



中国宇华教育集团有限公司

China YuHua Education Corporation Limited

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Stock Code: 6169



Annual Report

2023



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COMPANY PROFILE

With over 20 years of operating private schools in the PRC, the Group is one of the leading private school operators in China in terms of student enrolment.

The Group's fundamental educational objectives are to foster modern talent with leadership and lifelong learning capabilities and nurture great minds to contribute to the future development of the Chinese nation (“培養具有領導才能和自主學習能力的現代化人才，為中華民族的偉大復興貢獻力量”). As an educational service provider, the Group believes it is entrusted to nurture the future of society, and aims to provide educational services in a manner consistent with the values and attitudes of the Group. The curriculums for the Group's schools not only accommodate the students' eagerness to achieve academic excellence, but also emphasize well-rounded development of the students.

The Group intends to continue to expand its school network and ensure delivery of high-quality education to its students by making continuous improvements to the educational infrastructure available. As such, there has been no material changes in respect of the business of the Group since 31 August 2023.

CORPORATE INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Directors

Mr. Li Guangyu (*Chairman*)
Ms. Li Hua (*Vice Chairman*)
Ms. Qiu Hongjun

Independent non-executive Directors

Mr. Chen Lei
Mr. Xia Zuoquan
Mr. Zhang Zhixue

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Chen Lei (*Chairman*)
Mr. Xia Zuoquan
Mr. Zhang Zhixue

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Zhang Zhixue (*Chairman*)
Ms. Li Hua
Mr. Xia Zuoquan

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Li Guangyu (*Chairman*)
Mr. Xia Zuoquan
Mr. Zhang Zhixue

JOINT COMPANY SECRETARIES

Mr. Xu Bin
Ms. Ng Ka Man

AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Li Hua
Mr. Xu Bin

AUDITOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Certified Public Accountants
Registered Public Interest Entity Auditor
22/F, Prince's Building
Central
Hong Kong

LEGAL ADVISERS

As to Hong Kong and U.S. laws:
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
42/F, Edinburgh Tower
The Landmark
15 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong

As to PRC law:
Tian Yuan Law Firm
Suite 509, Tower A
Corporate Square
35 Financial Street
Xicheng District
Beijing
PRC

As to Cayman Islands law:
Maples and Calder (Hong Kong) LLP
53rd Floor, The Center
99 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong

REGISTERED OFFICE

The offices of Maples Corporate Services
Limited
PO Box 309, Ugland House
Grand Cayman, KY1-1104
Cayman Islands

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG

31/F, Tower Two, Times Square
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay
Hong Kong

CORPORATE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

HEAD OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN CHINA

No. 21, 4/F, Block 10
3 Mazhuang Street
Zhengdong New District
Zhengzhou, PRC

PRINCIPAL SHARE REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER OFFICE

Maples Fund Services (Cayman) Limited
PO Box 1093, Boundary Hall
Cricket Square
Grand Cayman, KY1-1102
Cayman Islands

HONG KONG SHARE REGISTRAR

Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited
Shops 1712–1716, 17th Floor
Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East
Wanchai
Hong Kong

PRINCIPAL BANKER

China Construction Bank Corporation
Jinshui Road Branch of Zhengzhou
No. 29, Jinshui Road
Zhengzhou, Henan Province
PRC

COMPANY WEBSITE

www.yuhuachina.com

STOCK CODE

6169

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following table sets out a comparison between key financial figures for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 2022:

	Year ended 31 August		Change
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)	
Revenue	2,380,276	2,380,372	0.0%
Gross Profit	1,147,732	1,418,942	-19.1%
Adjusted Gross Profit ¹	1,191,308	1,463,139	-18.6%
Adjusted Net Profit attributable to the owners of the Company ²	969,430	1,242,516	-22.0%

Notes:

- The Adjusted Gross Profit for the year ended 31 August 2023 is calculated as gross profit for the period, excluding (i) the impact from share-based expense (in cost of revenue) and (ii) additional depreciation and amortization due to the provisional fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets of LEI Lie Ying Limited and its subsidiaries (including Hunan Lie Ying Industry Co., Ltd. (湖南獵鷹實業有限公司) (“**Hunan Lie Ying**”), which in turn owns the entire sponsorship interests in Hunan International Economics University (湖南涉外經濟學院), Hunan Lie Ying Mechanic School (湖南獵鷹技工學校) and Hunan International Economics University Vocational Skills Training Centre (湖南涉外經濟學院職業技能培訓中心), collectively “**HIEU Schools**”), Kaifeng City Yubohui Education Information Consulting Co., Ltd. (“**Yubohui Education**”) and its subsidiaries (including Kaifeng City Xiangfu District Bowang High School (“**Bowang High School**”)), Thai Education Holdings Co., Ltd. (“**TEDCO**”) and its subsidiaries (including Stamford International University) and Jinan Shuangsheng Education Consulting Co., Ltd. and its subsidiaries (including Shandong Yingcai University). For the calculation of the Adjusted Gross Profit for the year ended 31 August 2022, please refer to the Company’s annual results announcement for the year ended 31 August 2022.
- The Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 is calculated as the net profit attributable to the owners of the Company, excluding (i) the impact from share-based compensation expense; (ii) additional depreciation and amortization due to the provisional fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets mentioned above in (1); (iii) government grants recognised during the Reporting Period; and (iv) gains or losses related to convertible bond recognised during the Reporting Period. For the calculation of the Adjusted Net Profit for the year ended 31 August 2022, please refer to the Company’s annual results announcement for the year ended 31 August 2022.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Non-IFRS Measures

To supplement the Group's consolidated financial statements which are presented in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), the Company also uses Adjusted Gross Profit, Adjusted Operating Profit, Adjusted Net Profit and other adjusted figures as additional financial measures, which are not required by, or presented in accordance with, IFRS. The Company believes that these non-IFRS measures facilitate comparisons of operating performance from period to period and company to company by eliminating potential impacts of items that the management do not consider to be indicative of the Group's operating performance. The Company believes that these measures provide useful information to shareholders and potential investors in understanding and evaluating the Group's consolidated results of operations in the same manner as they help the Group's management. However, the Company's presentation of such adjusted figures may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure presented by other companies. The use of these non-IFRS measures have limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation from, or as substitute for analysis of, the Company's results of operations or financial condition as reported under IFRS.

Calculation of the Adjusted Gross Profit

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)
Gross Profit	1,147,732	1,418,942
Add: Share-based compensation expenses in Cost of Revenue	5,478	6,375
Add: Additional depreciation and amortisation due to the fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets		
– HIEU Schools	11,191	11,045
– Bowang High School	1,542	1,542
– Shandong Yingcai University	21,077	20,947
– Stamford International University	4,288	4,288
Adjusted Gross Profit	1,191,308	1,463,139

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Calculation of Adjusted Net Profit attributable to the owners of the Company

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)
Net Profit attributable to the owners of the Company	1,134,726	1,125,705
Add: Share-based compensation expense in Cost of revenue	5,478	6,375
Add: Share-based compensation expense in Administrative expenses	9,262	10,924
Add: Additional depreciation and amortisation due to the fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets		
— HIEU Schools	11,300	11,153
— Bowang High School	1,190	1,190
— Shandong Yingcai University	21,077	20,947
— Stamford International University	4,288	4,288
Less: Gains and losses related to convertible bonds ¹		
— Changes in fair value on convertible bond	(40,957)	73,436
— Net gains on repurchase of convertible bonds	(169,738)	—
— Losses arising from revising the terms of the convertible bonds	6,781	—
Less: Government grants	(13,977)	(11,502)
Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company	969,430	1,242,516

Note:

- Details are set out in Note 7: Other gains/(losses) — net

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Results of operations	For the year ended 31 August				
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)	2021 (RMB'000)	2020 (RMB'000)	2019 (RMB'000)
Revenue	2,380,276	2,380,372	2,258,583	2,031,668	1,714,485
Cost of revenue	1,232,544	(961,430)	(739,957)	(777,760)	(714,592)
Gross profit	1,147,732	1,418,942	1,518,626	1,253,908	999,893
Operating profit	1,127,706	1,145,926	1,761,651	228,544	566,855
Profit before tax	1,138,559	1,126,299	1,708,746	145,719	541,523
Profit for the year	1,140,104	1,134,953	852,776	321,149	555,065
Non-IFRS Measure:					
Adjusted Gross Profit ¹	1,191,308	1,463,139	1,564,445	1,522,029	1,048,761
Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company ²	969,430	1,242,516	1,266,857	1,040,718	792,538

Adjusted items	For the year ended 31 August				
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)	2021 (RMB'000)	2020 (RMB'000)	2019 (RMB'000)
Share-based compensation expenses (in cost of revenue)	5,478	6,375	5,855	12,406	12,406
Share-based compensation expenses (in administration expenses)	9,262	10,924	7,457	16,586	27,714
Additional depreciation and amortisation due to the fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets					
– HIEU	11,300	11,153	10,059	10,016	16,693
– Bowang High School	1,190	1,190	2,956	8,006	15,573
– Shandong Yingcai University	21,077	20,947	20,931	18,698	1,695
– Stamford International University	4,288	4,288	4,288	4,288	2,501
Gains and losses related to convertible bonds					
– Change in fair value on convertible bond and convertible loan	(40,957)	73,436	(459,810)	790,125	250,125
– Net gains on repurchase of convertible bonds	(169,738)	–	–	–	–
– Losses arising from revising the terms of the convertible bonds	6,781	–	–	–	–
Government grants	(13,977)	(11,502)	(14,024)	(16,124)	(21,573)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Financial ratio	For the year ended 31 August				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Gross profit margin	48.2%	59.6%	67.2%	61.7%	58.3%
Net profit margin attributable to owners of the Company	47.7%	47.3%	36.5%	10.0%	28.3%
Adjusted net profit margin attributable to owners of the Company	40.7%	52.2%	56.1%	43.2%	46.2%

Notes:

- The Adjusted Gross Profit for the year ended 31 August 2023 and 2022 are calculated as gross profit for the period, excluding (i) the impact from share-based expense (in cost of revenue) and (ii) additional depreciation and amortization due to the provisional fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets of LEI Lie Ying Limited and its subsidiaries (including HIEU Schools), Yubohui Education and its subsidiaries (including Kaifeng City Xiangfu District Bowang High School, TEDCO and its subsidiaries (including Stamford International University) and Jinan Shuangsheng Education Consulting Co., Ltd. and its subsidiaries (including Shandong Yingcai University).
- The Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 is calculated as the net profit attributable to the owners of the Company, excluding (i) the impact from share-based compensation expense; (ii) additional depreciation and amortisation due to the provisional fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets mentioned above in (1); (iii) government grants recognised during the period and (iv) gains and losses related to convertible bonds recognised during the period.

Assets and liabilities	As at 31 August				
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)	2021 (RMB'000)	2020 (RMB'000)	2019 (RMB'000)
Non-current assets	5,862,436	7,164,172	6,999,145	7,282,382	6,948,178
Current assets	2,546,263	4,328,631	1,911,133	2,436,780	2,835,120
Current liabilities	3,299,657	4,561,038	2,206,527	2,055,601	4,456,572
Net current assets (liabilities)	(753,394)	(232,407)	(295,394)	381,179	(1,621,452)
Total assets less current liabilities	8,686,715	6,931,765	6,703,751	7,663,561	5,326,726
Non-current liabilities	1,693,143	1,108,708	2,921,175	3,574,149	1,183,151
Total equity	6,993,572	5,823,057	3,782,576	4,089,412	4,143,575
Property, plant and equipment	5,862,436	3,706,284	3,624,140	3,792,348	3,705,965
Cash and cash equivalents	2,370,966	4,240,783	1,655,884	2,175,197	2,125,719
Contract liabilities	729,591	1,471,401	904,448	924,507	1,301,163
Bank borrowings	1,456,900	640,198	850,351	1,142,419	1,093,743

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Financial ratio	As at/for the year ended 31 August				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Current ratio	0.77	0.95	0.87	1.19	0.64
Gearing ratio ³	20.8%	11.0%	22.5%	27.9%	37.9%

Cash flows	For the year ended 31 August				
	2023 (RMB'000)	2022 (RMB'000)	2021 (RMB'000)	2020 (RMB'000)	2019 (RMB'000)
Net cash from operating activities	418,865	2,183,244	2,000,019	987,869	1,249,592

Notes (cont'd):

- The Gearing Ratio is calculated as total interest-bearing bank loans divided by total equity as at the end of the relevant financial year.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

BUSINESS REVIEW

With over 20 years of operating private schools in the PRC, the Group is one of the leading private school operators in central China in terms of student enrolment.

The Group's fundamental educational objectives are to foster modern talent with leadership and lifelong learning capabilities and nurture great minds to contribute to the future development of the Chinese nation (“培養具有領導才能和自主學習能力的現代化人才，為中華民族的偉大復興貢獻力量”). As an educational service provider, the Group believes it is entrusted to nurture the future of society, and aims to provide educational services in a manner consistent with the values and attitudes of the Group. The curriculums for the Group's schools not only accommodate the students' eagerness to achieve academic excellence, but also emphasise well-rounded development of the students.

On 30 May 2023, Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College (“**Zhengzhou Software College**”) was incorporated in the PRC as a wholly owned subsidiary of Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd (“**Henan Gaowen**”), which was established by Mr. Li and Ms. Li in the PRC. Henan Gaowen and Zhengzhou Software College are controlled by Xizang Yuanpei through contractual arrangements among Xizang Yuanpei, Henan Gaowen, Mr. Li and Ms. Li, and had been consolidated by the Group since 30 May 2023.

The Group intends to continue to expand its school network and ensure delivery of high-quality education to its students by making continuous improvements to the educational infrastructure available. As such, there has been no material change in respect of the business of the Group since 31 August 2023.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

The Group's Schools and Student Enrolment

As at 31 August 2023, the Group had 9 schools in China and 1 school in Thailand.

The following table sets out a summary of the Group's schools by category as at the end of August 2023 and 2022:

	As at 31 August 2023	As at 31 August 2022
The Group's schools in the PRC		
Universities and vocational college	4 (note 1)	3
High schools	5	5
The Group's schools overseas		
University	1 (note 2)	1 (note 2)
Total	10	9

Notes:

- (1) Please refer to Business Review for further details of Zhengzhou Software College, which is the newly added vocational college.
- (2) This represents Stamford International University, which the Group operates in Thailand.

For the school year 2023/2024, the Group has enrolled a total of 110,327 students at its schools.

EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Save as disclosed in this annual report, there was no other significant events that might affect the Group since the end of the year ended 31 August 2023.

Future Development

The Group's future development focuses on making continuous improvements to the educational infrastructure, opening new campuses, and substantially increasing investment in vocational education. The Group will continue to seek expansion in higher education sector with high growth potential and will focus on post-expansion consolidation to maximize shareholder value.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the Group recorded revenue of RMB2,380.3 million, an Adjusted Gross Profit of RMB1,191.3 million and a gross profit of RMB1,147.7 million. The Adjusted Gross Profit Margin¹ of the Group was 50.0% for the year ended 31 August 2023 as compared with 61.5% for the corresponding period in 2022. The gross profit margin was 48.2% for the year ended 31 August 2023 as compared with 59.6% for the corresponding period in 2022.

The Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 was RMB969.4 million, representing a decrease of RMB273.1 million or a 22.0% decrease from the corresponding period in 2022. The Adjusted Net Profit Margin² attributable to owners of the Company was 40.7% and 52.2% for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively.

The net profit attributable to owners of the Company amounted to RMB1,134.7 million and RMB1,125.7 million for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively. The net profit margin attributable to owners of the Company amounted to 47.7% and 47.3% for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively.

Revenue

For the year ended 31 August 2023, revenue of the Group amounted to RMB2,380.3 million, exhibiting a negligible decrease from the revenue of RMB2,380.4 million for the corresponding period of 2022. The slight decrease was primarily due to the decline in student enrolment at high schools resulting from strategic adjustment made during the Reporting Period.

Cost of Revenue

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the Adjusted Cost of Revenue³ of the Group amounted to RMB1,189.0 million, representing an increase of RMB271.7 million or 29.6% as compared with RMB917.3 million for the corresponding period of 2022. The cost of revenue of the Group amounted to RMB1,232.5 million and RMB961.5 million for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively.

¹ The Adjusted Gross Profit Margin is calculated based on the Adjusted Gross Profit.

² The Adjusted Net Profit Margin attributable to owners of the Company is calculated based on the Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company.

³ The Adjusted Cost of Revenue is calculated as cost of revenue for the period, excluding the impact from the non-cash expenses of share-based compensations and additional depreciation and amortization due to the provisional fair value adjustments to the acquired identifiable assets of (i) LEI Lie Ying Limited; (ii) Yubohui Education and its subsidiaries; (iii) TEDCO and its subsidiaries; and (iv) Jinan Shuangsheng Education Consulting Co., Ltd. and its subsidiaries (including Shandong Yingcai University).

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Gross Profit and Gross Profit Margin

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the Adjusted Gross Profit of the Group amounted to RMB1,191.3 million, representing a decrease of RMB271.8 million or 18.6% as compared with RMB1,463.1 million for the corresponding period in 2022. The Adjusted Gross Profit Margin of the Group for the year ended 31 August 2023 was 50.0%, compared with 61.5% for the corresponding period in 2022.

The Group's gross profit amounted to RMB1,147.7 million and RMB1,418.9 million for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively. The Group's gross profit margin amounted to 48.2% and 59.6% for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively. The decline in the gross profit margin was mainly due to the Group's expanded investment in teaching personnel, campus expansion and renovation, curriculum development, student activities, etc. to further improve the quality of education we provide and enhance students' learning experience.

Selling Expenses

For the year ended 31 August 2023, selling expenses of the Group amounted to RMB24.9 million, representing a decrease of RMB3.0 million from RMB27.9 million during the corresponding period in 2022. The decrease was primarily the result of implementing various cost control measures.

Administrative Expenses

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the Adjusted Administrative Expenses⁴ of the Group amounted to RMB191.3 million, representing an increase of RMB3.1 million as compared with RMB188.2 million for the corresponding period in 2022. The administrative expenses of the Group amounted to RMB200.5 million and RMB198.8 million for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively. The increase is primarily due to the rise in depreciation of expenses on property, plant and equipment.

Other Income

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the other income of the Group amounted to RMB21.7 million, representing an increase of RMB1.4 million as compared with RMB20.3 million for the corresponding period in 2022. This increase was primarily due to an increase in government grants and subsidies obtained.

Other Gains and Losses

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the other gains and losses of the Group amounted to a net gain of RMB190.4 million as compared with a net loss of RMB63.5 million for the corresponding period in 2022. The net gain was primarily from gains and losses related to convertible bonds.

⁴ Adjusted Administrative Expenses are calculated as administrative expense for the period, excluding the impact from share-based compensation.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Operating Profit

The Adjusted Operating Profit of the Group amounted to RMB962.7 million for the year ended 31 August 2023, representing a decrease of RMB300.0 million or 23.8 % as compared with RMB1,262.7 million for the corresponding period in 2022. The Adjusted Operating Profit Margin amounted to 40.4% and 53.0% for the year ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively.

Finance Income

Finance income increased from RMB41.2 million for the year ended 31 August 2022 to RMB48.1 million for the corresponding period in 2023 due to an increase in interest income earned on cash and cash equivalents.

Finance Expenses

Finance expenses decreased from RMB60.8 million for the year ended 31 August 2022 to RMB37.3 million for the corresponding period in 2023 due to a decrease in interest expenses.

Profit for the Reporting Period

As a result of the above factors, the Adjusted Net Profit attributable to owners of the Company was RMB969.4 million for the year ended 31 August 2023, representing a decrease of RMB273.1 million or 22.0% as compared with RMB1,242.5 million for the corresponding period in 2022. In addition, the Adjusted Net Profit Margin attributable to owners of the Company amounted to 40.7% and 52.2% for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022, respectively.

The decrease in the Adjusted Net Profit was mainly due to the decline in gross profit as a result of the Group's expanded investment in teaching and facility to improve the quality of education we provide and enhance students' learning experience.

The Group recorded a net profit attributable to owners of the Company of RMB1,134.7 million for the year ended 31 August 2023, representing an increase of RMB9.0 million or 0.8% as compared with RMB1,125.7 million for the corresponding period in 2022. The net profit margin attributable to owners of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 was 47.7%, compared to 47.3% for the corresponding period in 2022.

Liquidity and Source of Funding and Borrowing

The Group's cash and cash equivalents decreased from RMB4,240.8 million as at 31 August 2022 to RMB2,371.0 million as at 31 August 2023. The decrease primarily due to the investment in fixed assets and the repayment of convertible bonds.

As at 31 August 2023, the current assets of the Group amounted to RMB2,546.3 million, including RMB2,371.5 million in bank balances and RMB174.7 million in trade and other receivables. The current liabilities of the Group amounted to RMB3,299.7 million, of which RMB1,323.7 million was accruals and other payables, RMB729.6 million was contract liabilities, RMB1,236.9 million was borrowings, and RMB9.4 million was lease liabilities. As at 31 August 2023, the current ratio of the Group, which is equivalent to the current assets divided by the current liabilities, was 0.77 (31 August 2022: 0.95).

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Gearing Ratio

As at 31 August 2023, the gearing ratio of the Group, which was calculated as total interest-bearing bank loans divided by total equity, was approximately 20.8% (31 August 2022: 11.0%).

Material Investments

The Group did not make any significant investments (including any investment in an investee company with a value of 5% or more of the Group's total assets as of 31 August 2023) during the year ended 31 August 2023.

Material Acquisitions and Disposals

The Group did not have any material acquisitions or disposals of subsidiaries, consolidated affiliated entities or associated companies during the year ended 31 August 2023.

Pledge of Assets

As at 31 August 2023, the bank borrowings of the Group amounting to RMB430.0 million were secured by related party and equity interests of certain subsidiaries of the Group.

Contingent Liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2023.

Foreign Exchange Exposure

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Group mainly operated in China and majority of the transactions were settled in Renminbi ("**RMB**"), the Company's primary consolidated affiliated entities' functional currency. The Group's acquisition of a university in Thailand exposes the Group to foreign exchange risk. However, the management monitors foreign exchange exposure and will consider hedging significant foreign currency exposure if necessary. As at 31 August 2023, except for the bank deposits and convertible bonds denominated in foreign currencies, the Group did not have significant foreign currency exposure from its operations.

Future Plans for Material Investments and Capital Assets

As of 31 August 2023, the Group did not have other plans for material investments and capital assets.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

The Board of the Company is pleased to present this report of Directors together with the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 August 2023.

DIRECTORS

The Directors who held office during the year ended 31 August 2023 and up to the date of this annual report are:

Executive Directors:

Mr. Li Guangyu (*Chairman*)
Ms. Li Hua (*Vice Chairman*)
Ms. Qiu Hongjun

Independent Non-executive Directors:

Mr. Chen Lei
Mr. Xia Zuoquan
Mr. Zhang Zhixue

Biographical details of the Directors and senior management of the Group are set out in the section headed “Directors and Senior Management” on pages 49 to 53 of this annual report.

GLOBAL OFFERING

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands on 25 April 2016 as an exempted limited liability company under the Companies Law, Cap 22 (Law 3 of 1961, as consolidated and revised) of the Cayman Islands. The Company’s Shares were listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange on 28 February 2017.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Group has optimized its operating structure to mitigate the impact of the Implementation Regulations. The Group is transforming existing K-12 schools into higher vocational colleges and increasing investment in launching vocational undergraduate education at the Group’s existing universities.

