

## APPENDIX III

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

### TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

The taxation of income and capital gains of holders of H Shares is subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of H Shares are residents or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current effective laws and practices, and no predictions are made about changes or adjustments to relevant laws or policies, and no comments or suggestions will be made accordingly. The discussion has no intention to cover all possible tax consequences resulting from the investment in H Shares, nor does it take the specific circumstances of any particular investor into account, some of which may be subject to special regulations. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax adviser regarding the tax consequences of an investment in H Shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the date of this document, which is subject to change or adjustment and may have retrospective effect. No issues on PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital appreciation and profit tax, business tax/appreciation tax, stamp duty and estate duty were referred in the discussion. Prospective investors are urged to consult their financial advisers regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H Shares.

#### The PRC Taxation

##### *Taxation on Dividends*

###### *Individual Investors*

Pursuant to the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法》), which was most recently amended on August 31, 2018, and the Implementation Provisions of the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法實施條例》), which was most recently amended on December 18, 2018 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**IIT Law**”), dividends distributed by PRC enterprises are subject to individual income tax levied at a flat rate of 20%. For a foreign individual who is not a resident of the PRC, the receipt of dividends from an enterprise in the PRC is normally subject to individual income tax of 20% unless specifically exempted by the tax authority of the State Council or reduced by relevant tax treaty.

Pursuant to the Circular on Issues Concerning Taxation and Administration of Individual Income Tax After the Repeal of the Document Guo Shui Fa [1993] No. 045 (《關於國稅發[1993]045號文件廢止後有關個人所得稅徵管問題的通知》) issued by the STA on June 28, 2011, for a domestic non-foreign invested enterprise who has been issuing shares in Hong Kong, its foreign individual shareholders may enjoy the relevant preferential tax treatment according to the taxation agreement between the PRC and the country where they reside and the taxation arrangement between the PRC and Hong Kong (or Macau). When domestic non-foreign invested enterprises, which issue stocks in Hong Kong, pay dividends and bonus, in general, it will withhold 10% of the dividends and profits as individual income tax and no applications are needed. Where the individuals who receive the dividends are residents of countries where the agreed tax rate is lower than 10%, the withholding agent shall, according

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to regulations provisions, handle the applications for relevant preferential treatments and refund the extra tax upon the approval of competent tax authorities. Where the individuals are residents of countries where the agreed tax rate is higher than 10% but lower than 20%, the withholding agent shall withhold the individual income tax according to the agreed actual tax rate when paying the dividends and bonuses and no applications are needed in such cases. Where the dividend receiving individuals are residents of countries which have not established tax treaties with China or other circumstances exist, the withholding agent shall withhold the individual income tax based on the rate of 20% when paying dividends and bonuses.

### *Enterprise Investors*

In accordance with the EIT Law and the Implementation Rules of the EIT Law, the rate of EIT shall be 25%. A non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% EIT on PRC-sourced income (including dividends received from a PRC resident enterprise that issues shares in Hong Kong), if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise.

The Circular on Issues Relating to the Withholding and Remitting of EIT by PRC Resident Enterprises on Dividends Distributed to Overseas Non-Resident Enterprise Shareholders of H Shares (《關於中國居民企業向境外H股非居民企業股東派發股息代扣代繳企業所得稅有關問題的通知》), which was issued and implemented by the STA on November 6, 2008, further clarified that a PRC-resident enterprise must withhold EIT at a rate of 10% on the dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of H Shares. In addition, the Response to Questions on Levying EIT on Dividends Derived by Non-resident Enterprise from Holding Stock such as B Shares (《關於非居民企業取得B股等股票股息徵收企業所得稅問題的批覆》), which was issued by the STA and came into effect on July 24, 2009, further provides that any PRC-resident enterprise whose shares are listed on overseas stock exchanges must withhold and remit EIT at a rate of 10% on dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to non-resident enterprises. Such tax rates may be further modified pursuant to the tax treaty or agreement that China has entered into with a relevant country or area, where applicable.

