the security review in accordance with the national provisions on network security. The CII Regulations clarify the measures for dealing with the failure of key information infrastructure operators to perform their responsibilities for security protection, such as imposing fines.

After the release of the Cybersecurity Law, on May 2, 2017, the Cyberspace Administration of China (the "CAC"), issued the Measures for Security Reviews of Network Products and Services (Interim) (《網絡產品和服務安全審查辦法(試行)》), which was later replaced by the Measures for Cybersecurity Review (《網絡安全審查辦法》), the "Cybersecurity Review Measures"). The Cybersecurity Review Measures, effective as of June 1, 2020, was jointly issued by CAC and several other department on April 13, 2020 and later amended on December 28, 2021 and became effective on February 15, 2022. According to the Cybersecurity Review Measures as amended, (i) when the purchase of network products and services by a critical information infrastructures operator or the data processing activities conducted by a network platform operator affect or may affect national security, a cybersecurity review shall be conducted pursuant to the Review Measures. The aforesaid operators shall file for a cybersecurity review with Cybersecurity Review Office under the CAC if their behavior affects or may affect national security; (ii) an application for cybersecurity review shall be made by an issuer who is a network platform operator holding personal information of more than one million users before such issuer applies to list its securities on a foreign stock exchange; and (iii) the relevant PRC governmental authorities may initiate cybersecurity review if such governmental authorities determine that the issuer's network products or services, or data processing activities affect or may affect national security. Cybersecurity reviews focus on assessing the following national security risks factors associated with relevant objects or circumstances: (i) the risk of illegal control, interference or destruction of critical information infrastructure, arising from the purchase and utilization of network products and services; (ii) the harm on the business continuity of critical information infrastructure incurring from a disruption of network products and services supply; (iii) the safety, openness, transparency, diversity of sources of network products and services; the reliability of suppliers; and the risk of supply disruption due to political, diplomatic, trade and other reasons; (iv) the level of compliance with the PRC laws, administrative regulations and ministry rules of the suppliers of network products and services; (v) the risk of core data, important data or a large amount of personal information being stolen, leaked, destroyed, and illegally used or illegally exited the country; (vi) the risk of critical information infrastructure, core data, important data or a large amount of personal information being affected, controlled, or maliciously used by foreign governments and the network information security risk in relation to listing abroad; and (vii) other factors that may harm critical information infrastructure, cyber security and/or data security.

## **Regulations on Data and Privacy Protection**

On June 10, 2021, the Data Security Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國數據安全法》, the "**Data Security law**") was promulgated by the SCNPC and became effective on September 1, 2021. The Data Security Law mainly sets forth specific provisions regarding establishing basic systems for data security management, including hierarchical data classification management system, risk assessment system, monitoring and early warning system, and emergency disposal system. In addition, it clarifies the data security protection obligations of organizations and individuals carrying out data activities and implementing Data security protection responsibility.

On August 16, 2021, the CAC, joint with MIIT, MOT, the National Development and Reform Commission and the MPS, promulgated Several Provisions for the Administration of the Automobile Data Security (Interim) (《汽車數據安全管理若干規定(試行)》, the "Automobile Data Security Provisions"), effective as of October 1, 2021. Pursuant to the Automobile Data Security Provisions, automobile Data includes the personal information and essential data generated from the designing, producing, selling, using and repairing of automobiles. The "essential data" refers to the data that might harm the national security, public interest or the rightful interest of individuals and associations once revised, destroyed, leaked or illegally obtained or used. Automobile data operators must conduct automobile data operating activity according to the Automobile Data Security Provisions, including collecting, storing, using, processing, transferring, providing, publicizing automobile data. Furthermore, automobile data operators shall conduct risk assessment for its essential data operating activity, and report it to relevant government authorities. When an automobile data operator needs to make a cross-border transferring of essential data for business purpose, such operator need to pass the security assessment organized by CAC and other relevant government authorities, and shall not providing essential data beyond the security assessment range.

On December 8, 2022, the MIIT published the Data Security Administration Measures in Industry and Information Technology (Interim) (《工業和信息化領域數據安全管理辦法(試行)》, the "Industry and Information Technology Measures"), which took effect on January 1, 2023. The Industry and Information Technology Measures requires that industrial and telecom data processors shall manage the industrial and telecom data by three levels according to relevant regulations and shall apply certain administrative rules corresponding to its level during collecting, storing, using, processing, transferring, providing and publicizing such data.

Pursuant to the Decisions on Strengthening the Protection of Online information (《關於 加強網絡信息保護的決定》), issued by the SCNPC in 2012 and the Protection Provisions for the Personal Information of Telecommunications and Internet Users (《電信和互聯網用戶個人 信息保護規定》) promulgated by the MIIT in 2013, telecommunication business operators and internet service providers are required to set up their own rules for collecting and use of internet users' information and are prohibited from collecting or use such information without consent from users. Moreover, telecommunication business operators and internet service providers shall strictly keep users' personal information confidential and shall not divulge, tamper with, damage, sell or illegally provide others with such information.