The Group intends to continue to expand its school network and ensure delivery of high-quality education to its students by making continuous improvements to the educational infrastructure available. As such, there has been no material changes in respect of the business of the Group since 31 August 2023.

Analysis of the principal activities of the Group during the year ended 31 August 2023 is set out in note 5 to the consolidated financial statements.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

BUSINESS REVIEW

A fair review of the business of the Group as required by Schedule 5 to the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong), including an analysis of the Group's financial performance, an indication of likely future developments in the Group's business and the Group's key relationships with its stakeholders who have a significant impact on the Group and on which the Group's success depends, is set out in the section headed "Management Discussion and Analysis" of this report. These discussions form part of this report. An account of the Company's key relationships with its employees, customers and suppliers and others that have a significant impact on the Company is set out in the Company's separately published "Environmental, Social and Governance Report 2023". The Environmental, Social and Governance Report 2023, which is prepared in both Chinese and English, has been uploaded to the Company's website (<http://www.yuhuachina.com>) and the website of HKEXnews (www.hkexnews.hk) and is available for inspection. Shareholders may contact our Company as per the contact details disclosed in this annual report in cases where hard copy is needed.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Save as disclosed in the section headed "Risks relating to the Contractual Arrangements" under "Continuing Connected Transactions" in this annual report, the following list is a summary of certain principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group, some of which are beyond its control.

- its operations and business prospects;
- its business and operating strategies and its ability to implement such strategies;
- its ability to develop and manage its operation and business;
- its ability to maintain or increase student enrolment in its schools;
- its ability to maintain or increase tuition fees;
- its ability to control its operating costs;
- its ability to maintain or increase utilization of the Group's facilities;
- its capital expenditure programs and future capital requirements;
- its future general and administrative expenses;
- competition for, among other things, capital, technology and skilled personnel (including teaching staff);
- competition in the education industry where the Group serves; and
- changes to regulatory and operating conditions in the education industry and geographical markets in which the Group serves.

However, the above is not an exhaustive list. Investors are advised to make their own judgment or consult their own investment advisors before making any investment in the Shares.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE

The Group is committed to fulfilling social responsibility, promoting employee benefits and development, protecting the environment and giving back to community and achieving sustainable growth.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

As far as the Board and management are aware, the Group has complied in all material aspects with the relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the business and operation of the Group. During the year ended 31 August 2023, there was no material breach of, or non-compliance, with applicable laws and regulations by the Group.

MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

The Group's customers primarily consist of its students and their parents. The Group did not have any single customer who accounted for more than 5% of the Group's revenue for the two years ended 31 August 2023 and 2022.

The Group's suppliers primarily comprise decoration services, meal catering companies, suppliers for text books, uniforms and teaching equipment vendors. For the year ended 31 August 2023, purchases from the Group's five largest suppliers amounted to RMB373.8 million (2022: RMB207.8 million) which represented 14.2% (2022: 30.5%) of the Group's total purchases. During the year, purchases from the Group's largest supplier amounted to RMB113.6 million (2022: RMB57.6 million), which represented 4.3% (2022: 8.4%) of the Group's total purchases in the same year. The Group's largest supplier during the year ended 31 August 2023 is an independent third party construction service provider who provides construction services to certain of its schools.

None of the Directors, their respective close associates, or any shareholder of the Company who, to the knowledge of the Directors, owns more than 5% of the Company's issued capital, has any interest in any of the Group's five largest suppliers.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Group did not experience any significant disputes with its customers or suppliers.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A summary of the audited consolidated results and the assets and liabilities of the Group for the last five financial years, as extracted from the audited consolidated financial statements, is set out on pages 8 to 10 of this annual report. This summary does not form part of the audited consolidated financial statements.

PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS

There are no provisions for pre-emptive rights under the Articles of Association or the laws of the Cayman Islands which would oblige the Company to offer new Shares on a pro-rata basis to the existing Shareholders.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

SUBSIDIARIES

Particulars of the Company's subsidiaries are set out in note 30 to the consolidated financial statements.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Details of movements in the property, plant and equipment of the Company and the Group during the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out in note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

The book value of the properties held by the Group for owner occupation at 31 August 2023 as included in the financial statements in this annual report was RMB5,862.4 million.

SHARE CAPITAL AND SHARES ISSUED

Details of movements in the share capital of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 and details of the Shares issued during the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out in note 20 to the consolidated financial statements.

DONATION

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Group made donations of RMB0.1 million (2022: RMB2.6 million) and received donations of RMB0.1 million. (2022: RMB0.1 million).

DEBENTURE ISSUED

The Group did not issue any debenture during the year ended 31 August 2023.

EQUITY-LINKED AGREEMENTS

Save for the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme, the Share Award Scheme and the Loan Agreement, no equity-linked agreements were entered into by the Group, or existed during the year ended 31 August 2023.

DIVIDENDS

The Board does not recommend the distribution of a final dividend for the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022: Nil).

PERMITTED INDEMNITY

Pursuant to the Articles of Association and subject to the applicable laws and regulations, every Director shall be indemnified and secured harmless out of the assets and profits of the Company against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses which they or any of them may incur or sustain in or about the execution of their duty in their offices.

Such permitted indemnity provision has been in force for the year ended 31 August 2023. The Company has taken out liability insurance to provide appropriate coverage for the Directors.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

DISTRIBUTABLE RESERVES

Details of the movements in the reserves of the Company during the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out in consolidated statement of changes in equity. The distributable reserves of the Company as at 31 August 2023 were RMB3,961.3 million.

TAX RELIEF AND EXEMPTION

The Company is not aware of any tax relief and exemption available to the Shareholders by reason of their holding of the Company's securities.

BANK LOANS AND OTHER BORROWINGS

Particulars of bank loans and other borrowings of the Group as at 31 August 2023 are set out in the section headed "Management Discussion and Analysis" in this annual report and note 24 to the consolidated financial statements.

DIRECTORS' SERVICE CONTRACTS

Mr. Li has entered into a service contract with the Company for an initial term of three years with effect from the Listing Date or until the third annual general meeting of the Company since the Listing Date (whichever is sooner), and shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of three (3) years until terminated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the service or by either party giving to the other not less than three (3) months' prior notice in writing.

Each of the other executive Directors (i.e. Ms. Li and Ms. Qiu Hongjun) has entered into a service contract with the Company for an initial term of three years with effect from the date of their respective appointment or until the third annual general meeting of the Company since the date of the Prospectus (whichever is sooner), and shall be automatically renewed for successive periods of three (3) years until terminated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the service or by either party giving to the other not less than three (3) months' prior notice in writing.

Each of the independent non-executive Directors has signed a letter of appointment with the Company for an initial term of three years with effect from the date of the Prospectus or until the third annual general meeting of the Company since the Listing Date (whichever is sooner). Such letters of appointment were renewed on similar terms and effective from 16 February 2020 for another term of three years, and will continue thereafter until terminated by either party giving to the other not less than three (3) months' prior notice in writing.

None of the Directors proposed for re-election at the annual general meeting has a service contract with members of the Group that is not determinable by the Group within one year without payment of compensation, other than statutory compensation.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN TRANSACTIONS, ARRANGEMENTS OR CONTRACTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Save as disclosed in the section "Continuing Connected Transactions" below, none of the Directors nor any entity connected with the Directors had a material interest, either directly or indirectly, in any transactions, arrangements or contracts of significance to which the Company, its holding company, or any of its subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries was a party subsisting during or at the end of the year ended 31 August 2023.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

CONTRACTS WITH CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDERS

No contract of significance, including contracts of significance for the provision of services, has been entered into among the Company or any of its subsidiaries and the Controlling Shareholders or any of their subsidiaries during the year ended 31 August 2023.

MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

No contract, concerning the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the Company was entered into or existed during the year ended 31 August 2023.

DIRECTORS' AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTERESTS AND SHORT POSITIONS IN SHARES, UNDERLYING SHARES AND DEBENTURES

As at 31 August 2023, the interests and short positions of the Directors and chief executive of the Company in the Shares, underlying Shares and debentures of the Company or its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) which were required to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests or short positions which they were taken or deemed to have under such provisions of the SFO), or which were required, pursuant to section 352 of the SFO, to be entered in the register referred to therein, or which were required to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code are as follows:

Interest in the Company

Name of Director	Capacity/Nature of Interest	Number of Shares	Approximate Percentage of Shareholding in the Company (%) ⁽¹⁾	Long Position/ Short Position/ Lending pool
Mr. Li	Beneficial owner/Founder of a discretionary trust/Other	1,937,249,000 ⁽²⁾	53.71%	Long position
Ms. Li	Beneficiary of a discretionary trust/ Beneficial owner/Other	1,941,826,000 ⁽²⁾	53.84%	Long position
Ms. Qiu Hongjun	Beneficial owner	3,261,000 ⁽³⁾	0.09%	Long position

Notes:

1. The calculation is based on the total number of 3,606,787,883 Shares in issue as at 31 August 2023.
2. The entire share capital of GuangYu Investment is wholly-owned by Baikal Lake Investment, as the nominee of TMF (Cayman) Ltd., the trustee of Nan Hai Trust, which was established by Mr. Li (as the settlor) on 6 September 2016 as a discretionary trust for the benefit of among others, Mr. Li and Ms. Li. Each of Mr. Li (as the founder of Nan Hai Trust) and Ms. Li (as a beneficiary of Nan Hai Trust) is taken to be interested in 1,917,500,000 Shares held by GuangYu Investment.
3. Includes Ms. Qiu Hongjun's entitlement to receive up to 2,934,900 Shares pursuant to the exercise of options granted to her under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme, subject to the conditions (including vesting conditions) of those options.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Interest in Associated Corporations

Name of Director	Name of associated corporation	Capacity/ Nature of Interest	Amount of registered capital	% of interest in the corporation	Long Position/ Short Position/ Lending pool
Mr. Li	YuHua Investment Management	Beneficial owner	RMB40,000,000	80%	Long position
	Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments	Beneficial owner	RMB18,000,000	36%	Long position
	Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments	Beneficial owner	RMB30,000,000	60%	Long position
	Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Technology Co., Ltd.	Beneficial owner	RMB400,000	40%	Long position
	Zhengzhou Hanchen Education Technology Co., Ltd.	Beneficial owner	RMB400,000	40%	Long position
	Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd.	Beneficial owner	RMB400,000	40%	Long position
	Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd	Beneficial owner	RMB1,000,000	40%	Long position
Ms. Li	YuHua Investment Management	Beneficial owner	RMB10,000,000	20%	Long position
	Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments	Beneficial owner	RMB32,000,000	64%	Long position
	Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments	Beneficial owner	RMB20,000,000	40%	Long position
	Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Technology Co., Ltd.	Beneficial owner	RMB600,000	60%	Long position
	Zhengzhou Hanchen Education Technology Co., Ltd.	Beneficial owner	RMB600,000	60%	Long position
	Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd.	Beneficial owner	RMB600,000	60%	Long position
	Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd	Beneficial owner	RMB1,000,000	60%	Long position

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 August 2023, none of the Directors or chief executives of the Company had or was deemed to have any interests or short positions in the Shares, underlying Shares or debentures of the Company or its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) which were required to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests and short positions which they were taken or deemed to have under such provisions of the SFO), or which were required to be recorded in the register to be kept by the Company pursuant to section 352 of the SFO, or which were required, pursuant to the Model Code, to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS' INTERESTS AND SHORT POSITIONS IN SHARES AND UNDERLYING SHARES

As at 31 August 2023, within the knowledge of the Directors, the following persons (other than the Directors or chief executive of the Company) had an interest or a short position in the Shares or underlying Shares of the Company which would be required to be disclosed to the Company under the provisions of Divisions 2 and 3 of Part XV of the SFO or as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to Section 336 of the SFO:

Name of Director	Capacity/Nature of Interest	Number of Shares	Approximate Percentage of Shareholding in the Company (%) ⁽¹⁾	Long Position/ Short Position/ Lending pool
Mr. Li ⁽²⁾	Beneficial owner/Founder of a discretionary trust/ Other	1,937,249,000	53.71%	Long position
Ms. Li ⁽²⁾	Beneficiary of a discretionary trust/Beneficial owner/ Other	1,941,826,000	53.84%	Long position
Baikal Lake Investment ⁽²⁾	Interest in controlled corporation/Other	1,917,500,000	53.16%	Long position
GuangYu Investment ⁽²⁾	Beneficial owner/Other	1,917,500,000	53.16%	Long position
TMF (Cayman) Ltd. ⁽³⁾	Trustee/Other	1,917,500,000	53.16%	Long position
Bank of America Corporation	Interest in controlled corporation	658,353,972 658,687,934	18.25% 18.26%	Long position Short position
Fischer Seth Hillel	Interest in controlled corporation	221,811,382 46,002,000	6.15% 1.28%	Long position Short position
Oasis Investments II Master Fund Ltd.	Beneficial owner	221,811,382 46,002,000	6.15% 1.28%	Long position Short position
Oasis Investments II Offshore Feeder Ltd.	Interest in controlled corporation	221,811,382 46,002,000	6.15% 1.28%	Long position Short position
Oasis Management Company Ltd.	Investment manager	221,811,382 46,002,000	6.15% 1.28%	Long position Short position

Notes:

- The calculation is based on the total number of 3,606,787,883 Shares in issue as at 31 August 2023.
- The entire share capital of GuangYu Investment is held by Baikal Lake Investment, as the nominee of TMF (Cayman) Ltd., the trustee of Nan Hai Trust. Nan Hai Trust was established by Mr. Li (as the settlor) on 6 September 2016 as a discretionary trust for the benefit of, among others, Mr. Li and Ms. Li.
- TMF (Cayman) Ltd. is the trustee of Nan Hai Trust.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Save as disclosed above, the Directors are not aware of any other person (other than the Directors or chief executive of the Company) who had an interest or short position in the shares or underlying shares of the Company as at 31 August 2023 as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to section 336 of the SFO.

EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION POLICIES

As at 31 August 2023 and 2022, we had 8,386 and 7,376 employees, respectively. The number of employees employed by the Group varies from time to time depending on the operations. Employees' remuneration is determined in accordance with prevailing industry practice and employees' educational backgrounds, experiences and performance. The remuneration policy and package of the Group's employees are periodically reviewed. As required by the PRC laws and regulations, the Company participates in various employee social security plans for its employees that are administered by local governments, including among others, housing provident funds, pensions, medical insurance, social insurance and unemployment insurance.

The Group believes in the importance of attracting, recruiting and retaining of quality employees (in particular teachers) in achieving the Group's success. The Group provides training for teachers to equip them with teaching skills and techniques and stay abreast of the changes in student demands and teaching methodologies, changing testing and admission standards and other trends. During each school year, the Group monitors the teaching quality of its teachers and evaluates the performance of its teachers from time to time. During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Group did not experience any significant labor disputes or any difficulty in recruiting employees.

Compensation of key executives of the Group is determined by the Company's remuneration committee which reviews and recommends to the Board the executives' respective contributions to the Group.

The Company also has a Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and a Share Award Scheme. Please refer to the section headed "Statutory and General Information — D. Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and Share Award Scheme" in Appendix V to the prospectus of the Company dated 16 February 2017 (the "**Prospectus**") for further details.

The total remuneration cost incurred by the Group for the year ended 31 August 2023 was RMB649.9 million (for the year ended 31 August 2022: RMB550.5 million).

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

SHARE SCHEMES

The Company has one expired share scheme with options outstanding and one existing share scheme, namely the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and the Share Award Scheme, respectively. From January 1, 2023, the Company will rely on the transitional arrangements provided for the existing share schemes and will comply with the new Chapter 17 accordingly (effective from January 1, 2023).

(1) Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme

In order to incentivize the Directors, senior management and other employees for their contribution to the Group and to attract and retain suitable personnel to the Group, the Company adopted the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme effective from 1 September 2016.

A summary of the principal terms of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme is set out below:

Purpose of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme

The purpose of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme is to provide the Selected Participants with the opportunity to acquire proprietary interests in the Company and to encourage the Selected Participants to work towards enhancing the value of the Company and its Shares for the benefit of the Company and its Shareholders as a whole. The Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme will provide the Company with a flexible means of retaining, incentivizing, rewarding, remunerating, compensating and/or providing benefits to Selected Participants.

Eligible Participants

Our Board (which expression shall, for the purpose of this paragraph, include a duly authorized committee thereof) may determine the persons belonging to any of the following classes of participants, who our Board considers, in its sole discretion, have contributed or will contribute to our Group, to take up options to subscribe for Shares:

- (i) any directors and employees of any member of our Group (including nominees and/or trustees of any employee benefit trusts established for them); and
- (ii) any advisers, consultants, distributors, contractors, customers, suppliers, agents, business partners, joint venture business partners, service providers of any member of our Group.

The eligibility of any of these classes of participants to the grant of any option shall be determined by our Directors from time to time on the basis of our Directors' opinion as to the participant's contribution to the development and growth of our Group.

Maximum Number of Shares Available for Issue under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme

The overall limit on the number of Shares which may be issued upon exercise of all outstanding options granted and yet to be exercised under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme at any time shall not exceed 180,000,000 Shares.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

No further options have been granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme after the Listing.

Given that no further options would be granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme, the outstanding number of options would be equivalent to the maximum number of new Shares available for issue under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme. As of the date of this annual report, outstanding options representing 105,043,690 underlying Shares, being approximately 2.91% of the issued share capital of the Company, were granted to eligible participants pursuant to the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme. Details of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme are set out in Note 22 to the consolidated financial statements.

Maximum Entitlement of Each Participant

Under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme, there is no specific limit on the maximum number of shares which may be granted to a single eligible participant but unvested under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme.

Exercise Period and Vesting Period

An option may be exercised in accordance with the terms of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme at any time during a period to be determined and notified by the Directors to each grantee, which period may commence on a day after the date upon which the offer for the grant of options is made but shall end in any event not later than 20 years from the date of grant of the option subject to the provisions for early termination under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme.

Payment on Acceptance of Share Option

An amount of RMB1.00 is payable upon acceptance of the grant of an option.

Determination of Exercise Price

The exercise price in relation to each option granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme is HK\$0.00001 per Share or such other price as may be determined by the Board.

Life of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme

The Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme remained in force until 7 February 2017.

Outstanding Share Options Granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme

The table below shows details of the outstanding share options granted to all grantees under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme as of 31 August 2023. The Company has not granted further share options under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme since 28 February 2017 and up to the Latest Practicable Date. For further details on the movement of the options during the Reporting Period, please see note 22(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Grantee	Position Held	Date of grant	Vesting Period ⁽¹⁾	Outstanding as at 1 September 2022	Exercised during the Reporting Period	Lapsed during the Reporting Period	Cancelled during the Reporting Period	Outstanding as at 31 August 2023	Exercise price per Share	Weighted average closing price of the Company's shares immediately before the exercise date during the Reporting Period
Directors and associates										
Ms. Qiu Hongjun (邱紅軍)	Executive Director, financial controller; vice president	1 September 2016	15 years from the date of grant	2,934,900	–	–	–	2,934,900	HK\$0.00001	–
Subtotal:				2,934,900	–	–	–	2,934,900		
Other grantees in category										
325 Employee Participants ⁽²⁾		1 September 2016	Up to 20 years from the date of grant	106,860,540	4,751,750	–	–	102,108,790	HK\$0.00001	HK\$1.24
Subtotal:				106,860,540	4,751,750	–	–	102,108,790		
TOTAL				109,795,440	4,751,750	–	–	105,043,690		

Note:

- (1) The exercise period the options granted shall end in any event not later than 20 years from the date of grant of the options subject to the provisions for early termination under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme.

(2) Share Award Scheme

The Company adopted the Share Award Scheme by the resolutions in writing of the then sole shareholder of the Company on 8 February 2017.

7,542,300 new Shares, representing approximately 0.21% of the weighted average of issued share capital of the Company, may be issued in respect of all awards granted during the Reporting Period to eligible participants pursuant to the Share Award Scheme. Since all the Awards granted during the Reporting Period were vested with immediate effect, all 7,542,300 Shares have been issued as at 31 August 2023.

Purpose

The purpose of the Share Award Scheme is to align the interests of Eligible Persons (as defined in the Prospectus) with those of the Group through ownership of Shares, dividend and other distributions paid on Shares and/or the increase in value of the Shares, and to encourage and retain Eligible Persons to make contributions to the long term growth and profits of the Group.

Eligible Participants

Any individual, being an employee, director, officer, consultant, adviser, distributor, contractor, customer, supplier, agent, business partner, joint venture business partner or service provider of any member of the Group or any affiliate (including nominees and/or trustees of any employee benefit trust established for them) who the Board or its delegate(s) considers, in its sole discretion, to have contributed or will contribute to the Group is eligible to receive an award (the “**Award**”). However, no individual who is resident in a place where the grant, acceptance or vesting of an Award pursuant to the Share Award Scheme is not permitted under the laws and regulations of such place or where, in the view of the Board, compliance with applicable laws and regulations in such place makes it necessary or expedient to exclude such individual, shall be entitled to participate in the Share Award Scheme.

Number of Awards available for grant and number of new Shares available for issue under the Share Award Scheme

The aggregate number of Shares underlying all grants made (which also represents the number of Shares available for issue) pursuant to the Share Award Scheme (excluding share which have been forfeited in accordance with the Share Award Scheme) will not exceed 270,000,000 Shares (representing 9% of the aggregate nominal amount of the issued share capital of the Company (excluding any Shares which may be issued pursuant to the exercise of the options granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and grants under the Share Award Scheme) as of the Listing Date without further Shareholders’ approval) (the “**Share Award Scheme Limit**”).

As of September 1, 2022, 257,720,200 new Shares underlying Awards to be made (representing approximately 7.15% of the issued share capital of the Company as of the date of this annual report) were available for issue under the Share Award Scheme Limit. During the Reporting Period, 7,542,300 new Shares were issued pursuant to the 7,542,300 Awards granted under Share Award Scheme. It follows that, as of August 31, 2023 and the Latest Practicable Date, 250,177,900 new Shares and 250,177,900 new Shares underlying Awards to be made (representing approximately 6.94% of the issued share capital of the Company as of the date of this annual report) were available for issue under the Share Award Scheme Limit, respectively.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Maximum Entitlement of Participant

Save as otherwise restricted by the Share Award Scheme Limit or the Listing Rules, there shall be no limit on the total number of non-vested Shares that may be granted to a Selected Participant under the Share Award Scheme.

Vesting and Lapse

The Board or its delegate(s) may from time to time while the Share Award Scheme is in force and subject to all applicable laws, determine such vesting criteria and conditions or periods for the Award to be vested.

If there is an event of change in control of the Company by way of a merger, a privatization of the Company by way of a scheme or by way of an offer, the Board or the committee of the Board or person(s) to which the Board has delegated its authority shall at their sole discretion determine whether the vesting dates of any Awards will be accelerated to an earlier date.

In the event a Selected Participant ceases to be an eligible person on or prior to the relevant vesting date and the Award in respect of the relevant vesting date shall lapse or be forfeited pursuant to the Share Award Scheme, such Award shall not vest on the relevant vesting date and the Selected Participant shall have no claims against the Company, unless the Board determines otherwise at its absolute discretion.

Consideration and purchase price

Pursuant to the Share Award Scheme, there is no amount payable on application or acceptance of the Award and no purchase price of Shares awarded.