The PRC and the government of Hong Kong entered into the Arrangement between the Mainland of the PRC and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》) (the "Arrangement") on August 21, 2006, which came into effect on August 12, 2006. Pursuant to the Arrangement, the Chinese Government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a PRC-resident enterprise to Hong Kong residents (including resident individuals and resident entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends payable by the PRC-resident enterprise unless a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in a PRC-resident enterprise, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the PRC-resident

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enterprise. The Fifth Protocol of the Arrangement between the Mainland of the PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《<內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排>第五議定書》), which came into effect on December 31, 2019, adds a criteria for the qualification of entitlement to enjoy treaty benefits. Although there may be other provisions under the Arrangement, the treaty benefits under the criteria shall not be granted in the circumstance where relevant gains, after taking into account all relevant facts and conditions, are reasonably deemed to be one of the main purposes for the arrangement or transactions which will bring any direct or indirect benefits under this Arrangement, except when the grant of benefits under such circumstance is consistent with relevant objective and goal under the Arrangement. The application of the dividend clause of tax agreements is subject to the requirements of PRC tax law and regulation, such as the Notice of the STA on the Issues Concerning the Application of the Dividend Clauses of Tax Agreements (《關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》).

### *Tax Treaties*

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

### *Taxation on Share Transfer*

#### *VAT and Local Additional Tax*

According to the Interim Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC and the Implementation Rules for the Interim Regulations on Value-Added Tax of the PRC, all enterprises and individuals that engage in the sale of goods, the provision of processing, repair and replacement services, sales of service, intangible assets and real estate and the importation of goods within the territory of the PRC shall pay VAT at the rate of 0%, 6%, 11% and 17% for the different goods it sells and different services it provides, except when specified otherwise.

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According to the Notice on the Adjustment to VAT Rates, the VAT rates of 17% and 11% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods are adjusted to 16% and 10%, respectively. Subsequently, the MOF, the STA and the General Administration of Customs of the PRC jointly issued the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform to further adjust the VAT rates of 16% and 10% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods to 13% and 9%, respectively.

In accordance with the Circular on Comprehensively Promoting the Pilot Program of the Collection of Value-added Tax in Lieu of Business Tax (《關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》), which was promulgated on March 23, 2016 and came into effect on May 1, 2016, transfer of financial products by individuals are exempt from VAT.

### *Income tax*

#### *Individual Investors*

According to the IIT Law, gains on the transfer of equity interests in the PRC resident enterprises are subject to individual income tax at a rate of 20%.

Pursuant to the Circular on Continuing to Temporarily Exempt Individual Income Tax on Income from the Transfer of Shares by Individuals (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》) issued by the MOF and the STA on March 30, 1998, income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises continues to be exempted from individual income tax since January 1, 1997.

On December 31, 2009, the MOF, the STA and CSRC jointly issued the Circular on Related Issues on Levying Individual Income Tax over the Income Received by Individuals from the Transfer of Restricted Shares of Listed Companies (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的通知》), which states that, since January 1, 2010, income derived by individuals from transfer of shares of listed companies issued to the public by the listed companies and transfer of shares of listed companies obtained from the market at the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the SZSE shall continue to be exempted from individual income tax, except for the relevant shares which are subject to sales restriction (as defined in the Supplementary Notice on Issues Concerning the Levy of Individual Income Tax on Individuals' Income from the Transfer of Restricted Shares of Listed Companies (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的補充通知》) jointly issued and implemented by the above three departments on November 10, 2010.

As of the Latest Practicable Date, no aforesaid provisions have expressly provided that individual income tax shall be levied from non-PRC resident individuals on the transfer of shares in PRC resident enterprises listed on overseas stock exchanges. To the knowledge of the Company, in practice, the PRC tax authorities have not levied income tax from non-PRC resident individuals on gains from the transfer of PRC resident enterprises listed overseas. However, there is no assurance that the PRC tax authorities will not change these practices which could result in levying income tax on non-PRC resident individuals on gains from the sale of H shares.

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### *Enterprise Investors*

In accordance with the EIT Law and the Implementation Rules of the EIT Law, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to EIT at the rate of a 10% on PRC-sourced income, including gains derived from the disposal of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. Such income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise. Such tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to relevant tax treaties or agreements on avoidance of double taxation.

### *Stamp Duty*

According to the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》), which was promulgated by the SCNPC on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, PRC stamp duty is applicable to the entities and individuals that conclude taxable vouchers or conduct securities trading within the territory of the PRC, and the entities and individuals outside the territory of the PRC that conclude taxable vouchers that are used inside China. Therefore, the requirements of the stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC listed companies shall not apply to the acquisition and disposal of H Shares by non-PRC investors outside the PRC.