On February 4, 2015, the CAC, promulgated the Provisions on the Administrative of Account Names of Internet Users (《互聯網用戶賬號名稱管理規定》), which became effective as of March 1, 2015, setting forth the authentication requirement for the real identity of internet users by requiring users to provide their real names during the registration process. In addition, these provisions specify that internet information service providers are required by these provisions to accept public supervision, and promptly remove illegal and malicious information in account names, photos, self-introductions and other registration-related information reported by the public in a timely manner.

Interpretations of the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law in the Handling of Criminal Cases Involving Infringement of Personal Information (《最高人民法院、最高人民檢察院關於辦理侵犯公民個人信息刑事案件適用法律若干問題的解釋》), issued on May 8, 2017 and effective on June 1, 2017, specified certain standards for the conviction and sentencing of the criminals in relation to personal information infringement. On May 28, 2020, the National Peoples Congress adopted the Civil Code (《中華人民共和國民法典》), which came into effect on January 1, 2021. Pursuant to the Civil Code, the personal information of a natural person shall be protected by the law. Any organization or individual shall legally obtain such personal information of others when necessary and ensure the safety of such information, and shall not illegally collect, use, process or transmit personal information of others, or illegally purchase or sell, provide or make public personal information of others.

On August 20, 2021, the SCNPC Promulgated the Personal Information Protection Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人信息保護法》, the "PIPL") as effective on November 1, 2021, which further completes China's legal infrastructure in the field of privacy protection. The PIPL requires the person information processor need to obtain the prior consent of the personal provider before process the personal information except: (i) when it is necessary for entering into or performing a contract to which an individual is a party, or for implementing human resources management pursuant to employment policies legally established and collective contracts legally concluded; (ii) where it is necessary for fulfilling statutory duties or obligations; (iii) where it is necessary for responding to public health emergencies or protecting life, health and property safety of a natural person in case of emergency; (iv) where such acts as news reporting and public supervision are carried out for the public interest, and the processing of personal information is within a reasonable scope; (v) where the personal information has been made public either by the individual or by other lawful means and the processing of such information is limited to a reasonable scope in accordance with this Law; and (vi) other circumstances stipulated by laws and administrative regulations.

On July 7, 2022, the Measures for the Security Assessment of Cross-border Data Transmission (《數據出境安全評估辦法》, the "Data Transmission Measures") was released by the CAC and became effective on September 1, 2022, which requires that any data processor providing important data collected and generated during operations within the PRC or personal information that should be subject to security assessment according to law to an overseas recipient shall conduct security assessment. The Data Transmission Measures provides five circumstances, under any of which data processors shall, through the local cyberspace administration at the provincial level, apply to the national cyberspace administration for security assessment of data cross-border transfer. These circumstances include: (i) where the data to be transferred to an overseas recipient are personal information or important data collected and generated by operators of critical information infrastructure; (ii) where the data to be transferred to an overseas recipient contain important data; (iii) where a personal information processor that has processed personal information of more than one million people provides personal information overseas; (iv) where the personal information of more than 100,000 people or sensitive personal information of more than 10,000 people are transferred overseas accumulatively; or (v) other circumstances under which security assessment of data cross-border transfer is required as prescribed by the national cyberspace administration.

On November 14, 2021, the CAC proposed the Regulations on the Administration of Network Data Security (Draft for Comments) (《網絡數據安全管理條例(徵求意見稿)》, the "Draft Regulations") for public comments until December 13, 2021. The Draft Regulations reiterate that data processors which process the personal information of at least one million users must apply for a cybersecurity review if they plan listing of companies in foreign countries, and the draft measures further require the data processors that carry out the following activities to apply for cybersecurity review in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations: (i) the merger, reorganization or division of internet platform operators that have gathered a large number of data resources related to national security, economic development and public interests affects or may affect national security; (ii) the listing of the data processor in Hong Kong affects or may affect the national security; and (iii) other data processing activities that affect or may affect national security. In addition, the draft measures also regulate other specific requirements in respect of the data processing activities conducted by data processors in the view of personal data protection, important data safety, data cross-broader safety management and obligations of internet platform operators. Specifically, Under the following situations, data processors shall delete or anonymize personal information within fifteen business days: (i) the purpose of processing personal information has been achieved or the purpose of processing is no longer needed; (ii) the storage term agreed with the users or specified in the personal information processing rules has expired; (iii) the service has been terminated or the account has been cancelled by the individual; and (iv) unnecessary personal information or personal information without the consent of the individual, which was collected inevitably due to the use of automatic data collection technology. The processors of important data or data processors who are listed overseas shall carry out data security assessments by themselves or by entrusting data security service agencies every year, and submit the previous year's data security assessment report to the cyberspace administration at the districted city level before January 31 of each year. When providing overseas data collected and generated within the PRC, if such data includes important data, or if the data processor is a critical information infrastructure operator or processes personal information of more than one million people, the data processors shall go through the security assessment of data cross-border transfer organized by the national cyberspace administration.