Restrictions

No Award shall be made to Selected Participants with respect to a grant of an Award under the Share Award Scheme: (i) where any director of the Company is in possession of unpublished inside information in relation to the Company or where dealings by directors of the Company are prohibited under any code or requirement of the Listing Rules or any applicable laws, rules or regulations; (ii) during the period of 60 days immediately preceding the publication date of the annual results or, if shorter, the period from the end of the relevant financial year up to the publication date of the results; and (iii) during the period of 30 days immediately preceding the publication date of the half-year results or, if shorter, the period from the end of the relevant half-year period up to the publication date of the results.

Duration and Termination

The Share Award Scheme shall be valid and effective for a period of 30 years (after which no further Awards will be granted), and thereafter for so long as there are any non-vested Awards Shares granted hereunder prior to the expiration of the Share Award Scheme, in order to give effect to the vesting of such Award Shares or otherwise as may be required in accordance with the provisions of the Share Award Scheme Rules, unless early termination as determined by the Board provided that such termination shall not affect any subsisting rights of any Selected Participant. The remaining life of the Share Award Scheme is approximately over 22 years as of the date of this annual report.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Share Award Grants

The table below shows details of the outstanding Awards granted to all grantees under the Share Award Scheme as of 31 August 2023. During the Reporting Period, 7,542,300 shares had been granted to 102 selected participants under the Share Award Scheme. For further details on the movement of the awards during the Reporting Period, please see note 22(b) to the consolidated financial statements.

Name or category of grantees	Date of grant	Vesting period	Purchase price (per Share)	Performance target	Closing price of Shares immediately before the date of grant	Fair value of Awards on the date of grant ⁽¹⁾	Weighted average closing price of Shares immediately before the vesting date	Unvested Awards as at 1 September 2022	Granted during the Reporting Period	Vested during the Reporting Period	Lapsed during the Reporting Period	Cancelled during the Reporting Period	Unvested Awards as at 31 August 2023
102 Employees Participants	9 March 2023	vest immediately upon the date of grant	Nil	N/A	HK\$1.28	HK\$9,579,000	HK\$1.28	–	7,542,300	7,542,300	–	–	–
Total								–	7,542,300	7,542,300	–	–	–

Note:

- (1) The fair value of Awards is determined by the total shares awarded and exercised multiplied by the closing price of the shares on this grant date, in accordance with the accounting standards and policies adopted for preparing the Company's financial statements.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

DIRECTORS' RIGHTS TO ACQUIRE SHARES OR DEBENTURES

Save as disclosed in this annual report, at no time during the Reporting Period was the Company or any of its subsidiaries, a party to any arrangement that would enable the Directors to acquire benefits by means of acquisition of Shares in, or debentures of, the Company or any other body corporate, and none of the Directors or any of their spouses or children under the age of 18 were granted any right to subscribe for the equity or debt securities of the Company or any other body corporate or had exercised any such right.

EMOLUMENT POLICY AND DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

In compliance with the Corporate Governance Code as set out in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules, the Company has established the remuneration committee of the Company to formulate remuneration policies. The remuneration is determined and recommended based on each Director's and senior management personnel's qualification, position and seniority. As for the independent non-executive Directors, their remuneration is determined by the Board upon recommendation from the remuneration committee. The Directors and the senior management personnel are eligible participants of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and the senior management personnel are eligible participants of the Share Award Scheme. Details of the remuneration of the Directors and the five highest paid individuals are set out in note 31(a) and note 9(b) to the consolidated financial statements.

None of the Directors waived or agreed to waive any remuneration and there were no emoluments paid by the Group to any of the Directors as an inducement to join, or upon joining the Group, or as compensation for loss of office.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN COMPETING BUSINESS

Save and except for the interests of the Controlling Shareholders in the Group, during the year ended 31 August 2023, neither the Controlling Shareholders nor any of the Directors had any interest in a business, apart from the business of the Group, which competes or is likely to compete, directly or indirectly, with the Group's business, which would require disclosure under Rule 8.10 of the Listing Rules.

CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

As disclosed in the Prospectus, the following transactions of the Group constituted continuing connected transactions (the "**Continuing Connected Transactions**") for the Group for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Non-exempt continuing connected transactions

Set out below is a summary of the continuing connected transactions for the Group, which are subject to the reporting, annual review, announcement and independent shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

Contractual Arrangements

Background to the Contractual Arrangements

The Group currently conducts its private education business through its consolidated affiliated entities in the PRC as PRC laws and regulations, or the implementation of those laws and regulations by the relevant government authorities, generally prohibit or restrict foreign ownership in the private education industry in the PRC. PRC laws and regulations currently prohibit foreign ownership of primary and middle schools in the PRC and restrict the operation of kindergartens, high schools and higher education institutions to Sino-foreign ownership, in addition to imposing a qualification requirement on the foreign owners. Further, government approvals in respect of Sino-foreign ownership in the private education sector have, with very limited exception, been withheld. The Group does not hold any direct equity interest in its consolidated affiliated entities. The Contractual Arrangements, through which the Group is able to exercise control over and derive the economic benefits from its consolidated affiliated entities, have been narrowly tailored to achieve its business purpose and minimize the potential conflict with relevant PRC laws and regulations.

Regulatory framework relating to foreign ownership in the education industry in the PRC

Foreign investment activities in the PRC are subject to the restrictions as set out in the Administrative Measures of Foreign Investment Admission (Negative List) (2021 Version) (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)(2021年版)》) (the “**Negative List**”), which is promulgated and amended from time to time jointly by the National Development and Reform Commission of the PRC and Ministry of Commerce of the PRC. The latest version of the Negative List was released on 27 December 2021 and became effective on 1 January 2022. Foreign investments in industries falling within the Negative List are subjected to special administrative measures as set forth therein.

According to the Negative List, operation of kindergartens, high schools and higher education institutions (the “**Relevant Business**”) shall be restricted to Sino-foreign cooperation, which means that foreign investors may only operate kindergartens, high schools and higher education institutions through joint ventures with PRC incorporated entities that are in compliance with the Regulation on Sino-Foreign Cooperation in Operating Schools of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國中外合作辦學條例》), promulgated by the State Council in 2003 and amended on 2 March 2019 (the “**Sino-Foreign Cooperation Regulation**”). The Negative List also provides that the domestic party shall play a dominant role in the Sino-foreign cooperation, meaning that (a) the principal or other chief executive officer of the schools or education institutions shall be a PRC national; and (b) the representative of the domestic party shall account for not less than half of the total members of the board of directors, the executive council or the joint administration committee of the Sino-foreign cooperative educational institution.

Pursuant to the Implementation Opinions on Encouraging and Guiding Private Fund’s Entry into the Education Sector and Promoting Healthy Development of Private Education (《關於鼓勵和引導民間資金進入教育領域促進民辦教育健康發展的實施意見》) promulgated by the Ministry of Education of the PRC on 18 June 2012 (the “**Implementation Opinions**”), foreign-invested companies that engage in educational activities in the PRC should comply with the Negative List.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Pursuant to the Sino-Foreign Cooperation Regulation, the foreign investor in a Sino-foreign joint venture school for PRC students at a kindergarten, high school and higher education institution (a “**Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School**”) must be a foreign education institution with relevant qualification and high quality of education (the “**Qualification Requirement**”).

Furthermore, pursuant to the Implementation Opinions, the foreign portion of the total investment in a Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School should be below 50% (the “**Foreign Ownership Restriction**”) and the establishment of these schools is subject to approval of education authorities at the provincial or national level.

The Company’s PRC Legal Adviser has also advised that it is currently uncertain as to what specific criteria must be met by a foreign investor (such as length of experience and form and extent of ownership in the foreign jurisdiction) in order to demonstrate to the relevant education authority that it meets the Qualification Requirement.

Further details of the regulatory framework are set out in the section headed “Contractual Arrangements” in the Prospectus.

Efforts and Actions Undertaken to Comply with the Qualification Requirement

The Group has adopted a specific plan and begun to take concrete steps which the Company reasonably believe are meaningful endeavors to demonstrate compliance with the Qualification Requirement:

1. On 1 October 2013, the Group signed a letter of intent with Daejeon Girls’ Middle School (大田女子中學校) of the Republic of Korea (“**DGMS**”) pursuant to which DGMS expressed its intent to, among other things, cooperate with the Group’s schools and collaborate in organizing exchange and teaching activities.
2. On 1 October 2013, the Group signed a letter of intent with Daejeon Middle School pursuant to which Daejeon Middle School expressed an intent to cooperate with the Group’s schools and collaborate in organising exchange and teaching activities.
3. On 1 October 2013, the Group signed a letter of intent for cooperating in running schools with DGMS pursuant which:
 - (a) DGMS agreed to send Korean speaking teachers to teach Sino-Korean international classes and Korean language courses at the Group’s high school classes and the Group agreed to bear the related costs;
 - (b) the Group agreed to send its teachers to teach Chinese culture classes and Chinese language courses at DGMS’ s middle school classes and DGMS agreed to bear the related costs;
 - (c) the Group’s middle school students may undertake DGMS’ s courses and receive certificates upon completion of the course; and

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- (d) the Group will establish an overseas training base for certain graduates of the Zhengzhou Technology and Business University at DGMS.
4. On 21 October 2013, Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School signed a cooperation agreement with International Exchange Department of Jeju National University (國立濟州大學) of Republic of Korea pursuant to which Jeju National University agreed to, among other things, cooperate with Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School in respect of Korea language education and cultural exchange programmes and assist in the admission of graduates of Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School to Jeju National University.
 5. On 12 January 2015, Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School signed an agreement with International Exchange Department of Pukyong National University (國立釜慶大學) of the Republic of Korea pursuant to which Pukyong National University agreed to provide students of Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School with language training opportunities and assist in the admission of graduates of Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School to Pukyong National University.
 6. On 12 February 2019, China YuHua Education Investment Limited signed an acquisition agreement with LEI Singapore Holdings Pte. Ltd., a subsidiary of Laureate Education, the largest global network of degree-granting higher education institutions, pursuant to which China YuHua Education Investment acquired the issued and outstanding share capital of Thai Education Holdings Co., Ltd. and Fareast Stamford International Co., Ltd. The acquisition will enable the Company to leverage the leading position of Stamford International University in the private tertiary education market in Thailand, thereby offering a greater potential for profit and long-term business sustainability for the Group.

To the best of the Directors' knowledge and belief, other than the letter of intent for cooperation in running schools signed with DGMS on 1 October 2013 mentioned above, the abovementioned letters of intent and agreements are legally binding.

To further demonstrate compliance with the Qualification Requirement, the Group is also in the process of communicating or negotiating with certain experienced and reputational overseas education service providers in various forms of potential cooperation, including but not limited to expanding its school network abroad. The Company will keep the Shareholders informed should it make any substantial progress in reaching cooperation agreements with these overseas education service providers.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

On top of the above, and to prepare for the potential expansion of the Group's business to the overseas, the Company has established a Hong Kong subsidiary, HongKong YuHua, which serves as the main control hub of the Group's overseas business and is responsible for:

1. negotiating and executing contracts for international business cooperation, such as contracts for cooperation with foreign education institutions in organizing international classes or courses;
2. investing in or acquiring overseas education businesses as and when appropriate;
3. holding the Group's overseas intellectual property rights and licensing them to the Group's international partners; and
4. recruiting overseas education business professionals and advisers, and acting as the direct employer of any personnel based outside the PRC.

The Company's PRC Legal Adviser has advised that while Sino-foreign cooperative schools are to be jointly established by both foreign and domestic educational institutions, it is currently uncertain as to what specific criteria must be met by a foreign investor (such as length of experience and form and extent of ownership in the foreign jurisdiction) in order to demonstrate that it meets the Qualification Requirement. Based on the interviews conducted with the Education Department of Henan Province and the steps that the Group has undertaken as mentioned above, the Company's PRC Legal Adviser is of the view that the Group has taken all reasonable steps towards fulfilling the Qualification Requirement.

In order to comply with the PRC laws and regulations as set out above while availing ourselves to international capital markets and maintaining effective control over all of the Group's operations, on 7 September 2016, 1 September 2018 and 1 July 2019, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, WFOE, entered into various agreements that together constitute the Contractual Arrangements with, among others, the Group's consolidated affiliated entities, under which substantially all economic benefits arising from the business of the Group's consolidated affiliated entities are transferred to WFOE to the extent permitted under the PRC laws and regulations by means of services fee payable by the Group's consolidated affiliated entities to WFOE.

The Directors (including the independent non-executive Directors) consider that the Contractual Arrangements are fundamental to the Group's legal structure and business operations and have been entered into: (i) in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Company; (ii) on normal commercial terms; and (iii) in accordance with the respective contractual agreement governing them on terms that are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Shareholders as a whole. The Directors also believe that the Group's structure whereby the financial results of the consolidated affiliated entities are consolidated into the Company's financial statements as if they were the Company's subsidiaries, and the flow of economic benefits of their business to the Group places the Group in a special position in relation to relevant rules concerning connected transactions under the Listing Rules.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Risks relating to the Contractual Arrangements

The Company believes the following risks are associated with the Contractual Arrangements. Further details of these risks are set out on pages 40 to 48 of the Prospectus.

- if the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating the Group's business do not comply with applicable PRC laws and regulations, it may subject us to severe penalties and the Group's business may be materially and adversely affected, in particular, the significant impact brought by the Implementation Regulations.
- substantial uncertainties exist in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外商投資法》) and how it may impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations.
- the Contractual Arrangements may not be as effective in providing control over the Group's consolidated affiliated entities as direct ownership.
- the beneficial owners of the Group's consolidated affiliated entities may have conflicts of interests with us, which may materially and adversely affect the Group's business and financial situation.
- the exercise of the option to acquire the equity interest of the Group's consolidated affiliated entities may be subject to certain limitations and the Group may incur substantial costs.
- any failure by the Group's consolidated affiliated entities or their respective shareholders to perform their obligations under the Group's Contractual Arrangements would potentially lead to the incurrence of additional costs and the expending of substantial resources on the Group's part to enforce such arrangements, temporary or permanent loss of control over the Group's primary operations or loss of access to the Group's primary sources of revenue.
- the Contractual Arrangements may be subject to scrutiny of the PRC tax authorities and additional tax may be imposed, which may materially and adversely affect the Group's results of operation and value of the Shareholders' investment.
- certain terms of the Contractual Arrangements may not be enforceable under PRC laws, in particular, the significant impact brought by the Implementation Regulations.
- the Company relies on dividend and other payments from WFOE to pay dividends and other cash distribution to the Shareholders and any limitation on the ability of the WFOE to pay dividends to the Company would materially and adversely limit its ability to pay dividends to the Shareholders.
- the Group's consolidated affiliated entities may be subject to limitations on their ability to operate private education business or make payments to related parties.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- if any of the Group's consolidated affiliated entities becomes subject to winding up or liquidation proceedings, the Group may lose the ability to enjoy certain important assets, which would negatively impact the Group's business and materially and adversely affect its ability to generate revenue.

Contractual Arrangements in Place

The Contractual Arrangements that were in place as at 31 August 2023 are as follows:

The 2016 Contractual Arrangements

On 7 September 2016, WFOE, YuHua Investment Management, the Registered Shareholders, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments entered into the 2016 Contractual Arrangements, which consist of:

- (a) exclusive management consultancy and business cooperation agreements dated 7 September 2016 and entered into by and between (i) WFOE, YuHua Investment Management and its subsidiary and the Registered Shareholders; (ii) WFOE, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and its subsidiaries and the Registered Shareholders; and (iii) WFOE, Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments and its subsidiaries and the Registered Shareholders (the **"2016 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreements"**), pursuant to which WFOE has the exclusive right to provide, or designate any third party to provide each of the Group's consolidated affiliated entities with corporate management and educational services, intellectual property licensing services as well as technical and business support services;
- (b) exclusive call option agreements dated 7 September 2016 and entered into by and between (i) WFOE, YuHua Investment Management and the Registered Shareholders; (ii) WFOE, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and the Registered Shareholders; and (iii) WFOE, Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments and the Registered Shareholders (the **"2016 Exclusive Call Option Agreements"**), pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and irrevocably agreed to grant WFOE or its designated third party an exclusive option to purchase all or part of the equity interests in the PRC Holdcos, as the case may be for the minimum amount of consideration permitted by applicable PRC laws and regulations, under circumstances in which WFOE or its designated third party is permitted under PRC laws and regulations to own all or part of the equity interests of the PRC Holdcos. Where the purchase price is required by the relevant PRC laws and regulations to be an amount other than nil consideration, the Registered Shareholders shall return the amount of purchase price they have received to WFOE or its designated third party;

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- (c) equity pledge agreements dated 7 September 2016 and entered into by and between (i) WFOE, YuHua Investment Management and the Registered Shareholders; (ii) WFOE, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and the Registered Shareholders; and (iii) WFOE, Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments and the Registered Shareholders (the “**2016 Equity Pledge Agreements**”), pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and unequivocally pledged all of the equity interests in YuHua Investment Management, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments respectively, to WFOE to guarantee (i) the performance of the obligations of YuHua Investment Management, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments and their respective subsidiaries under the 2016 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreements, (ii) performance of their and the Registered Shareholders’ obligations under the 2016 Exclusive Call Option Agreements and the 2016 Powers of Attorney (as defined below); and
- (d) an irrevocable power of attorney executed by each of the Registered Shareholders dated 7 September 2016 (the “**2016 Powers of Attorney**”) appointing WFOE, or nominee(s) of WFOE (excluding Mr. Li, Ms. Li or other non-independent persons or persons who may give rise to conflicts of interests), as his or her attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on his or her behalf on all matters of YuHua Investment Management, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments or Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments requiring shareholders’ approval under its respective articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations.

The 2018 Contractual Arrangements

On 1 September 2018, WFOE, YuHua Investment Management, the Registered Shareholders, Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Technology Co., Ltd., Kaifeng City Yubohui Education Information Technology Consulting Co., Ltd. and Kaifeng City Xiangfu District Bowang High School entered into the 2018 Contractual Arrangements, which consist of:

- (a) an exclusive management consultancy and business cooperation agreement dated 1 September 2018 between (i) WFOE, (ii) Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Technology Co., Ltd. (鄭州秦風教育科技有限公司) (“**Zhengzhou Qinfeng**”), (iii) Yubohui Education, (iv) Bowang High School and (v) the Registered Shareholders (the “**2018 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreement**”), pursuant to which Zhengzhou Qinfeng, Yubohui Education, Bowang High School and the Registered Shareholders agreed to engage WFOE as the exclusive service provider to provide Zhengzhou Qinfeng, Yubohui Education and Bowang High School with corporate management consultancy services, education management consultancy services, intellectual property licensing services as well as technical and business support services in return for service fees;
- (b) an exclusive call option agreement dated 1 September 2018 between (i) WFOE, (ii) Zhengzhou Qinfeng and (iii) the Registered Shareholders (the “**2018 Exclusive Call Option Agreement**”), pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders granted WFOE an exclusive, unconditional and irrevocable option to purchase from the Registered Shareholders all or part of the equity interests in Zhengzhou Qinfeng;

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- (c) an equity pledge agreement dated 1 September 2018 between (i) WFOE, (ii) Zhengzhou Qinfeng and (iii) the Registered Shareholders (the **“2018 Equity Pledge Agreement”**), pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and irrevocably pledged all of his or her equity interest in Zhengzhou Qinfeng to WFOE;
- (d) a power of attorney executed by each of the Registered Shareholders dated 1 September 2018 (the **“2018 Powers of Attorney”**) appointing WFOE, or nominee(s) of WFOE (excluding Mr. Li, Ms. Li or other non-independent persons or persons who may give rise to conflicts of interests), as his or her attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on his or her behalf on all matters of Zhengzhou Qinfeng requiring shareholders’ approval under its respective articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations; and
- (e) power of attorney executed on 1 September 2018 by Zhengzhou Qinfeng (the **“2018 Zhengzhou Qinfeng Power of Attorney”**) appointing WFOE (or any person designated by WFOE) as its attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on its behalf on all matters of Yubohui Education and Bowang High School requiring shareholders’ or sponsors’ (as applicable) approval under its articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations.

The 2019 Contractual Arrangements

On 1 July 2019 and 17 July 2019, WFOE, the Transferee, the Registered Shareholders and the Target Group entered into the 2019 Contractual Arrangements, which consist of:

- (a) an exclusive management consultancy and business cooperation agreement dated 1 July 2019 (together with the joinder agreements mentioned in item (f) below, the **“2019 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreement”**) between (i) WFOE, (ii) the Transferee and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Transferee and the Registered Shareholders agreed to engage WFOE as the exclusive service provider to provide the Transferee (and its subsidiaries from time to time) with corporate management consultancy services, education management consultancy services, intellectual property licensing services as well as technical and business support services in return for service fees;
- (b) an exclusive call option agreement dated 1 July 2019 (the **“2019 Exclusive Call Option Agreement”**) between (i) WFOE, (ii) the Transferee and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders granted WFOE an exclusive, unconditional and irrevocable option to purchase from the Registered Shareholders all or part of the equity interests in the Transferee;
- (c) an equity pledge agreement dated 1 July 2019 (the **“2019 Equity Pledge Agreements”**) between (i) WFOE, (ii) the Transferee and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and irrevocably pledged all of his or her equity interest in the Transferee to WFOE;

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- (d) powers of attorney executed on 1 July 2019 by each of Mr. Li and Ms. Li (the “**2019 Powers of Attorney**”) appointing WFOE (or any person designated by WFOE, excluding Mr. Li, Ms. Li or any other non-independent persons or persons who may give rise to conflicts of interests) as his or her attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on his or her behalf on all matters of the Transferee requiring shareholders’ approval under its articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations;
- (e) power of attorney executed on 17 July 2019 by the Transferee (the “**2019 Transferee Power of Attorney**”) appointing WFOE (or any person designated by WFOE) as its attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on its behalf on all matters of the Target Group requiring shareholders’ or sponsors’ (as applicable) approval under its articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations; and
- (f) joinder agreements executed on 17 July 2019 by each member of the Target Group (the “**2019 Target Group Joinder Agreements**”), pursuant to which each member of the Target Group agreed to join the 2019 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreement as a party, and assume all the obligations and enjoy all the rights of the subsidiaries of the Transferee.

The 2020 Contractual Arrangements

On 19 June 2020, WFOE, Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. (長沙久照信息科技有限公司), the Registered Shareholders entered into the 2020 Contractual Arrangements, which consist of:

- (a) an exclusive management consultancy and business cooperation agreement dated 19 June 2020 (the “**2020 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreement**”) between (i) WFOE, (ii) Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. and the Registered Shareholders agreed to engage WFOE as the exclusive service provider to provide Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. with corporate management consultancy services, education management consultancy services, intellectual property licensing services as well as technical and business support services in return for service fees;
- (b) an exclusive call option agreement dated 19 June 2020 (the “**2020 Exclusive Call Option Agreement**”) between (i) WFOE, (ii) Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders granted WFOE an exclusive, unconditional and irrevocable option to purchase from the Registered Shareholders all or part of the equity interests in Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd.;
- (c) an equity pledge agreement dated 19 June 2020 (the “**2020 Equity Pledge Agreements**”) between (i) WFOE, (ii) Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and irrevocably pledged all of his or her equity interest in Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. to WFOE; and

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- (d) powers of attorney executed on 19 June 2020 by each of Mr. Li and Ms. Li (the “**2020 Powers of Attorney**”) appointing WFOE (or any person designated by WFOE, excluding Mr. Li, Ms. Li or any other non-independent persons or persons who may give rise to conflicts of interests) as his or her attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on his or her behalf on all matters of the Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. requiring shareholders’ approval under its articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations.