### *Estate Duty*

As of the Latest Practicable Date, no estate duty has been levied in the PRC under the PRC laws.

### *Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy*

On October 31, 2014 and November 5, 2016, the MOF, STA and CSRC jointly issued the Circular on the Relevant Taxation Policy regarding the Pilot Inter-connected Mechanism for Trading on the Shanghai Stock Market and the Hong Kong Stock Market (《關於滬港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點有關稅收政策的通知》) and the Circular on the Relevant Taxation Policy regarding the Pilot Inter-connected Mechanism for Trading on the Shenzhen Stock Market and the Hong Kong Stock Market (《關於深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點有關稅收政策的通知》), pursuant to which, the income from transfer differences and dividend and bonus income derived by PRC enterprise investors from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be included in their total income and subject to enterprise income tax in accordance with the law. In particular, the dividend and bonus income derived by PRC resident enterprises which hold H shares for at least 12 consecutive months shall be exempted from enterprise income tax according to law. H-share companies do not withhold tax on dividends and bonus income of PRC enterprise investors, and the tax payable shall be declared and paid by enterprises.

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For dividends and bonuses received by PRC individual investors investing in H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, H-share companies shall submit an application to China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited, which shall provide H-share companies with a register of PRC individual investors. H-share companies shall withhold individual income tax at a rate of 20%. Individual investors who have paid withholding tax outside the PRC may apply for tax credits at the competent tax authorities of the CSDC with valid tax deduction certificates. Individual income tax is levied on dividend and bonus income derived by PRC security investment funds from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in accordance with the above provisions.

On December 4, 2019, the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC jointly issued the Announcement on the Continued Implementation of the Individual Income Tax Policies on the Interconnection Mechanisms for Transactions in Shanghai and Hong Kong Stock Markets and for Transactions in Shenzhen and Hong Kong Stock Markets (《關於繼續執行滬港、深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制和內地與香港基金互認有關個人所得稅政策對公告》), which stipulates that for PRC individual investors, the transfer difference income derived from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the trading of Hong Kong fund units through mutual recognition of funds will continue to be exempt from individual income tax on a temporary basis from December 5, 2019 to December 31, 2022.

### **Hong Kong Taxation**

#### *Tax on Dividends*

Under the current practice of the Inland Revenue Department of Hong Kong, no tax is payable in Hong Kong in respect of dividends paid by us.

#### *Capital Gains and Profit Tax*

No tax is imposed in Hong Kong in respect of capital gains from the sale of H shares. However, trading gains from the sale of the H shares by persons carrying on a trade, profession or business in Hong Kong, where such gains are derived from or arise in Hong Kong from such trade, profession or business will be subject to Hong Kong profits tax, which is currently imposed at the maximum rate of 16.5% on corporations and at the maximum rate of 15% on unincorporated businesses. Certain categories of taxpayers are likely to be regarded as deriving trading gains rather than capital gains (for example, financial institutions, insurance companies and securities dealers) unless these taxpayers can prove that the investment securities are held for long-term investment purposes.

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Trading gains from sales of the H shares effected on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange will be considered to be derived from or arise in Hong Kong. Liability for Hong Kong profits tax would thus arise in respect of trading gains from sales of H shares effected on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange realized by persons carrying on a business of trading or dealing in securities in Hong Kong.

### *Stamp Duty*

Hong Kong stamp duty, currently charged at the ad valorem rate of 0.13% on the higher of the consideration for or the market value of the H shares, will be payable by the purchaser on every purchase and by the seller on every sale of any Hong Kong securities, including H shares (in other words, a total of 0.26% is currently payable on a typical sale and purchase transaction involving H Shares). In addition, a fixed duty of HK\$5.00 is currently payable on any instrument of transfer of H Shares. Where one of the parties is a resident outside Hong Kong and does not pay the ad valorem duty due by it, the duty not paid will be assessed on the instrument of transfer (if any) and will be payable by the transferee. If no stamp duty is paid on or before the due date, a penalty of up to 10 times the duty payable may be imposed.

### *Estate Duty*

The Revenue (Abolition of Estate Duty) Ordinance 2005 abolished estate duty in respect of deaths occurring on or after February 11, 2006.