## **Regulations on Mobile Internet Application Information Services**

On June 28, 2016, the CAC issued the Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Application Information Services (《移動互聯網應用程序信息服務管理規定》), which took effect on August 1, 2016 and last amended on August 1, 2022. Pursuant to which, internet information service providers whoprovide information services through mobile internet applications are required to authenticate the identity of the registered users, establish procedures for protection of user information, establish procedures for information content censorship and management, ensure that users are given adequate information concerning an app and are able to choose whether an App is installed and whether or not to use an installed App and its functions. If an internet information service provider violates these regulations, mobile app stores through which it distributes its apps may issue warnings, suspend the release of its apps, or terminate the sale of its apps, and/or report the violations to governmental authorities. On June 14, 2022, the CAC amended the Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Application Information Services, which took effect on August 1, 2022. The new amendment further clarifies the obligations of internet information service providers, such as the obligation to protect minors and the obligation to inform the users and report to the governmental authorities upon the risk of application security.

The Announcement of Conducting Special Supervision against the Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information by Applications (《關於開展App違法違規收集使用個人信息專項 治理的公告》) issued by three authorities including CAC, MIIT and SAMR on January 23, 2019, Pursuant to which, (i) application operators are prohibited from collecting any personal information irrelevant to the services provided by such operator; (ii) information collection and usage policy should be presented in a simple and clear way, and such policy should be consented by the users voluntarily; (iii) authorization from users should not be obtained by coercing users with default or bundling clauses or making consent a condition of a service. App operators violating such rules can be ordered by authorities to correct its non-compliance within a given period of time, be reported in public; or even suspend its operation for rectification or cancel its business license or operational permits.

On November 28, 2019, the CAC, MIIT, the MPS and SAMR jointly issued the Measures to Identify Illegal Collection and Usage of Personal Information by APPs (《App違法違規收集使用個人信息行為認定方法》), which lists six types of illegal collection and usage of personal information, including "not publishing rules on the collection and usage of personal information" and "not providing privacy rules."

The MIIT issued the Notice on the Further Special Rectification of Apps Infringing upon Users' Personal Rights and Interests (《關於開展縱深推進APP侵害用戶權益專項整治行動的 通知》, the "Further Rectification Notice"), on July 22, 2020. The Further Rectification Notice requires that certain conducts of app service providers should be inspected, including, among others, (i) collecting personal information without the user's consent, collecting or using personal information beyond the necessary scope of providing services, and forcing users to receive advertisements; (ii) requesting user's permission in a compulsory and frequent manner, or frequently launching third-parties apps; and (iii) deceiving and misleading users into downloading apps or providing personal information. The Further Rectification Notice also set forth that the period for the regulatory specific inspection on apps and that the MIIT will order the non-compliant entities to modify their business within five business days, or otherwise to make public announcement to remove the apps from the app stores and impose other administrative penalties.

#### **REGULATIONS RELATING TO INTERNET CONTENT SECURITY**

According to the Administrative Provisions on Internet Follow-up Comment Services (《互聯網跟帖評論服務管理規定》) and Provisions on Internet Forum Community Services(《互 聯網論壇社區服務規定管理》), which were promulgated by the CAC on August 25, 2017, and became effective on October 1, 2017, an internet follow-up comment and forum community services provider shall strictly assume the primary responsibilities and the obligations, including but not limited to: (i) verify the real identity information of registered users; (ii) establish and improve a user information protection system; (iii) establish a system of reviewing at first and then publishing comments if they offer internet follow-up comment services by way of bullet chatting; (v) establish and improve an internet follow-up comment review and

administration, real-time check, emergency response and other information security administration systems, timely identify and process illicit information and submit a report to the relevant competent authorities; (vi) develop internet follow-up comment information protection and administration technologies, innovate internet follow-up comment administration modes, research, develop and utilise an anti-spam administration system and improve the spam-handling capability; (vii) equip with content examination team corresponding with services; and (viii) coordinate with relevant supervising authorities for examination and provide necessary technology, information and data support. The CAC amended the Administrative Provisions on Internet Follow-up Comment Services in November 2022, which took effect on December 15, 2022. The new amendment further clarifies the obligations of an internet follow-up comment and forum community services provider to manage the content of the follow-up comments.