The 2023 Contractual Arrangements

On 30 May 2023, WFOE, Henan Gaowen, Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College Co., Ltd. (鄭州軟件職業技術學院有限責任公司) and the Registered Shareholders entered into the 2023 Contractual Arrangements, which consist of:

- (a) an exclusive management consultancy and business cooperation agreement dated 30 May 2023 (the “**2023 Exclusive Management Consultancy and Business Cooperation Agreement**”) between (i) WFOE, (ii) Henan Gaowen, (iii) Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College Co., Ltd. and (iv) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which Henan Gaowen and the Registered Shareholders agreed to engage WFOE as the exclusive service provider to provide Henan Gaowen and its subsidiary with corporate management consultancy services, education management consultancy services, intellectual property licensing services as well as technical and business support services in return for service fees;
- (b) an exclusive call option agreement dated 30 May 2023 (the “**2023 Exclusive Call Option Agreement**”) between (i) WFOE, (ii) Henan Gaowen and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders granted WFOE an exclusive, unconditional and irrevocable option to purchase from the Registered Shareholders all or part of the equity interests in Henan Gaowen;
- (c) an equity pledge agreement dated 30 May 2023 (the “**2023 Equity Pledge Agreements**”) between (i) WFOE, (ii) Henan Gaowen and (iii) the Registered Shareholders, pursuant to which the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and irrevocably pledged all of his or her equity interest in Henan Gaowen to WFOE;
- (d) powers of attorney executed on 30 May 2023 by each of Mr. Li and Ms. Li (the “**2023 Powers of Attorney**”) appointing WFOE (or any person designated by WFOE, excluding Mr. Li, Ms. Li or any other non-independent persons or persons who may give rise to conflicts of interests) as his or her attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on his or her behalf on all matters of the Henan Gaowen requiring shareholders’ approval under its articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations; and

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

- (e) power of attorney executed on 30 May 2023 by Henan Gaowen (the “**2023 Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd. Power of Attorney**”) appointing WFOE (or any person designated by WFOE) as its attorney-in-fact to appoint directors and vote on its behalf on all matters of Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College Co., Ltd. requiring shareholder’s or sponsor’s (as applicable) approval under its articles of association and under the relevant PRC laws and regulations.

Apart from the above, there are no other new Contractual Arrangements entered into, renewed or reproduced during the financial year ended 31 August 2023. There was no material change in the Contractual Arrangements and/or the circumstances under which they were adopted for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The Implementation Regulations effective from 1 September 2021 prohibit social organizations and individuals from controlling private compulsory education schools and non-profit private preschools through mergers, acquisitions and contractual arrangements and prohibit private compulsory education schools from conducting transactions with related parties. The Company has been advised by its PRC legal adviser that according to the Implementation Regulations and the confirmation by relevant education authority, as of the Latest Practicable Date, except for the Contractual Arrangements over the Affected Business, the Contractual Arrangements do not violate the relevant PRC regulations. For further details, please refer to the announcement dated 5 January 2022.

Mitigation actions taken by the Company

The Company’s management works closely with Mr. Li and Ms. Li and its external legal counsels and advisors to monitor the regulatory environment and developments in PRC laws and regulations to mitigate the risks associated with the Contractual Arrangements.

The extent to which the Contractual Arrangements relate to requirements other than the foreign ownership restriction

All of the Contractual Arrangements are subject to the restrictions as set out on pages 137 to 143 of the Prospectus.

Revenue and Assets subject to the Contractual Arrangements

For the year ended 31 August 2023, revenue of the Group subject to the Contractual Arrangements amounted to approximately RMB1,365,463,000 (2022: RMB1,425,462,500). As at 31 August 2023, total assets of the Group subject to the Contractual Arrangements amounted to approximately RMB4,798,988,000 (2022: RMB4,085,887,000).

The annual transaction amount of continuing connected transactions for the year ended 31 August 2023 is set out below.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Continuing Connected Transactions

Transactions of Xizang Yuanpei Information Technology Management Company Limited, a subsidiary of the Company, provided to other domestic subsidiaries of the Company.

	Annual Transactions (RMB'000)	Annual Cap (RMB'000)
Service fee	923	Not applicable, waived

Listing Rules Implications

The highest applicable percentage ratios (other than the profits ratio) under the Listing Rules in respect of the transactions associated with the Contractual Arrangements are expected to be more than 5%. As such, the transactions will be subject to the reporting, annual review, announcement and independent shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

Waiver from the Stock Exchange and Annual Review

The Stock Exchange has granted the Company a waiver from strict compliance with (i) the announcement and independent shareholders' approval requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules in respect of the transactions under the Contractual Arrangements; (ii) setting an annual cap; and (iii) limiting the term of the continuing connected transactions set out in Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules for each of the continuing connected transactions.

Pursuant to the conditions of the waiver (the "**Waiver Conditions**") granted to the Company at the time of the IPO as described on pages 186 to 188 of the Prospectus, and on the basis that the existing Contractual Arrangements of the Company (as described under the section headed "Contractual Arrangements" in the Prospectus) provide an acceptable framework for the relationship between the Company and its subsidiaries in which the Company has direct shareholding, on the one hand, and the consolidated affiliated entities, on the other hand, the Company is permitted to renew or reproduce the existing Contractual Arrangements with respect to any new wholly foreign owned enterprise or operating company engaging in the same business as that of the Group, without obtaining the approval of the Shareholders, on substantially the same terms and conditions as the existing Contractual Arrangements.

As the terms and conditions of the 2018 Contractual Arrangements, the 2019 Contractual Arrangements, the 2020 Contractual Arrangements and 2023 Contractual Arrangements are substantially the same as those of the contractual arrangements described under the section headed "Contractual Arrangements" in the Prospectus, and the underlying businesses are within the scope of the Group's principal businesses — the provision of private education services from kindergarten to university, the 2018 Contractual Arrangements, the 2019 Contractual Arrangements, the 2020 Contractual Arrangements and 2023 Contractual Arrangements therefore fall within the parameters of the Waiver Conditions.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

Confirmation from Independent Non-executive Directors

The Company's independent non-executive Directors have reviewed the Contractual Arrangements and confirmed that (i) the transactions carried during year ended 31 August 2023 have been entered into in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Contractual Arrangements, (ii) no dividends or other distributions have been made by the consolidated affiliated entities to the holders of its equity interests which are not otherwise subsequently assigned or transferred to the Group during the year ended 31 August 2023, (iii) no new contracts were entered into, renewed or reproduced between the Group and the consolidated affiliated entities during the year ended 31 August 2023, and (iv) the Contractual Arrangements were entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group on normal commercial terms or better and are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Shareholders as a whole.

Confirmations from the Company's Independent Auditor

The Auditor of the Company has confirmed in a letter to the Board that, with respect to the aforesaid continuing connected transactions entered into in the year ended 31 August 2023:

- (a) nothing has come to their attention that causes the Auditor to believe that the disclosed continuing connected transactions have not been approved by the Company's Board of Directors.
- (b) for transactions involving the provision of goods or services by the Group, nothing has come to their attention that causes the Auditor to believe that the transactions were not, in all material respects, in accordance with the pricing policies of the Group.
- (c) nothing has come to their attention that causes the Auditor to believe that the transactions were not entered into, in all material respects, in accordance with the relevant agreements governing such transactions.
- (d) nothing has come to their attention that causes the Auditor to believe that dividends or other distributions have been made by YuHua Investment Management Co., Ltd 宇華投資管理有限公司, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments Co., Ltd 鄭州宇華教育投資有限公司, Zhengzhou Hanchen Education Science and Technology Limited 鄭州漢晨教育科技有限公司, Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Science and Technology Limited 鄭州秦風教育科技有限公司, Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Management Company Limited 長沙久照信息科技有限公司, Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd 河南高文教育諮詢有限公司 (collectively the "**VIE Entities**") to the holders of the equity interests of VIE Entities which are not otherwise subsequently assigned or transferred to the Group.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, no related party transactions disclosed in note 28 to the consolidated financial statements constituted a connected transaction or continuing connected transaction which should be disclosed pursuant to the Listing Rules. The Company has complied with the disclosure requirements prescribed in Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules with respect to the connected transactions and continuing connected transactions entered into by the Group during the year under review.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF LISTED SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY

Save for the repurchase of 2024 Convertible Bonds with an aggregate principal amount of HK\$614,000,000 and redemption of 2024 Convertible Bonds with the aggregate principal amount of HK\$500,000,000 as disclosed in the Company's 2023 interim report published on 24 May 2023, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries or consolidated affiliated entities purchased, sold or redeemed any listed securities of the Company during the year ended 31 August 2023.

For more details of the Convertible Bonds, please refer to the Company's announcements dated 28 December 2022, 12 January 2023, 19 January 2023 and 20 January 2023.

MATERIAL LITIGATION

The Directors are not aware of any material litigation or claims that are pending or threatened against the Group as of 31 August 2023.

BUILDING CERTIFICATES AND PERMITS

As at 31 August 2023, in relation to owned buildings or groups of buildings other than those associated with the HIEU Schools (the "**Non-HIEU Schools Owned Buildings**"), the Group had not obtained proper building ownership certificates or other requisite certificates or permits for 11 of the 32 Non-HIEU Schools Owned Buildings, due in part to changes to the urban planning in the cities which the Group operates, administrative oversight by the Group's management and their unfamiliarity with the relevant regulatory requirements. The Group is in the process of applying to relevant government authorities for the relevant outstanding certificates and permits and are closely following up with the government authorities with respect to the applications. Please also refer to the section headed "Business — Properties — Owned Properties — Buildings or Groups of Buildings" in the Prospectus for further details. There have been no updates in this regard since the publication of the Prospectus.

As at 31 August 2023, the Company was in the process of applying for, but had not yet obtained, the proper certificates in relation to 48 buildings currently occupied by the HIEU Schools. The Company understands that the lack of certificates in relation to these buildings will not prejudice the ability of the Company to operate the HIEU Schools and that the buildings are fit and safe for education purposes. For further details, please refer to the Company's circular dated 29 June 2018.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

USE OF PROCEEDS

Use of Net Proceeds from the 2021 Placing and Subscription

The 2021 Placing and Subscription was completed on 3 November 2021. An aggregate of 220,000,000 placing shares had been successfully placed to not fewer than six placees and accordingly 220,000,000 subscription shares were allotted and issued by the Company to GuangYu Investment.

The net proceeds received by the Company from the 2021 Placing and Subscription were approximately HK\$914 million. The Company intends to use the estimated net proceeds for (a) transforming existing K-12 schools into higher vocational colleges (and in preparation of launching vocational university in the future); (b) opening a new campus for Hunan International Economics University (湖南涉外經濟學院); and (c) increasing investment in launching vocational undergraduate education at the existing three universities.

As of 31 August 2023, approximately HK\$914 million of the net proceeds of the completion of the 2021 Placing and Subscription were fully utilised.

As of 31 August 2023, the Group had utilized the net proceeds as set out in the table below:

	Net proceeds from 2021 Placing and subscription (HK\$ million)	Unutilized amount as of 31 August 2022 (HK\$ million)	Utilization during the Reporting Period (HK\$ million)	Unutilized amount as of 31 August 2023 (HK\$ million)
Transforming existing K-12 schools into higher vocational colleges (and in preparation of launching vocational university in the future)	360	170	170	—
Opening a new campus for Hunan International Economics University (湖南涉外經濟學院)	454	248	248	—
Increasing investment in launching vocational undergraduate education at the existing three universities	100	—	—	—
Total	914	418	418	—

PUBLIC FLOAT

Based on the information that is publicly available to the Company and within the knowledge of the Directors as at the Latest Practicable Date, the Company has maintained the prescribed percentage of public float under the Listing Rules.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

AUDITOR

The consolidated financial statements of the Group have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, who retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment at the annual general meeting.

By the order of the Board

Mr. Li Guangyu

Chairman

Hong Kong

30 November 2023

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The Board consists of three executive Directors and three independent non-executive Directors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Mr. Li Guangyu (李光宇), aged 60, was first appointed as a Director on 25 April 2016. He was re-designated as an executive Director and appointed as the chairman of the Board and the chairman of the nomination committee on 7 September 2016. Mr. Li also holds the following positions with other members of the Group:

- director of YuHua Investment Management (since 19 February 2000);
- director of Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments (since 9 April 2004);
- chairman of the board of directors of Zhengzhou Technology and Business University (since 13 March 2009); and
- chairman of the board of directors of Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments (since 21 July 2011).

Mr. Li has more than 19 years of experience in the education industry, and is the chairman of the board of directors of the Zhengzhou Technology and Business University and Hunan International Economics University, and all of the Group's high schools. In 2004, he was selected as one of the ten outstanding figures in the private education industry in China (中國民辦教育十大傑出人物) by Guangming Daily (光明日報). In April 2010, Mr. Li received the National Outstanding Worker Award (全國先進工作者) from the State Council of the PRC. Mr. Li was also a member of the National People's Congress and the vice chairman of the China Association for Non-Government Education (中國民辦教育協會).

Mr. Li graduated from the Changchun Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics (長春光學精密機械學院, currently known as Changchun University of Science and Technology (長春理工大學)) majoring in laser technology in July 1983, and his master's degree in Business Administration from the Guanghua School of Management, Peking University (北京大學光華管理學院) in June 2007.

Mr. Li is the father of Ms. Li Hua, the chief executive officer and executive Director.

Ms. Li Hua (李花), aged 36, was first appointed as an executive Director and as the vice chairman of the Board on 7 September 2016. Ms. Li is also the Company's chief executive officer and holds the following positions with other members of the Group:

- director of Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments (since 21 July 2011);
- director of Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments (since 19 April 2016); and
- director of Henan Gaowen (since 7 June 2021).

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Ms. Li has more than 12 years of experience in the education industry, and is a member of the board of directors of the Zhengzhou Technology and Business University and Hunan International Economics University, and all of the Group's high schools. Ms. Li worked as an officer at Zhengzhou YuHua Elite School between March to July 2009, where she was responsible for managing the daily operations and strategic planning of the school. From July 2009 to July 2010, Ms. Li was a teaching assistant and counsellor at Zhengzhou Technology and Business University, where she was responsible for lecturing and managing the counselling programme and student activities.

Ms. Li has been a committee member of the 12th Session of All-China Youth Federation (中華全國青年聯合會第十二屆) since July 2015. She was also a representative of Henan Province for the 17th Communist Youth League National Representative Conference (中國共產主義青年團第十七次全國代表大會) and a representative of Xinzheng (新鄭) for the 14th People's Congress of Zhengzhou (鄭州市第十四屆人民代表大會). In May 2012, Ms. Li received the Henan Province May Fourth Youth Prize (河南省五四青年獎章榮耀) from the Henan Communist Youth League (中國共青團河南省委) and the Henan Youth Federation (河南省青年聯合會). She also received the Henan Province Individual Honour for Innovative Women (河南省婦女創先爭優先進個人榮譽) in July 2012 from the Henan Woman Federation (河南省婦女聯合會) and the Outstanding Committee Member Honour (河南省青年聯合會優秀委員榮譽) from the Henan Youth Federation in January 2013. In November 2014, Ms. Li was awarded the Individual Award for Innovations in Henan Private Education (河南省民辦教育先進個人榮譽) by the Henan Province Education Department (河南省教育廳).

Ms. Li received her bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Peking University in July 2010.

Ms. Li is the daughter of Mr. Li, the chairman and executive Director.

Ms. Qiu Hongjun (邱紅軍), aged 57, was first appointed as an executive Director on 7 September 2016. Ms. Qiu is also the Group's financial controller and vice president. She is responsible for overseeing the Group's financial affairs. Ms. Qiu also holds the following positions with other members of the Group:

- director of Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments (since 21 July 2011);
- director of Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments (since 19 April 2016); and
- director of Hunan International Economics University (since 27 December 2017).

Ms. Qiu has more than 17 years of experience in the education industry, and is a member of the board of directors of all the Group's high schools. From 2002 to 2004, she was the deputy branch president of Nanjing branch of Shenzhen Development Bank (currently known as Pingan Bank). Since joining the Group, Ms. Qiu has been overseeing the Group's financial affairs and has since then accumulated substantial financial experience.

Ms. Qiu received her diploma in Finance from the Central Radio and Television University (中央廣播電視大學, currently known as the Open University of China (國家開放大學)) (distance learning) in October 2003.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Mr. Chen Lei (陳磊), aged 51, was appointed as an independent non-executive Director and the chairman of the audit committee effective on 16 February 2017. Mr. Chen is primarily responsible for supervising and providing independent judgement to the Board. Mr. Chen is the Director who has the appropriate professional accounting or related financial management expertise for the purpose of Rule 3.10(2) of the Listing Rules through his experience listed below.

Mr. Chen has been serving as an associate professor of accounting and assistant dean at the Guanghua School of Management, Peking University since 2008. Mr. Chen served as an assistant professor of accounting at Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University in the United States from August 2004 to June 2008.

Mr. Chen currently serves as an independent non-executive director of Sugon Information Industry Co., Ltd (曙光信息產業股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange (stock code: 603019) (since May 2015), Huadian Heavy Industries Co., Ltd (華電重工股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange (stock code: 601226) (since July 2014) and Beijing Da Bei Nong Technology Holdings Co., Ltd (北京大北農科技集團股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (stock code: 002385) (since December 2013) and Hevol Services Group Co. Limited (和泓服務集團有限公司), a company listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 6093) (since June 2019).

Mr. Chen received his bachelor's degree in Economics from Tsinghua University, his master's degree in Economics from Indiana University and his doctorate degree in Accounting from the University of Texas in Dallas in July 1996, September 1999 and August 2004, respectively.

Mr. Chen has been and remains responsible for the following areas in his capacity as an associate professor of Accounting and a director listed companies, through which he has gained the financial management expertise required under Rule 3.10(2) of the Listing Rules:

- lecturing on and teaching accounting, auditing and financial management related courses as an associate professor of Accounting at Guanghua School of Management, Peking University;
- acting as the executive director of the master in Professional Accounting programme (會計碩士專業學位) at the Guanghua School of Management, Peking University; and
- acting as a specialist in audit committees of the listed companies in the preparation of their financial statements, valuation analysis, participation in pricing and negotiation of transaction terms, preparation of offer document disclosures and other related financial documents in advance of their public offerings in the Shenzhen Stock Exchange and the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Xia Zuoquan (夏佐全), aged 60, was appointed as an independent non-executive Director effective on 16 February 2017. Mr. Xia is primarily responsible for supervising and providing independent judgement to the Board.

Mr. Xia is one of the founders of the BYD Group (比亞迪集團), and currently serves as a non-executive director of BYD Company Limited, a rechargeable battery, handset components and automobile manufacture listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 1211) (since March 2008) and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (stock code: 002594) (since June 2002). He also currently serves as a director of Guangdong Beizhi Cepin Network Technology Co., Ltd. (廣東倍智測聘網絡科技股份有限公司) (since June 2015), a technology company listed on the PRC National Equities Exchange and Quotations (stock code: 833907). Mr. Xia is also the vice chairman (副理事長) of the BYD Charity Foundation (比亞迪慈善基金會). Mr. Xia served as an independent non-executive director of China Baofeng (International) Limited (中國寶豐(國際)有限公司), a company formerly listed on the Stock Exchange which was subsequently delisted in September 2020 (stock code: 3966), from 19 February 2016 to 7 September 2020.

Mr. Xia received his bachelor's degree in Computer Science (correspondence course) from the Beijing Institute of Iron and Steel Engineering (北京鋼鐵學院, currently known as the University of Science & Technology for Beijing (北京科技大學)) in September 1987 and his master's degree in Business Administration from the Guanghua School of Management, Peking University in 2007.

Mr. Zhang Zhixue (張志學), aged 56, was appointed as an independent non-executive Director and the chairman of the remuneration committee effective on 16 February 2017. Mr. Zhang is primarily responsible for supervising and providing independent judgement to the Board.

Mr. Zhang has been a professor of Organisation and Strategic Management at the Guanghua School of Management, Peking University since August 2008.

Mr. Zhang currently serves as an independent non-executive director of Ever-Glory International Group, Inc. (since March 2008), a company listed on NASDAQ (stock symbol: EVK). Mr. Zhang is also currently an independent director of the Bank of Guizhou (貴州銀行) and Sunshine Insurance Group Inc. (陽光保險集團股份有限公司). He also served as an independent non-executive director of Creative Distribution Automation Co., Ltd. (北京科銳配電自動化股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (stock code: 002350), from March 2010 to March 2016.

Mr. Zhang received his bachelor's degree in Education from Henan University (河南大學), his master's degree in Psychology from Beijing Normal University (北京師範大學) and his doctorate degree in Philosophy from the University of Hong Kong in July 1988, July 1991 and December 1998, respectively.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Xu Bin (徐斌), aged 40, was appointed as the Company's chief financial officer on 1 January 2016 and joint company secretary on 7 September 2016. He is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial affairs.

Before joining the Group, Mr. Xu was the vice president and co-chief financial officer of China Maple Leaf Education Systems Limited, a company listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 1317), from 16 February 2013 to 16 June 2015. He also worked as an accountant at Citco Financial Group, an international financial services provider, from November 2007 to May 2010, and an investment banking associate at Essence Securities Co., Ltd., a financial and securities brokerage services provider based in China, from November 2011 to February 2013.

Mr. Xu received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Toronto, Canada in November 2007 and a master's degree in Finance from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom in May 2012.

JOINT COMPANY SECRETARIES

Mr. Xu Bin (徐斌), one of the Company's joint company secretaries, was appointed on 7 September 2016. He is also the Group's senior management.

Ms. Ng Ka Man (吳嘉雯), was appointed as one of the Group's joint company secretaries with effect from 30 November 2021. Ms. Ng is a senior manager of the Listing Services Department of TMF Hong Kong Limited and is responsible for provision of corporate secretarial and compliance services to listed company clients. She has over 15 years of experience in the company secretarial field. She is a Chartered Secretary, a Corporate Governance Professional and a member of both The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute and The Chartered Governance Institute in the United Kingdom.

CHANGES TO DIRECTORS' INFORMATION

Pursuant to Rule 13.51B(1) of the Listing Rules, the changes in information of Directors of the Company are set out below:

Ms. Li Hua has been appointed as a director of Henan Gaowen since 7 June 2021.

Save as disclosed in this annual report, there is no other information required to be disclosed pursuant to Rule 13.51B(1) of the Listing Rules.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Board of Directors is pleased to present the corporate governance report for the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

The Company is committed to achieving high corporate governance standards. The Board believes that high corporate governance standards are essential in providing a framework for the Group to safeguard the interests of Shareholders and to enhance corporate value and accountability.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the Company has complied with all applicable code provisions set out in the in Part 2 of the Corporate Governance Code, except as disclosed in this annual report.

MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

The Company has adopted the Model Code as its own securities dealing code to regulate all dealings by Directors and relevant employees of securities in the Company and other matters covered by the Model Code.

Specific enquiry has been made of all the Directors and the relevant employees and they have confirmed that they have complied with the Model Code during the year ended 31 August 2023.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board currently comprises three executive Directors and three independent non-executive Directors.

The composition of the Board is as followings:

Executive Directors

Mr. Li Guangyu (*Chairman*)

Ms. Li Hua (*Vice Chairman*)

Ms. Qiu Hongjun

Independent non-executive Directors

Mr. Chen Lei

Mr. Xia Zuoquan

Mr. Zhang Zhixue

The biographical details of the Directors are set out in the section headed “Directors and Senior Management” on pages 49 to 53 of this annual report.