## PRINCIPAL TAXATION OF OUR COMPANY IN THE PRC

Please refer to "Regulatory Overview" in this document.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The lawful currency of the PRC is Renminbi, which is currently subject to foreign exchange control and cannot be freely converted into foreign currency. The SAFE, with the authorization of the People's Bank of China (the "PBOC"), is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange control regulations.

The Regulations on Foreign Exchange Control of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) classifies all international payments and transfers into current account items and capital account items. Current account items are subject to the reasonable examination of the veracity of transaction documents and the consistency of the transaction documents and the foreign exchange receipts and payments by financial institutions engaging in conversion and sale of foreign currencies and supervision and inspection by the foreign exchange control authorities. For capital account items, overseas organizations and overseas individuals making direct investments in China shall, upon approval by the relevant authorities in charge, process registration formalities with the foreign exchange control authorities. Foreign exchange income received overseas can be repatriated or deposited overseas, and foreign exchange and

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foreign exchange settlement funds under the capital account are required to be used only for purposes as approved by the competent authorities and foreign exchange administrative authorities. In the event that international revenues and expenditure occur or may occur a material imbalance, or the national economy encounters or may encounter a severe crisis, the State may adopt necessary safeguard and control measures on international revenues and expenditure.

The Regulations for the Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (《結匯、售匯及付匯管理規定》), which was promulgated by the PBOC on June 20, 1996 and came into effect on July 1, 1996, removes other restrictions on convertibility of foreign exchange under current account items, while imposing existing restrictions on foreign exchange transactions under capital account items.

According to the Announcement on Improving the Reform of the Renminbi Exchange Rate Formation Mechanism (《關於完善人民幣匯率形成機制改革的公告》), which was issued by the PBOC and implemented on July 21, 2005, the PRC has started to implement a managed floating exchange rate system in which the exchange rate would be determined based on market supply and demand and adjusted with reference to a basket of currencies since July 21, 2005. Therefore, the Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. PBOC would publish the closing price of the exchange rate of the Renminbi against trading currencies such as the U.S. dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each working day, as the central parity of the currency against Renminbi transactions on the following working day.

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

According to the Decisions on Matters including Canceling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Approval Items (《關於取消和調整一批行政審批項目等事項的決定》) which was promulgated by the State Council on October 23, 2014, the approval requirement by the SAFE and its branches for the remittance and settlement of the proceeds raised from the overseas listing of the foreign shares into RMB domestic accounts is cancelled.

According to the Notice on Relevant Issue Concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange for Overseas Listing (《國家外匯管理局關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》), a domestic company shall, within 15 business days from the date of the completion of its



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overseas listing issuance, register the overseas listing with the local branch office of state administration of foreign exchange at the place of its establishment; the proceeds from an overseas listing of a domestic company may be 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. A domestic company (except for bank financial institutions) shall present its certificate of overseas listing to open a special account at a local bank for its initial public offering (or follow-on offering) and repurchase business to handle the exchange, remittance and transfer of funds for the business concerned.

According to the Circular on Further Simplifying and Improving Foreign Exchange Administration Policies in Respect 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》), the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment shall be directly examined and handled by banks. SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the SAFE Circular 16, discretionary foreign exchange settlement applies to foreign exchange capital, The tentative percentage of foreign exchange settlement for foreign currency earnings in capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjustment of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.

On January 26, 2017, Notice on Further Promoting the Reform of Foreign Exchange Administration and Improving the Examination of Authenticity and Compliance (《關於進一步推進外匯管理改革完善真實合規性審核的通知》) was issued by SAFE to further expand the scope of settlement for domestic foreign exchange loans, allow settlement for domestic foreign exchange loans with export background under goods trading, allow repatriation of funds under domestic guaranteed foreign loans for domestic utilization, allow settlement for domestic foreign exchange accounts of foreign institutions operating in the Free Trade Pilot Zones, and adopt the model of full-coverage RMB and foreign currency overseas lending management, where a domestic institution engages in overseas lending, the sum of its outstanding overseas lending in RMB and outstanding overseas lending in foreign currencies shall not exceed 30% of its owner's equity in the audited financial statements of the preceding year.

The Notice on Further Facilitating Cross-Board Trade and Investment canceled 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 debts and overseas listing revenues 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 capital revenue management regulations.