According to the Cybersecurity Law, a network operator shall strengthen the management of the information released by its users. If it founds any information that is prohibited by laws and administrative regulations from release or transmission, it shall immediately cease transmission of such information, and take measures such as deletion to prevent dissemination of such information. The operator shall also keep relevant record, and report the case to the competent authority. In the event that a network operator fails to take measures as ceasing transmission or removal of information prohibited by appropriate laws or administrative regulations, or keep record of relevant information, the competent authority shall warn such operator and order it to make rectifications, and shall confiscate its illegal earnings. A fine shall be imposed in case of refusal to make rectifications or severe violations, and further penalties such as suspension of related business, winding up for rectification, shutdown of website, and revocation of business licence may be concurrently imposed by the competent authority.

## **REGULATIONS RELATED TO ADVERTISING**

On October 27, 1994, the SCNPC promulgated the Advertising Law of the PRC (《中華 人民共和國廣告法》, the "Advertising Law"), as last amended on April 29, 2021. The Advertising Law regulates commercial advertising activities in the PRC, and sets out the obligations of advertisers, advertising operators, advertising publishers and advertisement endorsers, and prohibits any advertisement from containing any obscenity, pornography, gambling, superstition, terrorism or violence-related content. Any advertiser in violation of such requirements on advertisement content will be ordered to cease publishing such advertisements and imposed a fine, the business license of such advertisement examination and refuse to accept applications submitted by such advertiser for one year. In addition, any advertising operator or advertising publisher in violation of such requirements will be imposed a fine, and the advertisement fee received will be confiscated; in severe circumstances, the business license of such advertising publisher may be revoked.

The Interim Measures for the Administration of Internet Advertising (《互聯網廣告管理 暫行辦法》, the "Internet Advertising Measures"), regulating the internet-based advertising activities were adopted by the SAIC on July 4, 2016 and became effective on September 1, 2016. According to the Internet Advertising Measures, internet advertisers are responsible for the authenticity of the advertisements content and all online advertisements must be marked "Advertisement" so that viewers can easily identify them as such. Publishing and circulating advertisements through the internet shall not affect the normal use of the internet by users. It is not allowed to induce users to click on the content of advertisements by any fraudulent means, or to attach advertisements or advertising links in the emails without permission. In addition, the following internet advertising activities are prohibited: (i) providing or using any applications or hardware to intercept, filter, cover, fast forward or otherwise restrict any authorized advertisement of other persons, (ii) using network pathways, network equipment or applications to disrupt the normal data transmission of advertisements, alter or block authorized advertisements of other persons or load advertisements without authorization, or (iii) using fraudulent statistical data, transmission effect or matrices relating to online marketing performance to induce incorrect quotations, seek undue interests or harm the interests of others.

## **REGULATIONS RELATING TO CONSUMERS PROTECTION**

According to the Consumers Rights and Interests Protection Law of the PRC (《中華人 民共和國消費者權益保護法》, the "Consumers Rights and Interests Protection Law"), which became effective on January 1, 1994 and was amended by the SCNPC on October 25, 2013 most recently, business operators shall guarantee that the products and services they provide satisfy the requirements for personal or property safety, and provide consumers with authentic information about the quality, function, usage and term of validity of the products or services. The consumers whose interests have been damaged due to the products or services that they purchase or accept on the internet trading platforms may claim damages to sellers or service providers.

## **REGULATIONS RELATED TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

## Trademarks

The Trademark Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國商標法》, the "**Trademark Law**") was promulgated by the SCNPC on August 23, 1982 and last amended on April 23, 2019 and became effective on November 1, 2019, respectively, and the Implementation Regulations on the Trademark Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國商標法實施條例》) was promulgated by the State Council on August 3, 2002 and last amended on April 29, 2014 and became effective on May 1, 2014.

These laws and regulations provide the basic legal framework for the regulations of trademarks. In China, registered trademarks include commodity trademarks, service trademarks, collective marks and certificate marks. The Trademark Office of China National Intellectual Property Administration is responsible for the registration and administration of trademarks throughout the country. Trademarks are granted on a term of ten years, counted from the day the registration is approved. Twelve months prior to the expiration of the ten-year term, an applicant can renew the application and reapply for trademark protection. Using a trademark that is identical with or similar to a registered trademark in connection with the same or similar goods without the authorization of the owner of the registered trademark constitutes an infringement of the exclusive right to use a registered trademark. The infringer shall, in accordance with the regulations, undertake to cease the infringement, take remedial action, and pay damages, etc.

#### Copyright

On September 7, 1990, the SCNPC promulgated the Copyright Law of the PRC (《中華 人民共和國著作權法》, the "Copyright Law"), effective on June 1, 1991, the latest amendment of which took effect on June 1, 2021. The amended PRC Copyright Law extends copyright protection to internet activities, products disseminated over the internet and software products. In addition, there is a voluntary registration system administered by the Copyright Protection Centre of China. According to the Copyright Law, Chinese citizens, legal persons, or other organizations shall, whether published or not, own copyright in their copyrightable works, which include, among others, works of literature, art, natural science, social science, engineering technology and computer software. An infringer of the copyright shall be subject to various civil liabilities, which include ceasing infringement activities, apologizing to the copyright owners and compensating the loss of copyright owner. In addition, infringers of copyright may also subject to fines and/or administrative or criminal liabilities in severe situations.