Ms. Li is the daughter of Mr. Li. Save as disclosed in this annual report, none of the members of the Board is related to one another.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The positions of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are held by Mr. Li and Ms. Li, respectively. The Chairman provides leadership and is responsible for the effective functioning and leadership of the Board. The Chief Executive Officer focuses on the Company's business development and the daily management and operations generally. The respective responsibilities are clearly defined and set out in writing.

BOARD MEETINGS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND GENERAL MEETINGS

Code provision C.5.1 of the Corporate Governance Code stipulates that board meetings should be held at least four times a year at approximately quarterly intervals with active participation of the majority of the Directors, either in person or through electronic means of communications.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, four Board meetings and one general meeting were held. Apart from regular Board Meetings, the Chairman of the Board also held one meeting with the independent non-executive Directors without the presence of other Directors during the Reporting Period. The Company expects to continue to convene at least four regular meetings in each financial year at approximately quarterly intervals in accordance with code provision C.5.1 of the Corporate Governance Code.

A summary of the attendance record of the Directors at Board meetings, committee meetings and general meetings is set out in the following table below:

Name of Director	Number of meeting(s) attended/number of meeting(s) held for the year ended 31 August 2023				
	Board	Audit Committee	Remuneration Committee	Nomination Committee	General Meetings ⁽¹⁾
Executive Directors:					
Mr. Li Guangyu	4/4	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Ms. Li Hua	4/4	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Ms. Qiu Hongjun	4/4	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Independent Non-executive Directors:					
Mr. Chen Lei	4/4	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Mr. Xia Zuoquan	4/4	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Mr. Zhang Zhixue	4/4	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1

Note:

1. Three incumbent Directors, Mr. Li Guangyu, Ms. Li Hua and Ms. Qiu Hongjun, attended the annual general meeting of the Company held on 17 April 2023 (the "AGM"), while the remaining three Directors, Mr. Chen Lei, Mr. Xia Zuoquan and Mr. Zhang Zhixue, appointed representatives to attend the AGM.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Board has received from each of the independent non-executive Directors a written annual confirmation of his independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules and considers each of them to be independent. Each of the independent non-executive Directors has signed a letter of appointment with the Company for an initial term of three years with effect from the date of the Prospectus or until the third annual general meeting of the Company since the Listing Date (whichever is sooner). Such letters of appointment were renewed on similar terms and effective from 16 February 2020 for another term of three years, and will continue thereafter until terminated by either party giving to the other not less than three (3) months' prior notice in writing.

APPOINTMENT AND RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

All the Directors are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at annual general meeting. Pursuant to the Articles of Association, one-third of the Directors for the time being (or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to, but not less than, one-third) shall retire from office and be eligible for re-election at each annual general meeting, provided that every Director is subject to retirement by rotation at least once every three years. In addition, any new Director appointed to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the Board shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting and be subject to re-election.

Pursuant to article 16.18 of the Articles of Association, Mr. Li Guangyu and Ms. Li Hua will be subject to re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCOUNTABILITIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

The Board is the primary decision making body of the Company and is responsible for overseeing the Group's businesses, strategic decisions and performance and is collectively responsible for promoting the success of the Company by directing and supervising its affairs. The Board makes decisions objectively in the interests of the Company.

All Directors, including independent non-executive Directors, have brought a wide spectrum of valuable business experience, knowledge and professionalism to the Board for its efficient and effective functioning.

The Group's senior management is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Group's business and is responsible for overseeing the general operation, business development, finance, marketing, and operations.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

DIVIDEND POLICY

On 27 November 2018, the Company adopted a dividend policy (the “**Dividend Policy**”) in accordance with the Corporate Governance Code, which outlines the factors that should be taken into account in determining any dividend for distribution to the Shareholders. The Dividend Policy is reproduced as follows:

1. Subject to the Cayman Islands Company Law and the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors has absolute discretion on whether to distribute dividends. In addition, the Shareholders may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, but no dividend may be declared in excess of the amount recommended by the Board. In either case, a dividend may only be declared and paid out of the profits and reserves of the Company lawfully available for distribution (including share premium), and in no circumstances may a dividend be paid if this would result in the Company being unable to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. Even if the Board decides to pay dividends, the form, frequency and amount of dividends will depend on the Company’s future operations, cash flows, general financial condition, capital adequacy ratio, cash dividends received from the invested portfolio ecosystem partners, future business prospectus, statutory and regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends and other factors that the Board considers relevant.
2. Any future dividend payments to the Shareholders will also depend upon the availability of dividends received from our subsidiaries. PRC regulations may restrict the ability of our PRC subsidiaries to pay dividends to the Company.
3. The Company does not have a fixed dividend payout ratio. The Company currently intends to retain most, if not all, of the available funds and any future earnings to operate and expand the business.
4. If the Company pays any dividends on the Shares, unless and to the extent that the rights attached to the Shares, or the terms of issue thereof otherwise provide, (i) all dividends will be declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the Shares in respect of which the dividend is paid, but no amount paid up on Shares in advance of calls may for this purpose be treated as paid up on the Shares; and (ii) all dividends will be apportioned and paid pro rata according to the amounts paid up on the Shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid. The Directors may deduct from any dividend or other monies payable to any of the Shareholders all sums of money (if any) presently payable by such Shareholders to the Company on account of calls, installments or otherwise.
5. The Dividend Policy reflects the Board’s current views on the Company’s financial and cash flow position. It will continue to be reviewed by the Board from time to time and there can be no assurance that dividends will be paid in any particular amount, if at all, for any given period.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board has established three committees, namely, the audit committee, the remuneration committee and the nomination committee, for overseeing particular aspects of the Company's affairs. Each of these committees are established with defined written terms of reference. The terms of reference of the Board committees are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange.

Audit Committee

The Company has established an audit committee in compliance with Rule 3.21 of the Listing Rules and the Corporate Governance Code. The primary duties of the audit committee are to review and supervise the financial reporting, risk management and internal controls system of the Group, review and approve connected transactions and to advise the Board.

The audit committee comprises three independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Chen Lei, Mr. Xia Zuoquan and Mr. Zhang Zhixue. Mr. Chen Lei is the chairman of the audit committee.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the audit committee convened two meetings. The attendance record of the Directors at meetings of the audit committee is set out in the table on page 55.

During the meetings, the audit committee:

- reviewed final results of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 August 2022 as well as the audit report prepared by the Auditor relating to accounting issues and major findings in course of audit;
- reviewed interim results of the Group for the six months ended 28 February 2023; and
- reviewed the financial reporting system, compliance procedures, internal control (including the adequacy of resources, staff qualifications and experience, training programmes and budget of the Company's accounting and financial reporting function and risk management and internal control systems and processes).

Remuneration Committee

The Company established a remuneration committee in compliance with Rule 3.25 of the Listing Rules and the Corporate Governance Code. The primary duties of the remuneration committee are to review and make recommendations to the Board regarding the terms of remuneration packages, bonuses and other compensation payable to the Directors and other senior management, and to review and/or approve matters relating to share schemes under Chapter 17 of the Listing Rules.

The remuneration committee comprises one executive Director, namely Ms. Li, and two independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Zhang Zhixue and Mr. Xia Zuoquan. Mr. Zhang Zhixue is the chairman of the remuneration committee.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the remuneration committee convened one meeting. The attendance record of the Directors at meeting(s) of the remuneration committee is set out in the table on page 55.

During the meeting, the remuneration committee reviewed the Company's policy and structure for the remuneration of all the Directors and senior management and the remuneration packages of the executive Directors and senior management of the Group. The remuneration committee also reviewed and approved the grant of 7,542,300 share awards to eligible employees participants under the Share Award Scheme.

Details of the remuneration payable to each Director of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out in note 31 to the consolidated financial statements.

The remuneration of the members of senior management by band for the year ended 31 August 2023 is set out below:

Remuneration bands (RMB)	Number of persons
10,000,001–20,000,000	—
1,000,001–10,000,000	2
0–1,000,000	2
Total	4

Nomination Committee

The Company has established a nomination committee in compliance with the Corporate Governance Code. The primary duties of the nomination committee are to make recommendations to the Board on the appointment of Directors and management of Board succession.

The nomination committee comprises one executive Director, namely Mr. Li, and two independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Zhang Zhixue and Mr. Xia Zuoquan. Mr. Li is the chairman of the nomination committee.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the nomination committee convened one meeting. The attendance record of the Directors at meeting(s) of the nomination committee is set out in the table on page 55.

During the meeting, the nomination committee reviewed the structure, size, composition and diversity of the Board and assessed the independence of the independent non-executive Directors.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Board Diversity Policy

The Company has adopted a board diversity policy (the “**Diversity Policy**”) which sets out the approach to achieve diversity of the Board. The Company embraces the benefits of having a diverse Board to enhance the quality of its performance.

Pursuant to the Diversity Policy, the Company seeks to achieve Board diversity through the consideration of a number of aspects, including, but not limited to, gender, age, culture and educational background, professional qualifications, skills, knowledge and industry and regional experience.

In identifying and selecting suitable candidates to serve as a director of the Company, the nomination committee would consider the above criteria necessary to complement the corporate strategy and achieve Board diversity, where appropriate, before making recommendations to the Board.

The Board will consider setting measurable objectives to implement the Diversity Policy and review such objectives from time to time to ensure their appropriateness and ascertain the progress made towards achieving those objectives.

The Board currently has two female Directors out of six Directors, and is committed to improving gender diversity as and when suitable candidates are identified. The Company is of the view that gender diversity in respect of the Board has been achieved. Of the 8,386 employees (including senior management) of the Group as at 31 August 2023, 5,493 are female. Accordingly, the Company considers that gender diversity is also achieved in its workforce generally.

During the Reporting Period, the Board, through the Nomination Committee, has reviewed the implementation and effectiveness of the Diversity Policy and confirm that the Board has an appropriate mix of skills and experience to deliver the Company’s strategy.

The nomination committee has reviewed the Diversity Policy in respect of the year ended 31 August 2023 and is of the view that the Diversity Policy has been effectively implemented.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

NOMINATION POLICY

On 27 November 2018, the Company also adopted a nomination policy (the “**Nomination Policy**”) in accordance with the Corporate Governance Code, which sets out the procedure for the selection, appointment and reappointment of Directors containing the selection criteria and the Board succession planning considerations. The Nomination Policy is reproduced as follows:

1. OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 The nomination committee is committed to ensuring that the Board of Directors has a balance of skills, experience and diversity of perspectives appropriate to the requirements of the Company’s business.
- 1.2 The nomination committee shall identify, consider and recommend suitable individuals to the Board to consider and to make recommendations to the Shareholders for election of Directors at a general meeting either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the Board.
- 1.3 The nomination committee shall make recommendations to the Board on the appointment or re-appointment of Directors and succession planning (the “**Succession Planning**”) for Directors, in particular, the chairman of the Board and the chief executive officer of the Company.
- 1.4 The nomination committee may, as it considers appropriate, nominate a number of candidates more than the number of Directors to be appointed or re-appointed at a general meeting, or the number of casual vacancies to be filled.
- 1.5 The ultimate responsibility for selection and appointment of Directors rests with the entire Board.

2. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.1 The factors listed below would be used as reference by the nomination committee in assessing the suitability and the potential contribution to the Board of a proposed candidate:
 - reputation for integrity;
 - professional qualifications and skills;
 - accomplishment and experience in the internet services and new retail markets;
 - commitment in respect of available time and relevant interest;
 - independence of proposed independent non-executive Directors; and
 - diversity in all aspects, including but not limited to gender, age (18 years or above), cultural and educational background, ethnicity, professional experience, skills, knowledge, and length of service.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

- 2.2 The above factors are for reference only, and not meant to be exhaustive and decisive. The nomination committee has the discretion to nominate any person to the Board, as it considers appropriate.

3. NOMINATION PROCEDURES

- 3.1 The secretary of the nomination committee shall call a meeting of the nomination committee, and invite nominations of candidates from the Board, if any, for consideration by the nomination committee prior to its meeting.
- 3.2 The nomination committee shall nominate candidates for the consideration and recommendation of the board. the nomination committee may propose candidates who are not nominated by the Board. The Board shall have the final decision on all matters in relation to its nomination of any candidates to stand for election at a general meeting.
- 3.3 The candidate nominated by the Board to stand for election at a general meeting (the “**Board Candidate**”, together with the Shareholder Candidate defined in paragraph 3.6 below, the “**Candidate**”) will submit the necessary personal information, together with his/her written consent to be elected as a Director and to the publication of his/her personal information for the purpose of or in relation to his/her standing for election as a Director. The nomination committee may request the Board Candidate to provide additional information and documents, if considered necessary.
- 3.4 A circular will be sent to the Shareholders (the “**Shareholder Circular**”) as to provide information of the Board Candidate, and to invite nominations from the Shareholders. The Shareholder Circular will include (i) the period for lodgment (the “**Lodgment Period**”) of nominations by the Shareholders; (ii) the personal information of the Board Candidate as required by the applicable laws, rules and regulations, inter alia, name, brief biographies (including qualifications and relevant experience), independence, proposed remuneration.
- 3.5 Until the issue of the Shareholder Circular, the Board Candidate shall not assume that he/she has been nominated by the Board to stand for election at the general meeting.
- 3.6 A Shareholder can serve a notice (the “**Notice**”) to the company secretary of the Company (the “**Company Secretary**”) within the Lodgment Period to propose another person (the “**Shareholder Candidate**”) other than the Board Candidate for election as a Director. The Notice (i) must include the personal information of the Shareholder Candidate, as required by Rule 13.51(2) of the Listing Rules; and (ii) must be signed by the Shareholder concerned and signed by the Shareholder Candidate indicating his/her consent to be elected and to the publication of his/her personal information for the purpose of or in relation to his/her standing for election as a Director. The particulars of the Shareholder Candidate will be sent to the Shareholders for information by a supplementary circular.
- 3.7 The Candidate is allowed to withdraw his/her candidature at any time before the general meeting by serving a notice in writing to the Company Secretary.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

3.8 The resolution for election of Directors for the Shareholder Candidate shall take the same form as for the Board Candidate.

4. SUCCESSION PLANNING

4.1 The objectives of Succession Planning are to ensure an effective and orderly succession of Directors and to maintain the balance of diversity, collective knowledge and skills of the Board necessary for the effective governance of the Company.

4.2 The following considerations will be used by the nomination committee in making recommendations for the Succession Planning:

4.2.1 Required knowledge, skills and experience at a full Board composite level to effectively fulfill the Board's legal role and responsibilities;

4.2.2 An appropriate balance of diversity across the Board, as set out in Section 2.1 and Section 4 of the Nomination Policy;

4.2.3 Personal qualities of each candidate with reference but not limited to the factors listed in Section 2.1 of the Nomination Policy;

4.2.4 Continuity through a smooth succession of Directors; and

4.2.5 Compliance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

4.3 The above considerations are for reference only, and not meant to be exhaustive and decisive. The nomination committee will review the Succession Planning together with the Board periodically, and recommend revisions, if any, to the Board for consideration and approval.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY

Unless required by law or any regulatory authority, under no circumstances shall a member of the nomination committee or an employee of the Company disclose any information to or entertain any enquiries from the public with regard to any nomination or candidature before the Shareholder Circular, as the case may be, is issued. Following the issue of the Shareholder Circular, the nomination committee or the Company Secretary or other employee of the Company approved by the nomination committee may answer enquiries from the regulatory authorities or the public but confidential information regarding nominations and the Candidate should not be disclosed.

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The nomination committee will report annually a summary of the Nomination Policy including the nomination procedures, criteria for selection, the diversity policy and the progress made towards achieving these objectives in the Company's corporate governance report.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

7. REVIEW OF THE POLICY

The nomination committee will review the Nomination Policy as appropriate and recommend revisions, if any, to the Board for consideration and approval.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FUNCTION

The Board is responsible for performing the functions set out in code provision A.2.1 of the Corporate Governance Code.

The Board would review the Company's corporate governance policies and practices, training and continuous professional development of the Directors and senior management, the Company's policies and practices on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, and the Company's compliance with the Corporate Governance Code and disclosure in its Corporate Governance Report.

The Directors are encouraged to participate in continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills. The joint company secretaries of the Company may from time to time and as the circumstances require provide updated written training materials relating to the roles, functions and duties of a director of a company listed on the Stock Exchange.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

The Group is committed to achieving the highest standards of integrity and ethical behaviour in conducting business. The Company has adopted an anti-corruption policy (the "**Anti-corruption Policy**") which sets out the specific behavioural guidelines that the Group's personnel and business partners must follow to combat corruption. The Group has also formulated the Measures for Anti-embezzlement and Reporting Management Mechanism to prevent bribery, extortion, fraud, money laundering and other types of embezzlement.

Please refer to the section headed "Anti-Corruption" in the "Environment, Social and Governance Report 2023" for further details.

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY AND SYSTEM

The Company has established the whistleblowing policy (the "**Whistleblowing Policy**") for employees to directly report to the internal audit function for any serious concerns about suspected fraud, corruption, malpractice, misconduct or irregularity of the Group. The internal audit function will investigate the reported cases in a confidential and timely manner and report the results of investigations to the Audit Committee.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

MECHANISMS TO ENSURE INDEPENDENT VIEWS AND INPUT

In order to ensure that independent views and input of the independent non-executive Directors are made available to the Board, the Nomination Committee and the Board are committed to assess the Directors' independence annually with regards to all relevant factors related to the independent non-executive Directors including the following:

- a. required character, integrity, expertise, experience and stability to fulfill their roles;
- b. time commitment and attention to the Company's affairs;
- c. firm commitment to their independent roles and to the Board;
- d. declaration of conflict of interest in their roles as independent non-executive Directors;
- e. no involvement in the daily management of the Company nor in any relationship or circumstances which would affect the exercise of their independent judgement; and
- f. the Chairman meets with the independent non-executive Directors regularly without the presence of the executive Directors.

During the Reporting Period, the Company has reviewed the implementation and effectiveness of such mechanisms and considered they are effective and adequate.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for preparing the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The Directors are not aware of any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECTORS

Directors keep abreast of the responsibilities as a director of the Company and of the conduct, business activities and development of the Company.

The Company acknowledges the importance of directors participating in appropriate continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills to ensure that their contribution to the Board remains informed and relevant internally-facilitated briefings for directors have been arranged and reading material on relevant topics would be issued to directors where appropriate. They are encouraged to attend relevant training course at the Company's expenses.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Company arranges regular seminars to provide Directors with updates on latest development and changes in the Listing Rules and other relevant legal and regulatory requirements from time to time. The Directors are also provided with regular updates on the Company's performance, position and prospects to enable the Board as a whole and each Director to discharge their duties.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the key methods of attaining continuous professional development by each of the Directors are summarized as follows:

Name of Director	Attending courses/ seminars/conferences	Reading books/ journals/articles
Executive Directors:		
Mr. Li Guangyu	✓	✓
Ms. Li Hua	✓	✓
Ms. Qiu Hongjun	✓	✓
Independent Non-executive Directors:		
Mr. Chen Lei	✓	✓
Mr. Xia Zuoquan	✓	✓
Mr. Zhang Zhixue	✓	✓

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY AND REMUNERATION

The Company appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers, Certified Public Accountants, Hong Kong ("**PricewaterhouseCoopers**") as the external auditor for the year ended 31 August 2023. A statement by PricewaterhouseCoopers about their reporting responsibilities for the financial statements is included in the Independent Auditor's Report on pages 71 to 78.

Details of the fees paid/payable in respect of the audit and non-audit services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers for the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out in the table below:

Services rendered for the Company	Fees paid and payable RMB'000
Audit and audit related services	4,251
Total	4,251

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Board acknowledges that it is responsible for the Company's risk management and internal control systems and reviewing their effectiveness. The risk management and internal control measures are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board had conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the risk management and internal control system of the Company in respect of the year ended 31 August 2023 and considered the system effective and adequate.

The Group has established an internal control department and each of its schools has designated the relevant personnel who will be responsible for identifying and monitoring the Group's risks and internal control issues and reports directly to the Board of any findings and follow-up actions. Each of the Group's schools is required to adhere strictly to the Group's internal control procedures and report to the internal control team of any risks or internal control measures.

The Group has also adopted an information disclosure policy which sets out comprehensive guidelines in respect of handling and dissemination of inside information. The Board is responsible for monitoring and implementing the procedural requirements in the information disclosure policy. Release of inside information shall be overseen by the Board. Unless authorised by the Board, staff members of the Group are not permitted to disseminate inside information relating to the Group to any external parties and are not permitted to respond to media or market speculation which may materially affect the trading price or volume of the Shares on the market. Further, Ms. Qiu Hongjun and Mr. Xu Bin are responsible for the internal audit of the Company.

In the ordinary course of the Group's business, sensitive data is collected and stored, including, among other things, identity information about our students and our employees, intellectual property, and proprietary business information. The Group manages and maintains our applications and data utilising on-site systems. These applications and data encompass a wide variety of business critical information including commercial information, and business and financial information. The Group has implemented relevant internal procedures and controls to ensure that such sensitive data is protected and that leakage and loss of such data is avoided.

The Company's audit committee and management together monitor the implementation of our risk management policies on an ongoing basis to ensure our policies and implementation are effective and sufficient. Arrangements are in place to identify, evaluate and manage significant risks including facilitating employees of the Company to raise, in confidence, concerns about possible improprieties in financial reporting, internal control or other matters of the Company. Our management, under the supervision of our Board or a committee of our Board takes reasonable steps to (i) monitor compliance with the CG Code, and (ii) when appropriate, impose and enforce appropriate disciplinary measures for violations of the CG Code.

The Board acknowledges that it is responsible for the risk management and internal control systems and reviewing their effectiveness. These systems are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

JOINT COMPANY SECRETARIES

Mr. Xu Bin, the joint company secretary, is responsible for advising the Board on corporate governance matters and ensuring that Board policy and procedures, and applicable laws, rules and regulations are followed.

In order to uphold good corporate governance and ensure compliance with the Listing Rules and applicable Hong Kong laws, the Company also engages Ms. Ng Ka Man, as the joint company secretary to assist Mr. Xu in discharging the duties of a company secretary of the Company. Ms. Ng's primary contact person at the Company is Mr. Xu Bin, the chief financial officer of the Company. For the year ended 31 August 2023, Mr. Xu and Ms. Ng's have undertaken not less than 15 hours of relevant professional training respectively in compliance with Rule 3.29 of the Listing Rules.

Ms. Ng is a senior manager of the Listing Services Department of TMF Hong Kong Limited and is responsible for provision of corporate secretarial and compliance services to listed company clients. She has over 15 years of experience in the company secretarial field. She is a Chartered Secretary, a Corporate Governance Professional and a member of both The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute and The Chartered Governance Institute in the United Kingdom.

SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS

Convening of Extraordinary General Meetings ("EGM") by Shareholders and Putting Forward Proposal

Pursuant to article 12.3 of the Articles of Association, the Board may, whenever it thinks fit, convene an EGM. General meetings shall also be convened on the written requisition of any one or more Shareholders deposited at the principal office of the Company in Hong Kong or, in the event the Company ceases to have such a principal office, the registered office specifying the objects of the meeting and the resolutions to be added to the meeting agenda, and signed by the requisitionists, provided that such requisitionists held as at the date of deposit of the requisition not less than one-tenth of the voting rights, on a one vote per share basis, of the Company which carries the right of voting at general meetings of the Company.