In order to further implement the Regulations on Computer Software Protection (《計算 機軟件保護條例》), promulgated by the State Council on December 20, 2001 and recently amended on January 30, 2013 and came into effect on March 1, 2013, the National Copyright Administration issued the Measures for the Registration of Computer Software Copyright (《計算機軟件著作權登記辦法》) on February 20, 2002, which specify detailed procedures and requirements with respect to the registration of software copyrights.

#### Patent

According to the Patent Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國專利法》), the "Patent Law"), promulgated by the SCNPC on March 12, 1984 and most recently amended on October 17, 2020 and took effect on June 1, 2021, and the Implementation Rules of the Patent Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國專利法實施細則》, the "Implementation Rules of the Patent Law"), the patent administrative department under the State Council is responsible for the administration of patent-related work nationwide and the patent administration departments of provincial or autonomous regions or municipal governments are responsible for administering

patents within their respective administrative areas. The Patent Law and Implementation Rules of the Patent Law provide for three types of patents, namely "inventions", "utility models" and "designs". Invention patents are valid for twenty years, while utility model patents and design patents are valid for ten years and fifteen years, respectively, in each case from the date of application. An invention or a utility model must possess novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability to be patentable. Third Parties must obtain consent or a proper license from the patent owner to use the patent.

### **Domain Names**

Internet domain name registration and related matters are primarily regulated by the Measures on Administration of Internet Domain Names (《互聯網域名管理辦法》), which replaced the Measures on Administration of Domain Names for the Chinese Internet published in November 2004, issued by MIIT and effective as of November 1, 2017. Domain name registrations are handled through domain name service agencies established under the relevant regulations, and the applicants become domain name holders upon successful registration.

## FULL CIRCULATION OF H SHARES

"Full circulation" represents listing and circulating on the Stock Exchange of the domestic unlisted shares of an H-share listed company, including unlisted Domestic Shares held by domestic shareholders prior to overseas listing, unlisted Domestic Shares additionally issued after overseas listing, and unlisted shares held by foreign shareholders. On November 14, 2019, the CSRC, announced the Full-circulation Guidelines allows certain qualified H-share listed companies and H-share companies to be listed for the application of full circulation to CSRC.

According to the Guidelines for the "Full Circulation" Program for Domestic Unlisted Shares of H-share Listed Companies, shareholders of domestic unlisted shares may determine by themselves through consultation the amount and proportion of shares, for which an application will be filed for circulation, provided that the requirements laid down in the relevant laws and regulations and set out in the policies for state-owned asset administration, foreign investment and industry regulation are met, and the corresponding H-share listed company may be entrusted to file the said application for "full circulation". To file an application for "full circulation", an H-share listed company shall file the application with the CSRC according to the administrative licensing procedures necessary for the "examination and approval of public issuance and listing (including additional issuance) of shares overseas by a joint stock company". After the application for "full circulation" being approved by the CSRC, the H-share listed company shall submit a report on the relevant situation to the CSRC within 15 days after the registration with the CSDC, of the shares related to the application has been completed.

On December 31, 2019, the CSDC and Shenzhen Stock Exchange jointly announced the Measures for Implementation of H-share "Full Circulation" Business. The businesses of cross-border share transfer registration, maintenance of deposit and holding details, transaction entrustment and instruction transmission, settlement, management of settlement participants, services of nominal holders, etc. in relation to the H-share "full circulation business", are subject to these Measures for Implementation.

In order to fully promote the reform of H-shares "full circulation" and clarify the business arrangement and procedures for the relevant shares' registration, custody, settlement and delivery, the CSDC has issued the Circular on Issuing the Guidelines to the Program for "Full Circulation" of H-shares in February 2020, which specified the business preparation, account arrangement, cross-border share transfer registration and overseas centralized custody, etc. In February 2020, China Securities Depository and Clearing (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd., or the CSDC HK, promulgated the Guidelines to the Program for Full Circulation of H-shares of China Securities Depository and Clearing (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. (《中國證券登記結算(香港)有限公司H股"全流通"業務指南》) to specify the relevant escrow, custody, agent service of CSDC HK, arrangement for settlement and delivery and other relevant matters.