General meetings may also be convened on the written requisition of any one Shareholder which is a recognized clearing house (or its nominee(s)) deposited at the principal office of the Company in Hong Kong or, in the event the Company ceases to have such a principal office, the registered office specifying the objects of the meeting and the resolutions to be added to the meeting agenda, and signed by the requisitionist, provided that such requisitionist held as at the date of deposit of the requisition not less than one-tenth of the voting rights, on a one vote per share basis, of the Company which carries the right of voting at general meetings of the Company.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

If the Board does not within 21 days from the date of deposit of the requisition proceed duly to convene the meeting to be held within a further 21 days, the requisitionist(s) themselves or any of them holding not less than one-tenth of the voting rights, on a one vote per share basis, may convene the general meeting in the same manner, as nearly as possible, as that in which meetings may be convened by the Board provided that any meeting so convened shall not be held after the expiration of three months from the date of deposit of the requisition, and all reasonable expenses incurred by the requisitionist(s) as a result of the failure of the Board shall be reimbursed to them by the Company.

Putting Forward Enquiries to the Board and Contact Details

For putting forward any enquiries to the Board of the Company, Shareholders may send written enquiries to the Company. The Company will not normally deal with verbal or anonymous enquiries.

Shareholders may send their enquiries or requests as mentioned above to the following:

Address: 31/F, Tower Two, Times Square
1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay
Hong Kong
(For the attention of the Board of Directors)

Telephone: +86 371 6067 3935

Fax: +86 371 6595 0708

Email: wangrui@yuhuachina.com

COMMUNICATION WITH SHAREHOLDERS AND INVESTORS RELATIONS

The Company considers that effective communication with Shareholders is essential for enhancing investor relations and investor understanding of the Group's business performance and strategies. The Company also recognizes the importance of timely and non-selective disclosure of information, which will enable Shareholders and investors to make the informed investment decisions.

The annual general meeting of the Company provides opportunity for the Shareholders to communicate directly with the Directors. The chairman of the Company and the chairmen of the Board committees of the Company will attend the annual general meetings to answer Shareholders' questions. The Auditor will also attend the annual general meetings to answer questions about the conduct of the audit, the preparation and content of the auditor's report, the accounting policies and auditor independence.

To promote effective communication, the Company adopts a shareholders' communication policy (the "**Shareholders' Communication Policy**") which aims at (i) promoting effective communication with the Shareholders and other stakeholders; and (ii) encouraging the Shareholders to engage actively with the Company; and enable the Shareholders to exercise their rights as shareholders effectively.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT (CONTINUED)

During the Reporting Period, the Company has reviewed the implementation and effectiveness of the Shareholders' Communication Policy. The Company is of the view that the Shareholders' Communication Policy has facilitated sufficient Shareholders' communication and considered the policy is effective and adequate.

CHANGES IN CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS

During the year ended 31 August 2023, a new amended and restated memorandum and articles of association of the Company were approved by the Shareholders at the annual general meeting of the Company held on 17 April 2023.

For details, please refer to the Company's announcement dated 13 March 2023, the circular dated 21 March 2023 and the poll results announcement dated 17 April 2023.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

OPINION

What we have audited

The consolidated financial statements of China YuHua Education Corporation Limited (the “**Company**”) and its subsidiaries (the “**Group**”), which are set out on pages 79 to 179, comprise:

- the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 August 2023;
- the consolidated statement of profit or loss for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Our opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 August 2023, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“**IFRSs**”) and have been properly prepared in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (“**ISAs**”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (“**IESBA Code**”), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, 22F Prince’s Building, Central, Hong Kong
T: +852 2289 8888, F: +852 2810 9888, www.pwchk.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

KEY AUDIT MATTERS

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Key audit matters identified in our audit are summarised as follows:

- Assessment of control over the consolidated affiliated entities through contractual arrangements
- Income taxes for high schools and universities in mainland China
- Impairment assessment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p>Assessment of control over the consolidated affiliated entities through contractual arrangements</p> <p>Refer to Note 2.2.1(a) Subsidiaries – Consolidation – Subsidiaries controlled through Contractual Arrangements and Note 4(a) Critical accounting estimates and judgments – Contractual Arrangements to the consolidated financial statements.</p> <p>The Group conducts a substantial portion of its business through the Consolidated Affiliated Entities in mainland China due to the regulatory requirements that restrict foreign ownership in the high school and university education service industry in mainland China. The Group does not have any direct legal ownership of equity interest in the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. Nonetheless, through the establishment and implementation of a series of contractual arrangements (the “Contractual Arrangements”), the Group has rights to exercise power over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, has exposure, or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, and has ability to affect those returns through its power over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, and the Directors considered that the Group has control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. Consequently, the Company regards the Consolidated Affiliated Entities as controlled structure entities under IFRS and consolidates these entities as its indirect subsidiaries in the consolidated financial statements of the Group.</p>	<p>In addressing this matter, we had performed the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discussed with management to understand the latest regulatory development and whether there were any changes in facts and circumstances which might have an impact on the Contractual Arrangements; – Evaluated the Company’s assessment and judgments on the validity and enforceability of the Contractual Arrangements with the assistance of our internal legal expert and the assessment of the Group’s control over Consolidated Affiliated Entities through the Contractual Arrangements; – Obtained the written opinion from the Company’s PRC external legal counsel and discussed with them to understand their analysis and views as to the validity and enforceability of the Contractual Arrangements with respect to all relevant PRC laws and regulations officially promulgated, publicly available and publicly known, and evaluated whether these evidences support the relevant judgments made by the Directors; – Assessed the competency, capabilities and objectivity of the Company’s PRC external legal counsel; and – Assessed the adequacy of related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. <p>Based on the procedures performed, we found the management’s judgments on continue to control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and therefore consolidate these entities in the consolidated financial statements were supported by the evidence we obtained.</p>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p>During the year, the Directors reassessed, with the involvement of an external legal counsel appointed by the Company, whether there were any changes in facts and circumstances that may impact the validity and enforceability of the Contractual Arrangements. Based on the results of the assessment, it was concluded that the Contractual Arrangements among the wholly foreign owned entity of the Group, the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and their equity shareholders continue to be in compliance with all relevant PRC laws and regulations officially promulgated, publicly available and publicly known, and are legally enforceable.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Directors are of the view that the Company continues to control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and therefore consolidates the Consolidated Affiliated Entities in the consolidated financial statements of the Group as at and for the year ended 31 August 2023.</p> <p>We focus on this area due to the complexity and high level of judgments involved in determining the validity and enforceability of the Contractual Arrangements in order to evaluate whether it is appropriate for the Company to consolidate the Consolidated Affiliated Entities under IFRS, which could have significant and pervasive implications to the consolidated financial statements.</p>	

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p>Income taxes for high schools and universities in mainland China</p> <p>Refer to Note 4(b) Critical accounting estimates and judgments – Current and deferred income taxes and Note 11 Income taxation to the consolidated financial statements.</p> <p>The high schools and the universities in mainland China within the Group (collectively the “Schools”) have elected to be private schools whose sponsors do not require reasonable returns.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Implementation Rules for the Law for Promoting Private Education, private schools whose sponsors do not require reasonable returns shall be entitled to the same preferential tax treatments as public schools, which are exempted from the PRC corporate income tax based on historical experience.</p> <p>However, there have been no rules specifying the eligibility of preferential tax treatments for public schools in the Corporate Income Tax Law of the PRC or other relevant tax rules and regulations.</p> <p>Based on the Assessment made by management, they considered that all these Schools are eligible to apply the preferential tax treatments and no PRC corporate income tax has been provided for these Schools for the year ended 31 August 2023.</p> <p>Significant management judgments are required in determining the provision for PRC corporate income taxes for such Schools in mainland China as there are uncertainties in interpreting and practical application of the relevant tax rules and regulations in respect of the eligibility of preferential tax treatments by such Schools.</p> <p>Therefore, we focus on this area due to the high level of management judgments involved in determining whether the Group is eligible to apply the preferential tax treatments on the PRC corporate income tax.</p>	<p>In addressing this matter, we had performed the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evaluated the registration of the Group’s Schools as private schools whose sponsors do not require reasonable returns by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checked the legal documents such as the latest registration documents and articles of the Schools; • Reviewed the board meeting minutes and financial statements of the Schools to make sure no dividend was declared or paid by them; – Discussed with the Group’s PRC legal counsel and obtained their legal opinions which confirmed each of the Schools is not required to pay PRC corporate income tax to its respective tax authorities and this is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations in China that those Schools are eligible to apply such preferential tax treatments; – Interviewed the responsible officials of the local tax bureaus of selected Schools to confirm that the selected Schools are eligible to apply the preferential income tax treatments and are exempt from the PRC corporate income tax, also there is no violation of PRC tax laws; – Assessed the eligibility of applying the preferential tax treatments of selected Schools with the assistance of our internal tax experts by inspecting and understanding the applicable tax laws and regulations, new policies or rules if any, and historical tax returns filed to assess if management’s understanding and interpretation could be supported. <p>Based on the procedures performed, we found management’s judgments on the Schools’ eligibility to apply preferential tax treatments were supported by the evidence we obtained.</p>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p>Impairment assessment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives</p> <p>Refer to Note 4(c) Critical accounting estimates and judgments – Estimation of goodwill impairment and trademark impairment and Note 14(b) Intangible assets-Impairment tests of goodwill and trademark to the consolidated financial statements.</p> <p>The Group recognised goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives of RMB1,085 million and RMB409 million (Note 14(b)) respectively, as at 31 August 2023 arising from a number of prior years' acquisitions.</p> <p>Management performed impairment assessment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives annually. The recoverable amounts of the cash-generating units (“CGUs”) have been determined by management based on the value in use calculations. The value in use calculations use cash flow forecast based on financial budgets approved by the Board which involve the use of judgments applied by management, such as revenue growth rates, earnings before interest and tax margin (“EBIT Margin”), long-term growth rate and discount rate. Based on the impairment assessment, management considered no impairment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives was considered necessary.</p> <p>Due to the high level of management judgments and estimation applied in the impairment assessment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives, we considered it as a key audit matter.</p>	<p>In addressing this matter, we had performed the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Understood and evaluated key controls over management's impairment assessment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives; – Evaluated management's future cash flow forecasts and compared the management's forecasts to the Board's approved budget; – Tested the mathematical accuracy of the underlying value in use calculations of the CGUs; – Assessed the appropriateness of the valuation models and the discount rate, with the assistance of our internal valuation experts, taking into consideration of the cost of capital of the Group and comparable entities in the similar industry; – Assessed the appropriateness of the revenue growth rates and EBIT Margin by considering the latest five-year strategic plans, historical financial information, budget and revenue growth rates and EBIT Margin of comparable companies; – Assessed the appropriateness of the long-term growth rates by considering the economic forecasts in China and Thailand; – Reviewed management's sensitivity analysis on the key drivers of the cash flow forecast, including revenue growth rates, EBIT Margin, long-term growth rate and discount rate. <p>Based on the procedures performed, we found management's judgments and estimation applied in the impairment assessment of goodwill and trademark with indefinite useful lives were supported by the evidence we obtained.</p>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

OTHER INFORMATION

The directors of the Company are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all of the information included in the financial information and management discussion and analysis other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. We have obtained some of the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. The remaining other information, including the company profile, corporate information, directors and senior management information, report of directors, corporate governance report, environmental, social and governance report and financial summary and the other sections to be included in the annual report, is expected to be made available to us after that date.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

When we read the remaining other information to be included in the annual report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to Audit Committee and take appropriate action considering our legal rights and obligations.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. We report our opinion solely to you, as a body, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)



羅兵咸永道

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
CHINA YUHUA EDUCATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Continued)**
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Audit Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Audit Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is LEONG Kin Bong.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Certified Public Accountants

Hong Kong, 30 November 2023

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

	Note	Year ended 31 August	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
Revenue	5	2,380,276	2,380,372
Cost of revenue	8	(1,232,544)	(961,430)
Gross profit		1,147,732	1,418,942
Selling expenses	8	(24,872)	(27,893)
Administrative expenses	8	(200,540)	(198,847)
Net impairment losses on financial assets	3.1	(6,712)	(3,102)
Other income	6	21,678	20,336
Other gains/(losses) — net	7	190,420	(63,510)
Operating profit		1,127,706	1,145,926
Finance income	10	48,131	41,153
Finance expenses	10	(37,278)	(60,780)
Finance expenses — net	10	10,853	(19,627)
Profit before income tax		1,138,559	1,126,299
Income taxation	11	1,545	8,654
Profit for the year		1,140,104	1,134,953
Profit attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		1,134,726	1,125,705
Non-controlling interests		5,378	9,248
		1,140,104	1,134,953
Earnings per share attributable to owners of the Company (RMB Yuan)			
Basic earnings per share	12	0.32	0.32
Diluted earnings per share	12	0.24	0.31

The accompanying notes on pages 86 to 179 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	Year ended 31 August	
		2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Profit for the year		1,140,104	1,134,953
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss</i>			
Currency translation differences		(36,310)	(72,510)
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss</i>			
Changes in fair value related to the changes in credit risk of convertible bonds		14,851	39,571
Transfer of changes in fair value related to the changes in the credit risk of convertible bonds due to the termination of convertible bonds		(156,582)	—
Remeasurements of post-employment benefit obligations	9	524	932
Currency translation differences		28,104	43,763
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		(149,413)	11,756
Total comprehensive income for the year		990,691	1,146,709
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		985,313	1,137,461
Non-controlling interests		5,378	9,248
		990,691	1,146,709

The accompanying notes on pages 86 to 179 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	Note	As at 31 August 2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	13(a)	5,862,436	3,706,284
Intangible assets	14	1,609,202	1,531,545
Right-of-use assets	13(b)	1,847,953	1,892,066
Other non-current assets	16	120,518	34,277
Total non-current assets		9,440,109	7,164,172
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	17	174,745	76,272
Restricted cash	18(b)	552	11,576
Cash and cash equivalents	18(a)	2,370,966	4,240,783
Total current assets		2,546,263	4,328,631
Total assets		11,986,372	11,492,803
Equity and liabilities			
Equity attributable to owners of the Company			
Share capital	20	30	30
Share premium	20	1,762,405	1,741,528
Reserves	21	1,229,970	1,283,979
Retained earnings		3,961,268	2,762,999
		6,953,673	5,788,536
Non-controlling interests		39,899	34,521
Total equity		6,993,572	5,823,057

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

	Note	As at 31 August	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	24	220,000	430,000
Deferred income tax liabilities	15	485,155	493,516
Lease liabilities	13(b)	8,102	12,564
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	25	811,117	—
Deferred income		168,769	172,628
Total non-current liabilities		1,693,143	1,108,708
Current liabilities			
Accruals and other payables	23	1,323,739	1,077,602
Contract liabilities	5	729,591	1,471,401
Lease liabilities	13(b)	9,427	4,732
Borrowings	24	1,236,900	210,198
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	25	—	1,797,105
Total current liabilities		3,299,657	4,561,038
Total liabilities		4,992,800	5,669,746
Total equity and liabilities		11,986,372	11,492,803

The accompanying notes on pages 86 to 179 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

The consolidated financial statements on pages 79 to 179 were approved by the Board of Directors on 30 November 2023 and were signed on its behalf.

Li Hua
Director

Qiu Hongjun
Director

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Note	Share capital (Note 20) RMB'000	Share premium (Note 20) RMB'000	Capital reserve (Note 21(a)) RMB'000	Statutory surplus reserve (Note 21(b)) RMB'000	Share-based payments reserve RMB'000	Treasury shares reserve RMB'000	Other reserves RMB'000	Retained earnings RMB'000	Total RMB'000	Non-controlling interests RMB'000	Total equity RMB'000
At 1 September 2021		28	966,087	(134,067)	1,018,909	126,932	(134,721)	155,311	1,758,824	3,757,303	25,273	3,782,576
Total comprehensive income												
Profit for the year		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,125,705	1,125,705	9,248	1,134,953
Other comprehensive income		–	–	–	–	–	–	11,756	–	11,756	–	11,756
Total comprehensive income for the year		–	–	–	–	–	–	11,756	1,125,705	1,137,461	9,248	1,146,709
Transaction with owners in their capacity as owners:												
Issue of ordinary shares		2	752,741	–	–	–	–	–	–	752,743	–	752,743
Profit appropriation to statutory surplus reserves	21	–	–	–	121,530	–	–	–	(121,530)	–	–	–
Share-based compensation	22	–	–	–	–	17,299	–	–	–	17,299	–	17,299
Disposal of treasury shares		–	(27,897)	–	–	–	134,721	–	–	106,824	–	106,824
Issuance for share award scheme	22	–	16,906	–	–	–	–	–	–	16,906	–	16,906
Exercise of share options		–	33,691	–	–	(33,691)	–	–	–	–	–	–
		2	775,441	–	121,530	(16,392)	134,721	–	(121,530)	893,772	–	893,772
At 31 August 2022		30	1,741,528	(134,067)	1,140,439	110,540	–	167,067	2,762,999	5,788,536	34,521	5,823,057
At 1 September 2022		30	1,741,528	(134,067)	1,140,439	110,540	–	167,067	2,762,999	5,788,536	34,521	5,823,057
Total comprehensive income												
Profit for the year		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,134,726	1,134,726	5,378	1,140,104
Other comprehensive income		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Currency translation differences		–	–	–	–	–	–	(8,205)	–	(8,205)	–	(8,205)
Changes related to the credit risk of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss		–	–	–	–	–	–	14,851	–	14,851	–	14,851
Transfer of changes in fair value related to the changes in the credit risk of convertible bonds due to the termination of convertible bonds		–	–	–	–	–	–	(156,582)	156,582	–	–	–
Net gain on remeasurement of defined benefit plan		–	–	–	–	–	–	524	–	524	–	524
Total comprehensive income for the year		–	–	–	–	–	–	(149,412)	1,291,308	1,141,896	5,378	1,147,274
Transaction with owners in their capacity as owners:												
Profit appropriation to statutory surplus reserves	21	–	–	–	93,039	–	–	–	(93,039)	–	–	–
Share-based compensation	22	–	–	–	–	14,740	–	–	–	14,740	–	14,740
Disposal of treasury shares		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Issuance for share award scheme	22	–	8,501	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,501	–	8,501
Exercise of share options		–	12,376	–	–	(12,376)	–	–	–	–	–	–
		–	20,877	–	93,039	2,364	–	–	(93,039)	23,241	–	23,241
At 31 August 2023		30	1,762,405	(134,067)	1,233,478	112,904	–	17,655	3,961,268	6,953,673	39,899	6,993,572

The accompanying notes on pages 86 to 179 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Note	Year ended 31 August	
		2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	26(a)	420,763	2,205,241
Interest paid		(39,440)	(56,004)
Interest received		44,358	34,007
Income tax paid		(6,816)	—
Net cash generated from operating activities		418,865	2,183,244
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of property, plant and equipment		(2,255,225)	(313,566)
Purchases of intangible assets		(97,029)	(4,433)
Purchases of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3.3(b)	(600,000)	—
Disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3.3(b)	603,148	—
Changes in restricted cash		11,024	138,947
Interest received		530	2,269
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	26(a)	17,659	635
Payment of land use rights		—	(133,301)
Proceeds from disposal of intangible assets		—	161
Proceeds from disposal of land use rights		—	15,003
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,319,893)	(294,285)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

	Note	Year ended 31 August	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repurchase of the convertible bonds	25(b)(i)	(388,784)	—
Mandatory redemption of the convertible bonds	25(b)(iii)	(433,487)	—
Proceeds from borrowings		1,026,900	209,000
Repayments of borrowings		(210,198)	(419,153)
Principal elements of lease payments or finance lease payments		(9,597)	(5,106)
Proceeds from disposal of treasury shares		—	106,824
Net proceeds from issue of ordinary shares		—	752,743
Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities		(15,166)	644,308
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			
		(1,916,194)	2,533,267
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,240,783	1,655,884
Exchange gains on cash and cash equivalents		46,377	51,632
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		2,370,966	4,240,783

The accompanying notes on pages 86 to 179 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

China YuHua Education Corporation Limited (the “**Company**”) and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the “**Group**”) is principally engaged in the provision of private formal education from high school to university education services in mainland China and the Kingdom of Thailand (“**Thailand**”) (the “**Business**”).

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands on 25 April 2016 as an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Law, Cap 22 (Law 3 of 1961, as consolidated and revised), of the Cayman Islands. The address of the Company’s registered office is at the offices of Maples Corporate Services Limited at PO Box 309, Umland House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, the Cayman Islands. The ultimate holding company of the Company is GuangYu Investment Holdings Limited (the “**GuangYu Investment**”). The ultimate controlling party of the Group is Mr. Li Guangyu, who is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company (the “**Controlling Shareholder**”).

As further described in Notes 2.2.1(a) and 4(a) to the consolidated financial statements, due to the regulatory restrictions on foreign ownership of schools in mainland China, the Group conducts a substantial portion of its businesses through control of certain entities established in mainland China, together with their wholly owned schools, by way of contractual agreements. During the year, the Board of Directors re-assessed and concluded that the contractual agreements continue to be in compliance with all relevant PRC laws and regulations officially promulgated, publicly available and publicly known, and are legally enforceable. The Directors are of the view that the Group continues to control these entities. Accordingly, the Group continues to consolidate these entities in the consolidated financial statements.

The Company’s shares have been listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited since 28 February 2017 (the “**Listing**”).

The financial statements are presented in Renminbi (“**RMB**”).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“**IFRS**”) and requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622 of the laws of Hong Kong).

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgment in the process of applying the Group’s accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgment or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements are disclosed in Note 4.

2.1 Basis of preparation

2.1.1 *Going concern*

As at 31 August 2023, the Group’s current liabilities exceeded its current assets by RMB753,394,000. Included in the current liabilities as at 31 August 2023 were contract liabilities of RMB729,591,000 (being annual tuition and boarding fees received in advance which do not involve future cash outflows (Note 5)); and a current borrowing of RMB1,236,900,000 (Note 24). In addition, the Group also had a non-current borrowing of RMB220,000,000 (Note 24), the principal of which was all repayable by instalments more than twelve months from the year end date in accordance with the borrowing agreement, and convertible bonds classified under financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (“**Convertible Bonds**”) of RMB811,117,000 (Note 25). As at 31 August 2023, the Group had cash and cash equivalents of RMB2,370,966,000 (Note 18).

Based on the above, management has given careful consideration to the future liquidity and performance of the Group and its available sources of financing. In particular, management is actively considering financing arrangements to meet the repayment obligations outside of mainland China before the maturity of the Convertible Bonds. Management has prepared a cashflow projections for 12 months from 31 August 2023 in assessing whether the Group will have sufficient funds to fulfil its financial obligations and continue as a going concern. The Directors have reviewed the Group’s cash flow projections prepared by management and are of the opinion that the Group will have sufficient financial resources to support its operations and to meet its financial obligations and commitments as and when they fall due within twelve months from 31 August 2023. Accordingly, the Directors have prepared the consolidated financial statements on a going concern basis.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.1 Basis of preparation (Continued)

2.1.2 New and amended standards adopted by the Group

The Group has applied the following standards and amendments for the first time for their annual reporting period commencing 1 September 2022:

- *Reference to the Conceptual Framework – Amendments to IFRS 3.*
- *Covid-19 Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021 – Amendment to IFRS 16 (March 2021) (the “IFRS 16 Amendment (March 2021)”)*
- *Annual Improvement to IFRS standards 2018–2020*

The above standards did not have any impact on the amounts recognised in prior periods and are not expected to significantly affect the current or future periods.

2.1.3 New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

The following new and amended standards and interpretations are effective for the fiscal year beginning on 1 September 2023 and have not been early adopted by the Group:

		Effective for accounting periods beginning on
IFRS 17	Insurance Contracts	1 September 2023 (deferred from 1 January 2021)
Amendments to IAS 1	Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current	1 September 2023
Amendments to IAS 1	Non-current Liabilities as Current or Non-current	1 September 2023
Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2	Disclosure of Accounting Policies	1 September 2023
Amendments to IAS 8	Definition of Accounting Estimates	1 September 2023
Amendments to IAS 12	Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction	1 September 2023
Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28	Sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture	N/A

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.1 Basis of preparation (Continued)

2.1.3 *New standards and interpretations not yet adopted (Continued)*

The Group has not early adopted the abovementioned new or amended standards and interpretations in this annual financial information and will apply these new or amended standards and interpretations in accordance with their respective effective dates. The Group has already commenced an assessment of the related impact to the Group of these abovementioned standards and interpretation.

2.2 Subsidiaries

2.2.1 *Consolidation*

A subsidiary is an entity (including a structured entity) over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

(a) *Subsidiaries controlled through Contractual Arrangements*

The Group conducts a substantial portion of its business through YuHua Investment Management Co., Ltd, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments Co., Ltd, Zhengzhou Hanchen Education Science and Technology Limited, Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Science and Technology Limited, Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Management Company Limited, Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd and their wholly owned subsidiaries (collectively the “**Consolidated Affiliated Entities**”) in the mainland China through the contractual agreements (“**Contractual Agreements**”) entered into by Xizang Yuanpei Information Technology Management Company Limited (“**Xizang Yuanpei**”), a wholly foreign owned enterprise of the Group (“**WFOE**”), the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and their equity shareholders. The Contractual Agreements enable the Group to:

- exercise effective financial and operational control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities;
- exercise equity voting rights of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities;
- receive substantially all of the economic interests and returns generated by the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, in consideration for the technical and consulting services provided by the WFOEs, at the WFOEs’ discretion;

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.2 Subsidiaries (Continued)

2.2.1 Consolidation (Continued)

(a) Subsidiaries controlled through Contractual Arrangements (Continued)

- obtain the irrevocable and exclusive right for the WFOEs or their designated persons to purchase all or part of the equity interests in the Consolidated Affiliated Entities from their equity shareholders at a minimum purchase price permitted under the PRC laws and regulations at such WFOE's sole and absolute discretion to the extent permitted by PRC law. The equity shareholders shall return the amount of purchase consideration they have received to the WFOE. In addition, the equity shareholders are not allowed to sell, assign, transfer, or otherwise disposed of or create encumbrance over their interests in any of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities directly or indirectly without prior written consent of the WFOE; and
- obtain a pledge over the entire equity interest in the Consolidated Affiliated Entities from their equity shareholders to secure the performance of their obligations under the Contractual Agreements.

The Group does not have any equity interest in the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. However, as a result of the Contractual Agreements, the Group has rights to variable returns from its involvement with the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and is considered to control the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and accordingly the financial position and their operating results of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities are included in the Group's consolidated financial statements under IFRS.

Nevertheless, the Contractual Agreements may not be as effective as direct legal ownership in providing the Group with direct control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and uncertainties presented by the PRC legal system could impede the Group's beneficiary rights of the results, assets and liabilities of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. During the year ended 31 August 2023, the Directors, based on the advice of its legal counsel, consider that the contractual agreements among the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and their equity shareholders are in compliance with the relevant PRC laws and regulations and are legally enforceable.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.2 Subsidiaries (Continued)

2.2.1 Consolidation (Continued)

(b) Business combination

The Group applies the acquisition method to account for business combinations. The consideration transferred for the acquisition of a subsidiary is the fair values of the assets transferred, the liabilities incurred to the former owners of the acquiree and the equity interests issued by the Group. The consideration transferred includes the fair value of any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date.

The Group recognises any non-controlling interest in the acquiree on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis. Non-controlling interests in the acquiree that are present ownership interests and entitle their holders to a proportionate share of the entity's net assets in the event of liquidation are measured at either fair value or the present ownership interests' proportionate share in the recognises amounts of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. All other components of non-controlling interests are measured at their acquisition date fair value, unless another measurement basis is required by IFRS.

Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred.

If the business combination is achieved in stages, the acquisition date carrying value of the acquirer's previously held equity interest in the acquiree is re-measured to fair value at the acquisition date; any gains or losses arising from such re-measurement are recognises in profit or loss.

Any contingent consideration to be transferred by the Group is recognizes at fair value at the acquisition date. Subsequent changes to the fair value of the contingent consideration that is deemed to be an asset or liability is recognises in accordance with IAS 39 in profit or loss. Contingent consideration that is classified as equity is not remeasured, and its subsequent settlement is accounted for within equity.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.2 Subsidiaries (Continued)

2.2.1 Consolidation (Continued)

(b) *Business combination (Continued)*

The excess of the consideration transferred, the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and the acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquiree over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If the total of consideration transferred, non-controlling interest recognises and previously held interest measured is less than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary acquired in the case of a bargain purchase, the difference is recognises directly in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Intra-group transactions, balances and recognises gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the transferred asset. When necessary, amounts reported by subsidiaries have been adjusted to conform with the Group's accounting policies.

(c) *Changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries without change of control*

Transactions with non-controlling interests that do not result in loss of control are accounted for as equity transactions — that is, as transactions with the owner in their capacity as owner. The difference between fair value of any consideration paid and the relevant share acquired of the carrying value of net assets of the subsidiary is recorded in equity. Gains or losses on disposals to non-controlling interests are also recorded in equity.

(d) *Disposal of subsidiaries*

When the Group ceases to have control, any retained interest in the entity is re-measured to its fair value at the date when control is lost, with the change in carrying amount recognises in profit or loss. The fair value is the initial carrying amount for the purposes of subsequently accounting for the retained interest as an associate, joint venture or financial asset. In addition, any amounts previously recognises in other comprehensive income in respect of that entity are accounted for as if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities or transferred to another category of equity as specified/permitted by applicable IFRS. This may mean that amounts previously recognises in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.2 Subsidiaries (Continued)

2.2.2 Separate financial statements

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment. Cost includes direct attributable costs of investment. The results of subsidiaries are accounted for by the Company on the basis of dividend received and receivable.

Impairment testing of the investments in subsidiaries is required upon receiving a dividend from these investments if the dividend exceeds the total comprehensive income of the subsidiary in the period the dividend is declared or if the carrying amount of the investment in the separate financial statements exceeds the carrying amount in the consolidated financial statements of the investee's net assets including goodwill.

2.3 Segment reporting

Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal reporting provided to the chief operating decision-maker. The chief operating decision-maker, who is responsible for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments, has been identified as the senior executive management team, including the Controlling Shareholder and other Directors that make strategic decisions.

2.4 Foreign currency translation

(a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ("**the functional currency**"). Since the majority of the assets and operations of the Group are located in the mainland China, the consolidated financial statements is presented in RMB, which is the functional currency of the subsidiaries carrying out the principle activities of the Group in the mainland China. The functional currency of subsidiaries in Thailand is Thai Baht ("**THB**"). The functional currency of the Company and subsidiaries outside mainland China and Thailand is Hong Kong Dollar ("**HK\$**").

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, except when deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges or qualifying net investment hedges.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.4 Foreign currency translation (Continued)

(b) Transactions and balances (Continued)

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the consolidated statement of profit or loss within 'finance income or expenses'. All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income within 'Other gains/(losses) – net'.

(c) Group companies

The results and financial position of all the Group entities (none of which has the currency of a hyper-inflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- (i) assets and liabilities for each balance sheet presented are translated at the closing rate at the date of that balance sheet;
- (ii) income and expenses for each income statement are translated at average exchange rates (unless this average is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the rate on the dates of the transactions); and
- (iii) all resulting currency translation differences are recognised in other comprehensive income.

On consolidation, exchange differences arising from the translation of any net investment in foreign entities, and of borrowings and other financial instruments designated as hedges of such investments, are recognised in other comprehensive income. When a foreign operation is sold or any borrowings forming part of the net investment are repaid, the associated exchange differences are reclassified to profit or loss, as part of the gain or loss on sale.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate. Currency translation differences arising are recognised in other comprehensive income.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.5 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment comprise mainly buildings, decoration improvements, motor vehicles, electronic equipment, furniture and fixtures are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses (if any). Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items. Cost may also include foreign currency purchases of property, plant and equipment.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost to their residual values over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

– Buildings	25–50 years
– Decoration improvements	5 years
– Motor vehicles	5–8 years
– Electronic equipment	4–8 years
– Furniture and fixtures	5–8 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (Note 2.7).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised within 'Other gains/(losses) – net' in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Construction-in-progress (“**CIP**”) represents buildings, plant and machinery under construction or pending installation and is stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses (if any). Cost includes the costs of construction and acquisition and capitalised borrowing costs. No provision for depreciation is made on CIP until such time as the relevant assets are completed and ready for intended use. When the assets concerned are available for use, the costs are transferred to the respective categories of property, plant and equipment and depreciated in accordance with the policy as stated above.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.6 Intangible assets

(a) Goodwill

Goodwill arises on the acquisition of subsidiaries represents the excess of the consideration transferred, the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and the acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquiree over the fair value of the identified net assets acquired.

For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is allocated to each of the cash-generating units (“**CGUs**”), or groups of CGUs, that is expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination. Each unit or group of units to which the goodwill is allocated represents the lowest level within the entity at which the goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes. Goodwill is monitored at the operating segment level.

Goodwill impairment reviews are undertaken annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate a potential impairment. The carrying amount of goodwill is compared to the recoverable amount, which is the higher of value in use (“**VIU**”) and the fair value less costs of disposal (“**FVLCD**”). Any impairment is recognised immediately as an expense and is not subsequently reversed.

(b) Trademarks

Separately acquired trademarks are shown at historical cost. Trademarks acquired in a business combination are recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. Trademarks arising from the acquisitions of LEI Lie Ying Limited and Jinan Shuangsheng Education Consulting Co., Ltd. Have indefinite useful life. Trademark arising from the acquisition of Thai Education Holdings Co., Ltd. has 10 years of useful life.

Impairment reviews of trademarks with indefinite useful life are undertaken annually or more frequently and impairment reviews of trademarks subject to amortisation are undertaken if events or changes in circumstances indicate a potential impairment. The carrying value of trademarks is compared to the recoverable amount, which is the higher of VIU and FVLCD.

(c) Software

Acquired software licences are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring the specific software into usage. These costs are amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives varying from 5 to 10 years. Costs associated with maintaining software programmes are recognised as an expense as incurred.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.7 Impairment of non-financial assets

Goodwill and intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life or intangible assets not ready to use are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's FVLCD and VIU. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (CGUs). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

2.8 Investments and other financial assets

(a) Classification

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through other comprehensive income ("**OCI**"), or through profit or loss); and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

For assets measured at fair value, gains and losses will either be recorded in profit or loss or other comprehensive income. For investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading, this will depend on whether the Group has made an irrevocable election at the time of initial recognition to account for the equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income ("**FVOCI**").

The Group reclassifies debt and equity investments when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

(b) Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.8 Investments and other financial assets (Continued)

(c) Measurement

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss (“**FVPL**”), transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at FVPL are expensed in profit or loss.

Financial assets with embedded derivatives are considered in their entirety when determining whether their cash flows are solely payment of principal and interest.

Debt instruments

Subsequent measurement of financial assets depends on the Group’s business model for managing the asset and the cash flow characteristics of the asset. There are three measurement categories into which the Group classifies its debt instruments:

- **Amortised cost:** Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognised directly in profit or loss and presented in other gains/(losses), together with foreign exchange gains and losses. Impairment losses are presented as separate line item in the statement of profit or loss.
- **FVOCI:** Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows and for selling the financial assets, where the assets’ cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are measured at FVOCI. Movements in the carrying amount are taken through OCI, except for the recognition of impairment gains or losses, interest revenue and foreign exchange gains and losses which are recognised in profit or loss. When the financial asset is derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in OCI is reclassified from equity to profit or loss and recognised in other gains/(losses). Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in other gains/(losses) and impairment expenses are presented as separate line item in the statement of profit or loss.
- **FVPL:** Assets that do not meet the criteria for amortised cost or FVOCI are measured at FVPL. A gain or loss on a debt investment that is subsequently measured at FVPL is recognised in profit or loss and presented net within other gains/(losses) in the period in which it arises.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.8 Investments and other financial assets (Continued)

(c) *Measurement (Continued)*

Equity instruments

The Group subsequently measures all equity investments at fair value. Where the Group's management has elected to present fair value gains and losses on equity investments in OCI, there is no subsequent reclassification of fair value gains and losses to profit or loss following the derecognition of the investment. Dividends from such investments continue to be recognised in profit or loss as other income when the Group's right to receive payments is established.

Changes in the fair value of financial assets at FVPL are recognised in other gains/(losses) in the statement of profit or loss as applicable. Impairment losses (and reversal of impairment losses) on equity investments measured at FVOCI are not reported separately from other changes in fair value.

(d) *Impairment*

The Group assesses on a forward-looking basis the expected credit losses associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost and FVOCI. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk.

For trade receivables, the Group applies the simplified approach permitted by IFRS 9, which requires expected lifetime losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables, see Note 17 for further details.

2.9 Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the balance sheet when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The legally enforceable right must not be contingent on future events and must be enforceable in the normal course of business and in the event of default, insolvency or bankruptcy of the Company or the counterparty.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.10 Financial guarantee contracts

Financial guarantee contracts are recognised as a financial liability at the time the guarantee is issued. The liability is initially measured at fair value and subsequently at the higher of:

- the amount determined in accordance with the expected credit loss model under IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* and
- the amount initially recognised less, where appropriate, the cumulative amount of income recognised in accordance with the principles of IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

The fair value of financial guarantees is determined based on the present value of the difference in cash flows between the contractual payments required under the debt instrument and the payments that would be required without the guarantee, or the estimated amount that would be payable to a third party for assuming the obligations.

Where guarantees in relation to loans or other payables of associates are provided for no compensation, the fair values are accounted for as contributions and recognised as part of the cost of the investment.

2.11 Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due from students of university for services performed in the ordinary course of business. If collection of trade and other receivables is expected in one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if longer), they are classified as current assets. If not, they are presented as non-current assets.

Trade receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components, when they are recognised at fair value. The Group holds the trade receivables with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. See Note 17 for further information about the Group's accounting for trade receivables and Note 3.1 for a description of the Group's impairment policies.

2.12 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the balance sheet.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.13 Share capital and shares held for employee share scheme

Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

Where the Company's shares are acquired from the market by the China Yuhua Employees Benefit Trust under the employee share scheme, the total consideration of shares acquired from the market (including any directly attributable incremental costs) is presented as shares held for employee share scheme and deducted from total equity. Upon vesting, the related costs of the vested shares for employee share scheme purchased from the market are credited to shares held for employee share scheme, with a corresponding decrease in employee share-based compensation reserve for employee share scheme.

2.14 Accruals and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. Accruals and other payables are presented as current liabilities unless payment is not due within 12 months after the reporting period. They are recognised initially at their fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.15 Borrowings

Borrowings including the initial tranche of convertible loans are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost; any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption value is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.15 Borrowings (Continued)

Borrowings are removed from the balance sheet when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss as other income or finance costs.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

2.16 Borrowing costs

General and specific borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets, which are assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

Investment income earned on the temporary investment of specific borrowings pending their expenditure on qualifying assets is deducted from the borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation.

All other borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

2.17 Convertible bonds

Convertible bonds issued by the Company can be converted into the share capital of the Company at the option of the investor.

The Group designates convertible bonds as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss based on relevant requirements under IFRS. They are initially recognized at fair value. In the subsequent measurement, the amount of change in the fair value of the financial liability that is attributable to changes in the credit risk of that liability shall be presented in other comprehensive income, and the remaining amount of change in the fair value of convertible bond shall be presented in profit or loss.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.17 Convertible bonds (Continued)

When assessing whether the terms of convertible bonds were substantially modified, the Group choose to perform not only quantitative analysis but also qualitative assessment. Under the quantitative analysis, if the convertible bonds' present value of the new cash flows under the new terms is at least 10% different from the present value of the remaining cash flows of the original liabilities, using the original effective interest rate, the terms were substantially modified under IFRS. The Group's qualitative assessment depends on specific facts and circumstances, in order to identify whether the modifications of terms will significantly affect the economic risks of the convertible bonds. The Group's qualitative assessment considers factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A change in the currency in which the liability is denominated,
- A change in the interest basis (such as a change from fixed rate to floating rate, or vice versa),
- A change in any conversion features,
- A substantial change in covenants.

2.18 Current and deferred income tax

The income tax expense or credit for the period is the tax payable on the current period's taxable income based on the applicable income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences and to unused tax losses.

(a) *Current income tax*

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date in the countries where the Company's subsidiaries operate and generate taxable income. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation. It establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.18 Current and deferred income tax (Continued)

(b) Deferred income tax

Deferred income tax is recognised, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. However, deferred tax liabilities are not recognised if they arise from the initial recognition of goodwill, the deferred income tax is not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and when the deferred tax balances relate to the same taxation authority. Current tax assets and tax liabilities are offset where the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Current and deferred tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, the tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

2.19 Employee benefits

(a) Liabilities for wages and salaries

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liabilities are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.19 Employee benefits (Continued)

(b) Pension obligations

The entities within the Group registered in mainland China make employee benefit contributions based on certain percentage of the salaries of the employees to a defined contribution retirement benefit plan and medical benefit plan organised by relevant government authorities in mainland China on a monthly basis. The government authorities undertake to assume the retirement benefit obligations payable to the existing and future retired employees under these plans and the Group has no further obligation for post-retirement benefits beyond the contributions made. Contributions to these plans are expensed as incurred. Assets of the plans are held and managed by government authorities and are separate from those of the Group.

(c) Housing funds

The mainland China employees of the Group are also entitled to participate in various government-sponsored housing funds. The Group contributes on a monthly basis to those funds based on a certain percentage of the employee's salaries. The Group's liabilities in respect of these funds is limited to the contributions payable in each period. The non-mainland China employees are not covered by the housing funds.

(d) Post-employment obligations

Pension obligations

The liability or asset recognised in the balance sheet in respect of defined benefit pension plans is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period less the fair value of plan assets. The defined benefit obligation is calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method.

The present value of the defined benefit obligation is determined by discounting the estimated future cash outflows using interest rates of high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms approximating to the terms of the related obligation. In countries where there is no deep market in such bonds, the market rates on government bonds are used.

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of plan assets. This cost is included in employee benefit expense in the statement of profit or loss.

Remeasurement gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are recognised in the period in which they occur, directly in other comprehensive income. They are included in retained earnings in the statement of changes in equity and in the balance sheet.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.19 Employee benefits (Continued)

(d) Post-employment obligations (Continued)

Pension obligations (Continued)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from plan amendments or curtailments are recognised immediately in profit or loss as past service costs.

2.20 Share-based payments

Equity-settled share-based payment transactions

The Group operates a number of equity-settled, share-based compensation plans, under which the entity receives services from employees as consideration for equity instruments (options) of the Group. The fair value of the employee services received in exchange for the grant of the options is recognised as an expense. The total amount to be expensed is determined by reference to the fair value of the options granted:

- including any market performance conditions (for example, an entity's share price);
- excluding the impact of any service and non-market performance vesting conditions (for example, profitability, sales growth targets and remaining an employee of the entity over a specified time period); and
- including the impact of any non-vesting conditions (for example, the requirement for employees to save or holding shares for a specified period of time).

At the end of each reporting period, the Group revises its estimates of the number of options that are expected to vest based on the non-marketing performance and service conditions. It recognises the impact of the revision to original estimates, if any, in the statement of profit or loss, with a corresponding adjustment to equity.

In addition, in some circumstances employees may provide services in advance of the grant date and therefore the grant date fair value is estimated for the purposes of recognising the expense during the period between service commencement period and grant date.

When the options are exercised, the Company issues new shares. The proceeds received net of any directly attributable transaction costs are credited to share capital.

The grant by the Company of options over its equity instruments to the employees of subsidiary undertakings in the Group is treated as a capital contribution. The fair value of employee services received, measured by reference to the grant date fair value, is recognised over the vesting period as an increase to investment in subsidiary undertakings, with a corresponding credit to equity in the parent entity accounts.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.21 Revenue recognition

Revenues are recognised when, or as, the control of the goods or services is transferred to the customer. Depending on the business model, terms of the contract and the laws applicable, control of the goods and services may be transferred over time or at a point in time. If control of the goods and services transfers over time, revenue is recognised over the period of the contract by reference to the progress towards complete satisfaction of that performance obligation.

The Group's service income includes tuition fees and boarding fees from universities and high schools and property management service fee.

Tuition and boarding fees are generally received in advance prior to the beginning of each academic year, and are initially recorded as contract liabilities. Tuition and boarding fees are recognised proportionately over the terms of the applicable program. The portion of tuition and boarding payments received from students but not earned is recorded as contract liabilities. Amounts which will be earned within one year is reflected as a current liability, and those which will be earned beyond one year is reflected as a non-current liability.

Property management service fee is recognised based on the actual service provided to the end of the reporting period as a proportion of the total services to be provided because the customer receives and uses the benefits simultaneously.

Revenue from research projects and training programs are recognised proportionately over the terms of the applicable projects or programs, where applicable as other education services.

Revenue from school hospital service and other service are recognised at a point at time when the control of the services have transferred, being when the services are accepted by the customers.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.22 Earnings per share

(a) *Basic earnings per share*

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing:

- the profit attributable to owners of the company, excluding any costs of servicing equity other than ordinary shares
- by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the financial year, adjusted for bonus elements in ordinary shares issued during the year and excluding treasury shares.

(b) *Diluted earnings per share*

Diluted earnings per share adjusts the figures used in the determination of basic earnings per share to take into account:

- the after-income tax effect of interest and other financing costs associated with dilutive potential ordinary shares, and
- the weighted average number of additional ordinary shares that would have been outstanding assuming the conversion of all dilutive potential ordinary shares.

2.23 Leases

Leases are recognised as a right-of-use asset and a corresponding liability at the date at which the leased asset is available for use by the Group.

Contracts may contain both lease and non-lease components. The Group allocates the consideration in the contract to the lease and non-lease components based on their relative stand-alone prices. However, for leases of real estate for which the Group is a lessee, it has elected not to separate lease and non-lease components and instead accounts for these as a single lease component.

Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants other than the security interests in the leased assets that are held by the lessor. Leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.23 Leases (Continued)

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable
- variable lease payment that are based on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date
- amounts expected to be payable by the Group under residual value guarantees
- the exercise price of a purchase option if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise that option, and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising that option.

Lease payments to be made under reasonably certain extension options are also included in the measurement of the liability.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, which is generally the case for leases in the Group, the lessee's incremental borrowing rate is used, being the rate that the individual lessee would have to pay to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment with similar terms, security and conditions.

To determine the incremental borrowing rate, the Group:

- where possible, uses recent third-party financing received by the individual lessee as a starting point, adjusted to reflect changes in financing conditions since third party financing was received
- uses a build-up approach that starts with a risk-free interest rate adjusted for credit risk for leases held by the Group, which does not have recent third-party financing, and
- makes adjustments specific to the lease, e.g. term, country, currency and security.