# **REGULATIONS RELATED TO FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

Pursuant to the Regulations of the PRC for Foreign Exchange Control (《中華人民共和 國外匯管理條例》) amended by the State Council and came into effect on August 5, 2008, foreign exchange payments under current account items shall be made using self-owned foreign currency or foreign currency purchased from financial institutions engaging in conversion and sale of foreign currencies by presenting valid documents. If onshore institutions or onshore individuals propose to make an offshore direct investment or offshore issuance or trading of negotiable securities or derivative products, they shall complete the registration as required by the foreign exchange administrative department under the State Council.

On November 19, 2012, the SAFE promulgated the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Improving and Adjusting Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration Direct Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步改進和調整直接投資外匯管 理政策的通知》, the "Circular No. 59"). The Circular No. 59 came into effect on December 17, 2012, revised on May 4, 2015 and October 10, 2018, and partially abolished on December 30, 2019. According to the Circular No. 59, the opening of various special purpose foreign exchange accounts (such as the account for preliminary expenses, foreign exchange capital account and margin account), the reinvestment of RMB funds in China by foreign investors and the foreign exchange profits and dividends remitted by foreign enterprises to foreign shareholders need not be approved or verified by the SAFE, and the same entity can open multiple capital accounts in the different provinces. In February 2015, the SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment (《國家外匯管理局關 於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》) (partially abolished in December 2019), which stipulates that banks shall directly audit and handle foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment on behalf of the SAFE, the SAFE and its branches indirectly supervised the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

On May 11, 2013, the SAFE issued the Regulations on the Administration of Foreign Exchange for Direct Investment in China by Foreign Investors (《外國投資者境內直接投資外匯管理規定》, the "Circular 21"), which became effective on May 13, 2013, amended on October 10, 2018 and partially abolished on December 30, 2019. The Circular 21 stipulates that the SAFE or its local branches over direct investment by foreign investors in the PRC must be conducted by way of registration, and banks shall process the foreign exchange business relating to the direct investment in the PRC based on the registration information provided by the SAFE or its branches.

According to the Notice on Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration of Overseas Listing (《關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) promulgated by the SAFE on December 26, 2014 and implemented on the same day, a domestic company shall, within 15 business days of the date of the end of its overseas listing issuance, register the overseas listing with the Administration of Foreign Exchange at the place of its establishment. The proceeds from an overseas listing of a domestic company may be remitted to the domestic account or deposited in an overseas account, but the use of the proceeds shall be consistent with the content of the document and other disclosure documents.

Pursuant to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reform of the Management Method for the Settlement of Foreign Exchange Capital of Foreign-Invested Enterprises (《國家外匯管理局關於改革外商投資企業外匯資本金結匯管理方式的通知》, the "Circular 19"), which was promulgated on March 30, 2015, came into effective on June 1, 2015 and was partially abolished on December 30, 2019, foreign-invested enterprises could settle their foreign exchange capital on a discretionary basis based on the actual needs of their business operations. Whilst, foreign-invested enterprises are prohibited to use the foreign exchange capital settled in RMB (a) for any expenditures beyond the business scope of the foreign-invested enterprises or forbidden by laws and regulations; (b) for direct or indirect securities investment; (c) to provide entrusted loans (unless permitted in the business scope), repay inter-company loans (including advances to third parties) or repay RMB bank loans that have been on lent to a third party; and (d) to purchase real estate not for self-use purposes (save for real estate enterprises).

On June 9, 2016, SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reforming and Standardizing the Foreign Exchange Settlement Management Policy of Capital Accounts (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》), the "Circular 16"), which came into effect on the same day. The Circular 16 provides that discretionary foreign exchange settlement applies to foreign exchange capital, foreign debt offering proceeds and remitted listed overseas proceeds, and the corresponding RMB capital converted from foreign exchange may be used to extend loans to related parties or repay inter-company loans (including advances by third parties). However, there remain substantial uncertainties with respect to SAFE Circular 16's interpretation and implementation in practice.

On October 23, 2019, the SAFE promulgated the Notice on Further Facilitating Cross-Board Trade and Investment (《關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》) which became effective on the same date (except for Article 8 Paragraph 2, which became effective on January 1, 2020). The notice cancels restrictions on domestic equity investments made with capital funds by non-investing foreign-funded enterprises. In addition, restrictions on the use of funds for foreign exchange settlement of domestic accounts for the realization of assets have been removed and restrictions on the use and foreign exchange settlement of foreign investors security deposits have been relaxed. Eligible enterprises in the pilot area are also allowed to use revenues under capital accounts, such as capital funds, foreign debt offering proceeds and remitted listed overseas proceeds for domestic payments without providing materials to the bank in advance for authenticity verification on an item by item basis, while the use of funds should be true, in compliance with applicable rules and conforming to the current administrative regulations for use of revenue from capital accounts.

## **REGULATIONS RELATED TO TAXATION**

#### **Enterprise Income Tax**

According to the EIT Law, which was promulgated on March 16, 2007, became effective from January 1, 2008 and amended on February 24, 2017 and December 29, 2018, respectively, a domestic enterprise which is established within the PRC in accordance with the laws shall be regarded as a resident enterprise. A resident enterprise shall be subject to an EIT of 25% of any income generated within the PRC. A preferential EIT rate shall be applicable to any key industry or project which is supported or encouraged by the state.

Enterprises that are recognized as high and new technology enterprises in accordance with the Administrative Measures for the Determination of High and New Tech Enterprises (《高新技術企業認定管理辦法》) issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the PRC, the MOF and the SAT, are entitled to enjoy a preferential enterprise income tax rate of 15%. Under these measures, the validity period of the recognition as a high and new technology enterprise shall be three years from the date of issuance of the certificate. An enterprise can re-apply for such recognition before or after the previous certificate expires.

#### Value-Added Tax

Pursuant to the Interim Regulations on Value-Added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國 增值税暫行條例》), which was promulgated by the State Council on December 13, 1993 and amended on November 5, 2008, February 6, 2016 and November 19, 2017, respectively, and the Implementation Rules for the Interim Regulations on Value-Added Tax of the PRC (《中 華人民共和國增值税暫行條例實施細則》), which was promulgated by the MOF and SAT on December 15, 2008 and became effective on January 1, 2009 and as amended on October 28, 2011, entities or individuals engaging in sale of goods, provision of processing services, repairs and replacement services or importation of goods within the territory of the PRC shall pay VAT.

Unless provided otherwise, the rate of VAT is 17% on sales and 6% on the services. On April 4, 2018, MOF and SAT jointly promulgated the Circular of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on Adjustment of Value-Added Tax Rates (《財政部、税務總局關於調整增值税税率的通知》, the "Circular 32"), according to which (i) for VAT taxable sales acts or import of goods originally subject to VAT rates of 17% and 11%, respectively, such tax rates shall be adjusted to 16% and 10%, respectively; (ii) for purchase of agricultural products originally subject to tax rate of 11%, such tax rate shall be adjusted to 16%; (iii) for purchase of agricultural products for the purpose of production and sales or consigned processing of goods subject to tax rate of 16%, such tax shall be calculated at the tax rate of 12%; (iv) for exported goods originally subject to tax rate of 17% and export tax refund rate of 17%, the export tax refund rate shall be adjusted to 16%; and (v) for exported goods and cross-border taxable acts originally subject to tax rate of 11% and export tax refund rate of 11%, the export tax refund rate shall be adjusted to 10%. Circular 32 became effective on May 1, 2018 and shall supersede existing provisions which are inconsistent with Circular 32.

Since November 16, 2011, the MOF and the SAT have implemented the Pilot Plan for Imposition of Value-Added Tax to Replace Business Tax (《營業税改徵增值税試點方案》), the "VAT Pilot Plan"), which imposes VAT in lieu of business tax for certain "modern service industries" in certain regions and eventually expanded to nation-wide application in 2013. According to the Implementation Rules for the Pilot Plan for Imposition of Value-Added Tax to Replace Business Tax (《營業税改徵增值税試點實施辦法》) released by the MOF and the SAT on the VAT Pilot Program, the "modern service industries" include research, development and technology services, information technology services, cultural innovation services, logistics support, lease of corporeal properties, attestation and consulting services. The Notice on comprehensively promoting the Pilot Plan of the Conversion of Business Tax to Value-Added Tax (《關於做好全面推開營改增試點工作的通知》), which was promulgated on April 29, 2016, sets out that VAT in lieu of business tax be collected in all regions and industries.

On March 20, 2019, MOF, SAT and the General Administration of Customs jointly promulgated the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform (《關於深化增值税改革有關政策的公告》), which became effective on April 1, 2019 and provides that (i) with respect to VAT taxable sales acts or import of goods originally subject to VAT rates of 16% and 10% respectively, such tax rates shall be adjusted to 13% and 9%, respectively; (ii) with respect to purchase of agricultural products originally subject to tax rate of 10%, such tax rate shall be adjusted to 9%; (iii) with respect to tax rate of 13%, such tax shall be calculated at the tax rate of 10%; (iv) with respect to export of goods and services originally subject to tax rate of 16% and export tax refund rate of 16%, the export tax refund rate shall be adjusted to 13%; and (v) with respect to export of goods and cross-border taxable acts originally subject to tax rate of 10%, the export tax refund rate shall be adjusted to 9%.

### **REGULATIONS RELATED TO LABOR**

### Labor Law

According to the Labor Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動法》) issued by the SCNPC on 5 July 1994, most recently amended on 29 December 2018 and became effective on the same day, every employer must ensure workplace safety and sanitation in accordance with national regulations, provide relevant training to its employees, prevent accidents in the process of work, and lessen occupational hazards.

The Labor Contract Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) issued by the SCNPC on 29 June 2007, amended on 28 December 2012 and became effective on 1 July 2013, requires every employer to enter into a written contract of employment with each of its employees. No employer may force its employees to work beyond the time limit and each employer must pay overtime compensation to its employees. The wage of each employee is to be no less than the local standard on minimum wages.

#### **Regulations on Social Insurance and Housing Provident Funds**

In accordance with the Social Insurance Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國社會保險 法》) issued by the SCNPC on 28 October 2010, last amended on 29 December 2018 and became effective on the same day, as well as other relevant provisions, an employee shall participate in five types of social insurance funds, including pension, medical, unemployment, maternity and occupational injury insurance. The premiums for maternity insurance and occupational injury insurance are paid by the employer, while the premiums for pension insurance, medical insurance and unemployment insurance are paid by both the employer and the employee. If the employer fails to fully contribute to social insurance funds on time, the collection agency for such social insurance may demand the employer to make full payment or to pay the shortfall within a set period and collect a late charge. If the employer fails to pay after the due date, the relevant government administrative body may impose a fine on the employer.

In accordance with the Regulation on the Administration of Housing Provident Funds (《住房公積金管理條例》) issued by the State Council on 3 April 1999, last revised on 24 March 2019 and became effective on the same day, an employer must register with the competent managing center for housing funds and shall contribute to the Housing Provident Fund for any employee on its payroll. Where an employer fails to pay up housing provident funds within the prescribed time limit, the employer may be ordered to make payment within a certain period, where the payment has not been made after the expiration of the time limit, an application may be made to the court for compulsory enforcement.

#### **REGULATIONS RELATED TO ANTI-MONOPOLY**

The SCNPC promulgated the Anti-Monopoly Law of the PRC on August 30, 2007, which came into effect on August 1, 2008, last amended on June 24, 2022 and took effect on August 1, 2022. According to the Anti-Monopoly Law, the prohibited monopolistic acts include monopolistic agreements, abuse of a dominant market position and concentration of businesses that may have the effect to eliminate or restrict competition.

On February 7, 2021, the Anti-monopoly Bureau of SAMR published the Guidelines on Anti-monopoly Issues in Platform Economy (《關於平台經濟領域的反壟斷指南》, the "**Platform Economy Anti-monopoly Guidelines**"). The Platform Economy Anti-monopoly Guidelines set out detailed standards and rules in respect of definition of relevant markets, typical types of cartel activity and abusive behavior by the operators of internet platform with market dominance, as well as merger control review procedures involving variable interest entities, which provide further guidelines for enforcement of anti-monopoly Guidelines further clarified the calculation of the thresholds for declaring concentration of online platform operators, as well as the evaluation of the effect of the concentration of online platform operators on competition.

#### **REGULATIONS RELATED TO UNFAIR COMPETITION**

According to the Law against Unfair Competition of the PRC (《中華人民共和國反不正 當競爭法》, the "Anti-Unfair Competition Law"), promulgated by the SCNPC on September 2, 1993 and amended on November 4, 2017 and April 23, 2019, respectively, effective from April 23, 2019, operators shall not undermine their competitors by engaging in improper activities, including but not limited to, taking advantage of powers or influence to affect a transaction, market confusion, commercial bribery, misleading false publicity, infringement of trade secrets, price dumping, illegitimate premium sale and commercial libel. Any operator who violates the Anti-Unfair Competition Law by engaging in the foregoing unfair competition activities shall be ordered to cease such illegal activities, eliminate the influence of such activities or compensate for the damages caused to any party. The competent supervision and inspection authorities may also confiscate the illegal gains or impose fines on such operators.

## **REGULATIONS RELATING TO OVERSEA LISTING**

On December 24, 2021, the CSRC published the Administrative Provisions of the State Council on the Overseas Issuance and Listing of Securities by Domestic Companies (Draft for Comments) (《國務院關於境內企業境外發行證券和上市的管理規定(草案徵求意見稿)》), the "Administrative Provisions"), and the draft Measures for the Overseas Issuance and Listing of Securities Record-filings by Domestic Companies (Draft for Comments) (《境內企業境外發行證券和上市備案管理辦法(徵求意見稿)》) for public comments. Pursuant to these drafts, PRC domestic companies that directly or indirectly offer or list their securities in an overseas market, which include (i) any PRC company limited by shares, and (ii) any offshore company that conducts its business operations primarily in China and contemplates to offer or list its

securities in an overseas market based on its onshore equities, assets or similar interests, are required to file with the CSRC within three business days after submitting their listing application documents to the relevant regulator in the place of intended listing. Failure to complete the filing under the Administrative Provisions may subject a PRC domestic company to a warning or a fine of RMB1 million to RMB10 million. If the circumstances are serious, the PRC domestic company may be ordered to suspend its business or suspend its business until rectification, or its permits or businesses license may be revoked.