If a readily observable amortising loan rate is available to the individual lessee (through recent financing or market data) which has a similar payment profile to the lease, then the group entities use that rate as a starting point to determine the incremental borrowing rate.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.23 Leases (Continued)

The Group is exposed to potential future increases in variable lease payments based on an index or rate, which are not included in the lease liability until they take effect. When adjustments to lease payments based on an index or rate take effect, the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Lease payments are allocated between principal and finance cost. The finance cost is charged to profit or loss over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period.

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received
- any initial direct costs, and
- restoration costs.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term on a straight-line basis. If the Group is reasonably certain to exercise a purchase option, the right-of-use asset is depreciated over the underlying asset's useful life. While the Group revalues its land and buildings that are presented within property, plant and equipment, it has chosen not to do so for the right-of-use buildings held by the Group.

Payments associated with short-term leases of equipment and vehicles and all leases of low-value assets are recognised on a straight-line basis as an expense in profit or loss. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less.

Lease income from operating leases where the Group is a lessor is recognised in income on a straight-line basis over the lease term (Note 13(b)). Initial direct costs incurred in obtaining an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the underlying asset and recognised as expense over the lease term on the same basis as lease income. The respective leased assets are included in the balance sheet based on their nature. The Group did not need to make any adjustments to the accounting for assets held as lessor as a result of adopting the new leasing standard.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.24 Dividend distribution

Dividend distribution to the Company's Shareholders is recognised as a liability in the Group's and the Company's financial statements in the period in which the dividends are approved by the Company's Shareholders or Directors, where appropriate.

2.25 Government grants

Grants from the government are recognised at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Group will comply with all attached conditions.

Government grants relating to costs are deferred and recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss over the period necessary to match them with the costs that they are intended to compensate.

Government grants relating to property, plant and equipment are included in non-current liabilities as deferred government grants and are credited to the consolidated statement of profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the expected lives of the related assets.

2.26 Interest income

Interest income from financial assets at FVPL is included in the net fair value gains/ (losses) on these assets, see Note 7 below.

Interest income on financial assets at amortised cost and financial assets at FVOCI calculated using the effective interest method is recognised in profit or loss as part of other income.

Interest income is presented as finance income where it is earned from financial assets that are held for cash management purposes, see Note 10 below. Any other interest income is included in other income.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method. When a loan and receivable is impaired, the Group reduces the carrying amount to its recoverable amount, being the estimated future cash flow discounted at the original effective interest rate of the instrument, and continues unwinding the discount as interest income. Interest income on impaired loans and receivables is recognised using the original effective interest rate.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

This note explains the Group's exposure to financial risks and how these risks could affect the Group's future financial performance. Current year profit and loss information has been included where relevant to add further context.

Risk	Exposure arising from	Measurement
Market risk — foreign exchange	Recognised financial assets and liabilities not denominated in RMB	Sensitivity analysis
Market risk — interest rate	Borrowings carried at floating rates	Sensitivity analysis
Credit risk	Cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, trade and other receivables and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	Aging analysis Credit ratings
Liquidity risk	Borrowings and other liabilities	Maturity analysis

The Group's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance. The Group regularly monitors its exposure and currently has not used any derivative financial instruments to hedge any of these financial risks.

3.1 Financial risk factors

(a) Market risk

(i) Foreign exchange risk

The Group primarily operates in mainland China with most of the transaction settled in RMB. The functional currencies of Group's subsidiaries in mainland China and Thailand is RMB and THB respectively, while the functional currency of the Company and subsidiaries outside mainland China and Thailand is HK\$. Both the entities in and outside mainland China have assets and liabilities like cash at bank and on hand, short-term bank deposits. Foreign exchange risk arises from the fluctuation in exchange rates.

The Group has continued to closely monitor and manage its exposure to fluctuation in foreign exchange rates during the year. The Group did not enter into any forward contract to manage its exposure to foreign exchange risk for the year.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(a) Market risk (Continued)

(i) Foreign exchange risk (Continued)

The carrying amounts of the Group's monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in currency other than functional currency of the respective group entities are as follows:

	As at 31 August 2023	
	US\$ (functional currency – HK\$) RMB'000	US\$ (functional currency – RMB) RMB'000
Cash at bank and on hand	138,907	8,776
Short-term bank deposits	93,354	–
Cash and cash equivalents	232,261	8,776
Interest receivables	–	–
	As at 31 August 2022	
	US\$ (functional currency – HK\$) RMB'000	US\$ (functional currency – RMB) RMB'000
Cash at bank and on hand	110,264	9,105
Short-term bank deposits	47,999	–
Cash and cash equivalents	158,263	9,105
Interest receivables	200	–

As shown in the table above, the Group is primarily exposed to changes in US\$/HK\$ and US\$/RMB exchange rates. The sensitivity of profit or loss to changes in the exchange rates arises mainly from USD denominated financial instruments.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(a) Market risk (Continued)

(i) Foreign exchange risk (Continued)

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Impact on post tax profit		
US\$/RMB exchange rate — weaken 5%	(439)	(455)
US\$/RMB exchange rate — strengthen 5%	439	455
US\$/HK\$ exchange rate — weaken 5%	(11,613)	(7,923)
US\$/HK\$ exchange rate — strengthen 5%	11,613	7,923

(ii) Interest rate risk

The Group's income and operating cash flows are substantially independent from changes in market interest rate. Borrowings carried at floating rates expose the Group to cash flow interest-rate risk, which is partially offset by cash held at variable rates, whereas borrowings carried at fixed rates expose the Group to fair value interest-rate risk.

The exposure of the Group's borrowings to interest rate changes at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	As at 31 August 2023		As at 31 August 2022	
	RMB'000	% of total borrowings	RMB'000	% of total borrowings
Variable rate borrowings	1,456,900	100.00%	640,198	100.00%

An analysis by maturities is provided in Note 3.1(c). The percentage of total loans shows the proportion of borrowings that are currently at variable rates in relation to the total amount of borrowings. At 31 August 2023, if the interest rates on bank borrowings and cash and cash equivalents had been 50 basis points higher/lower, with all other variables held constant, the Group's net profit for the year would have been RMB7,285,000 (2022: RMB3,201,000) lower/higher.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(b) Credit risk

(i) Risk management

Credit risk is managed on a Group basis. The Group's maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash, trade and other receivables and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss shown on consolidated balance sheets.

As at 31 August 2023, 92% (2022: 96%) of the Group's cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash were held in reputable and listed banks, which management believes are of high credit quality. The rest are deposited in local banks or financial institutions with good reputation. Management does not expect any losses from non-performance by these counterparties.

(ii) Impairment of financial assets

The Group has following types of financial assets that are subject to the expected credit loss model:

- trade receivables for provision of services;
- other receivables carried at amortised cost.

While cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash are also subject to the impairment requirements of IFRS 9, no impairment loss was identified.

Trade receivables

The Group applies the simplified approach to providing for expected credit losses prescribed by IFRS 9, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision for all trade receivables.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(b) Credit risk (Continued)

(ii) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Trade receivables (Continued)

On that basis, the loss allowance was determined as follows for trade receivables:

As at 31 August 2023	Within 1 year past due	1–2 years past due	More than 2 years past due	Total
Expected loss rate	25.45%	100%	100%	
Gross carrying amount – trade receivables (RMB'000)	10,620	2,308	1,751	14,679
Loss allowance (RMB'000)	2,703	2,308	1,751	6,762

As at 31 August 2022	Within 1 year past due	1–2 years past due	More than 2 years past due	Total
Expected loss rate	10.53%	100%	100%	
Gross carrying amount – trade receivables (RMB'000)	12,188	2,241	1,408	15,837
Loss allowance (RMB'000)	1,284	2,241	1,408	4,933

As at 31 August 2023, there was no specific provisions (2022: Nil) has been provided against trade receivables.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(b) Credit risk (Continued)

(ii) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Trade receivables (Continued)

The loss allowances for trade receivables reconcile to the opening loss allowances as follows:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Loss allowance		
At beginning of the year	(4,933)	(4,227)
Increase in loss allowance recognised in profit or loss	(6,793)	(2,896)
Provision reversed	1,472	1,806
Receivables written off as uncollectible	3,492	384
At end of the year	(6,762)	(4,933)

Other receivables carried at amortised cost

The Group assesses the expected credit losses of other receivables on a forward-looking basis. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk. Other receivables at amortised cost include receivables from local government, staff advance and others. The loss allowance for other receivables at amortised cost for the year was not material.

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Impairment losses		
Movement in loss allowance for trade receivables	5,321	1,090
Movement in loss allowance for other receivables	1,391	2,012
Net impairment losses on financial assets	6,712	3,102

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(c) Liquidity risk

To manage the liquidity risk, the Group monitors and maintains a level of cash and cash equivalents to finance the Group's operations and mitigate the effects of fluctuations in cash flows. The Group expects to fund its future cash flow needs through internally generated cash flows from operations and financing from bank borrowings and Convertible Bonds.

The maturity analysis of borrowings that shows the remaining contractual maturities is disclosed in Note 24. Generally there is no specific credit period granted by the suppliers but the related payables are normally expected to be settled within three months after receipt of goods or services.

As at 31 August 2023, the Group has cash and cash equivalents of approximately RMB2,370,966,000 (2022: RMB4,240,783,000) (Note 18), trade receivables of approximately RMB14,679,000 (2022: RMB15,837,000) (Note 17) that are expected to readily generate cash inflows for managing liquidity risk.

The table below analyses the Group's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

Contractual maturities of financial liabilities	Less than	Between	Between	Over five	Total	Carrying Amount at year end
	1 year	1 and 2 years	2 and 5 years	years		
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
As at 31 August 2023						
Borrowings (principal plus interests)	1,279,573	223,636	—	—	1,503,209	1,456,900
Convertible Bonds	8,024	894,274	—	—	902,298	811,117
Lease liabilities	9,545	3,719	3,860	1,454	18,578	17,529
Accruals and other payables (excluding non-financial liabilities)	1,216,632	—	—	—	1,216,632	1,216,632
	2,513,774	1,121,629	3,860	1,454	3,640,717	3,502,178

Note: For the Convertible Bonds, details related to the maturity information were further analysed in Note 25. Due to the impact of the Amendments Documents effective on 19 January 2023, the contractual maturity date of the Convertible Bonds became in December 2024 and therefore fell in the band between 1 and 2 years subsequent to the balance sheet date.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(c) Liquidity risk (Continued)

Contractual maturities of financial liabilities	Less than	Between	Between	Over five	Total	Carrying Amount at year end
	1 year	1 and 2	2 and 5	years		
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
As at 31 August 2022						
Borrowings (principal plus interests)	232,546	224,627	226,740	—	683,913	640,198
Convertible Bonds	1,841,304	—	—	—	1,841,304	1,797,105
Lease liabilities	4,819	5,141	7,324	1,586	18,870	17,296
Accruals and other payables (excluding non-financial liabilities)	965,584	—	—	—	965,584	965,584
	3,044,253	229,768	234,064	1,586	3,509,671	3,420,183

3.2 Capital management

The Group's objectives when managing capital are to:

- safeguard their ability to continue as a going concern, so that they can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders, and
- maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Group may adjust the amount of dividends paid to shareholders, return capital to shareholders, issue new shares or sell assets to reduce debt.

Consistent with others in the industry, the Group monitors capital on the basis of the following ratio:

Total liability (as shown in the balance sheet)
divided by
Total asset (as shown in the balance sheet)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.2 Capital management (Continued)

The liability-to-asset ratios of the Group were as follows:

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Total liabilities	4,992,800	5,669,746
Total assets	11,986,372	11,492,803
The liability-to-asset ratio	41.7%	49.3%

3.3 Fair value estimation

(a) Fair value hierarchy

This section explains the judgments and estimates made in determining the fair values of the financial instruments that are recognised and measured at fair value in the financial statements. To provide an indication about the reliability of the inputs used in determining fair value, the Group has classified its financial instruments into the three levels prescribed under the accounting standards. An explanation of each level follows underneath the table.

Recurring fair value measurements At 31 August 2023	Level 3 RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Liabilities		
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (Note 25)	811,117	811,117
Recurring fair value measurements At 31 August 2022		
	Level 3 RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Liabilities		
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (Note 25)	1,797,105	1,797,105

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.3 Fair value estimation (Continued)

(a) Fair value hierarchy (Continued)

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2 for recurring fair value measurements during the year. For transfers into and out of level 3 measurements see (b) below.

The Group's policy is to recognise transfers into and out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

Level 1: The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, and trading and available-for-sale securities) is based on quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Group is the current bid price. These instruments are included in level 1.

Level 2: The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market (for example, over-the-counter derivatives) is determined using valuation techniques which maximise the use of observable market data and rely as little as possible on entity-specific estimates. If all significant inputs required to fair value an instrument are observable, the instrument is included in level 2.

Level 3: If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the instrument is included in level 3. This is the case for unlisted equity securities.

(b) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

The following table presents the changes in level 3 financial assets:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
At beginning of the year	—	—
Additions	600,000	—
Settlements	(603,148)	—
Gains and losses recognised in profit or loss (Note 7)	3,148	—
At end of the year	—	—

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.3 Fair value estimation (Continued)

(b) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3) (Continued)

The following table presents the movement in level 3 financial liabilities for the year ended 31 August 2023:

	Convertible Bonds (Level 3) RMB'000
At beginning of the year	1,797,105
Additions	1,290,517
Settlements	(1,283,736)
Repurchase of Convertible Bonds (Note 25(b)(i))	(558,522)
Mandatory redemption of Convertible Bonds (Note 25(b)(iii))	(433,487)
Gains recognised in profit or loss (Note 7)	(40,957)
Gains recognised in other comprehensive income — changes in fair value that is attributable to changes to the liability's credit risk	(14,851)
Exchange difference	55,048
At end of the year	811,117

As at 31 August 2023, the carrying amounts of the Group's financial assets, including cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and trade and other receivables, and financial liabilities, including accruals and other payables, approximated their fair values due to the short maturities.

The fair value of the financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss is determined by reference to the valuation performed by an independent valuer engaged by management of the company using the Binomial Method.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.3 Fair value estimation (Continued)

(b) Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3) (Continued)

The following table summarises the quantitative information about the significant unobservable inputs used in level 3 fair value measurements:

Convertible Bonds due	Fair value RMB'000	Unobservable inputs	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
As at 31 August 2023	811,117	Dividend yield: 0.00% Volatility: 51.07% Risk free rate: 4.06% Bond yield: 10.96%	Increased dividend yield 1% would decrease FV by RMB1,128,000; Increased volatility 1% would increase FV by RMB1,878,000; Increased risk free rate 0.41% would decrease FV by RMB112,000; Increased bond yield 1% would decrease FV by RMB8,954,000
As at 31 August 2022	1,797,105	Dividend yield: 2.00% Volatility: 43.00% Risk free rate: 1.03% Bond yield: 7.87%	Increased bond yield 1% would decrease FV by RMB5,169,000; FV is insensitive to dividend yield, volatility and risk free rate.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

3.3 Fair value estimation (Continued)

(c) Group's valuation processes

For the financial assets, including level 3 fair values, the Group's Finance Department performs the valuations. The Finance Department reports directly to the Chief Financial Officer ("**CFO**"). Discussions of valuation processes and results are held between the CFO and Finance Department semi-annually, in line with the Group's semi-annual reporting dates.

The valuation technique is discounted cash flows. Future cash flows are estimated and discounted using the expected yield rate with reference to the benchmark yield rate of the financial investment products of banks.

4 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Group makes estimates and judgments concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

(a) Contractual Arrangements

As described in Notes 1 and 2.2.1(a), the Group conducts a substantial portion of its business through the Consolidated Affiliated Entities due to the regulatory restrictions on the foreign ownership in the Group's schools in the mainland China. The Group does not have any equity interest in the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. The Directors have assessed whether or not the Group has control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities, i.e. whether the Group has existing rights that give it the current ability to direct the relevant activities; rights to variable returns from its involvement with the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities through the Contractual Agreements. Based on the assessment, the Directors concluded that the Group continues to control the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. Accordingly, the financial positions and the operating results of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities are included in the Group's consolidated financial statements throughout the year.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

4 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS (CONTINUED)

(a) Contractual Arrangements (Continued)

Nevertheless, the Contractual Agreements may not be as effective as direct legal ownership in providing the Group with direct control over the Consolidated Affiliated Entities and uncertainties presented by the PRC legal system could impede the Group's beneficiary rights of the results, assets and liabilities of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities. During the year, the Directors, based on the advice of its legal counsel, consider that the Contractual Agreements are in compliance with the relevant PRC laws and regulations and are legally enforceable.

(b) Current and deferred income taxes

All the high schools and universities in mainland China within the Group are private schools do not require reasonable returns under Law for Promoting Private Education. Pursuant to the former effective Law for Promoting Private Education and its implementation regulations, private schools whose sponsors do not require reasonable returns under the former effective Law for Promoting Private Education shall be entitled to the same preferential tax treatment as public schools, which are exempt from PRC corporate income tax based on historical experiences. PRC corporate income tax has not been provided on the tuition and boarding income during the year for the Group's high schools and universities in the mainland China as they are eligible to apply the preferential corporate income tax treatment based on the assessment made by the management.

However, there have been no rules specifying the preferential tax treatment enjoyed by public schools in Corporate Income Tax Law of the People's Republic of China or other relevant tax rules and regulations. Significant judgment is required in determining the provision for income taxes as there are uncertainties in interpreting the relevant tax rules and regulations in respect to the preferential tax treatment enjoyed by the schools. This assessment relies on estimates and assumptions and may involve a series of judgments about future events. Further information may become available that causes the Group to change its judgment regarding the adequacy of the tax liabilities. Such changes to tax liabilities will impact tax expense in the period that such determination is made.

The Group recognises deferred income tax assets based on estimates that it is probable to generate sufficient taxable profits in the foreseeable future against which the deductible losses will be utilised. The recognition of deferred tax assets mainly involved management's judgments and estimations about the timing and the amount of taxable profits of the companies who had tax losses.

The Group recognises liabilities based on estimates of whether additional taxes will be due. Where the final tax outcome of these matters is different from the amounts that were initially recorded, such differences will impact the current and deferred income tax assets and liabilities in the period in which such determination is made.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

4 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS (CONTINUED)

(c) Estimation of goodwill impairment and trademark impairment

The goodwill and the trademark arose from the acquisition of subsidiaries. Trademark is typically not a CGU and should not normally be tested alone. The Group tests whether goodwill and trademark have suffered any impairment on an annual basis in accordance with the accounting policy stated in Note 2.7. The recoverable amount of a CGU is determined based on the higher of FVLCD and VIU which requires the use of estimates and valuation techniques. When applying valuation technique, the Group relies on judgments on key assumptions including revenue growth rates, earnings before interest and tax margin (“**EBIT margin**”), long-term growth rate and discount rate.

Details of key assumptions are disclosed in Note 14.

5 REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group is principally engaged in the provision of private formal education from high school (Grade 10 to 12) to university and vocational college education services in mainland China and Thailand.

The executive directors are identified as the chief operating decision-maker (the “**CODM**”) of the Group. Management has determined the operating segments based on the information reviewed by the CODM for the purposes of allocating resources and assessing performance.

The CODM considers the business from the service perspective. When the Group companies have similar economic characteristics, and the segments are similar in each of the following respects: (i) the nature of the services; (ii) the type or class of students for their services; (iii) the methods used to provide their services; and (iv) if applicable, the nature of the regulatory environment, the Group’s operating segments are aggregated. During the year, in the view of CODM, the Group is principally engaged in two different segments which are subject to different business risks and different economic characteristics, namely high schools and universities and vocational college.

The accounting policies of the operating segments are described in Note 2.3.

For the purposes of monitoring segment performances and allocating resources between segments, segment results represent the profit before tax earned by each segment. This is the measure reported to the CODM for the purposes of resource allocation and assessment of segment performance.

Assets and liabilities dedicated to a particular segment’s operations are included in that segment’s total assets and liabilities.

The Group has a large number of customers, no single customer accounted for more than 10% of the Group’s total revenue for the years ended 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2022.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5 REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

	High Schools RMB'000	Universities and vocational college RMB'000	Unallocated RMB'000	Inter- segment elimination RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Year ended 31 August 2023					
Revenue	173,073	2,207,203	51,137	(51,137)	2,380,276
Cost of revenue	(127,960)	(1,118,841)	—	14,257	(1,232,544)
Gross profit	45,113	1,088,362	51,137	(36,880)	1,147,732
Selling expenses	(2,724)	(22,148)	—	—	(24,872)
Administrative expenses	(9,467)	(200,050)	(24,907)	33,884	(200,540)
Net impairment losses on financial assets	—	(6,712)	—	—	(6,712)
Other income	652	20,672	354	—	21,678
Other (losses)/gains — net	(3,802)	(10,048)	204,270	—	190,420
Operating profit	29,772	870,076	230,854	(2,996)	1,127,706
Finance income/(expenses) — net	6,308	26,742	(25,988)	3,791	10,853
Profit before income tax	36,080	896,818	204,866	795	1,138,559
Income taxation	425	7,936	(6,816)	—	1,545
Profit for the year	36,505	904,754	198,050	795	1,140,104
As at 31 August 2023					
Total assets	1,529,801	13,360,117	3,201,770	(6,105,316)	11,986,372
Total liabilities	484,266	4,742,205	6,231,535	(6,465,206)	4,992,800
Other segment information					
Additions to non-current assets	15,950	2,618,027	—	—	2,633,977
Depreciation and amortisation (Note 8)	(37,175)	(304,445)	(2,747)	—	(344,367)
Losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment and disposal of intangible assets (Note 7)	(3,802)	(13,260)	47	—	(17,015)
Borrowings (Note 24)	—	(1,026,900)	(430,000)	—	(1,456,900)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5 REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

	High Schools RMB'000	Universities and vocational college RMB'000	Unallocated RMB'000	Inter- segment elimination RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Year ended 31 August 2022					
Revenue	228,185	2,152,187	46,507	(46,507)	2,380,372
Cost of revenue	(137,087)	(871,223)	—	46,880	(961,430)
Gross profit	91,098	1,280,964	46,507	373	1,418,942
Selling expenses	(3,972)	(23,921)	—	—	(27,893)
Administrative expenses	(10,953)	(157,144)	(31,695)	945	(198,847)
Net impairment losses on financial assets	—	(3,102)	—	—	(3,102)
Other income	15	20,195	126	—	20,336
Other (losses)/gains — net	(155)	12,484	(75,839)	—	(63,510)
Operating profit	76,033	1,129,476	(60,901)	1,318	1,145,926
Finance income/(expenses) — net	4,291	28,162	(52,080)	—	(19,627)
Profit before income tax	80,324	1,157,638	(112,981)	1,318	1,126,299
Income taxation	425	8,229	—	—	8,654
Profit for the year	80,749	1,165,867	(112,981)	1,318	1,134,953
As at 31 August 2022					
Total assets	1,490,753	11,305,854	3,774,742	(5,078,546)	11,492,803
Total liabilities	527,755	3,498,197	7,093,554	(5,449,760)	5,669,746
Other segment information					
Additions to non-current assets	13,127	405,895	2	—	419,024
Depreciation and amortisation (Note 8)	(24,158)	(205,311)	(2,826)	—	(232,295)
Losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment and disposal of intangible assets (Note 7)	(139)	(4,461)	(2)	—	(4,602)
Borrowings (Note 24)	—	—	(640,198)	—	(640,198)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5 REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Segment information by location is set out below.

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Revenue from external customers		
Mainland China	2,256,159	2,235,913
Thailand	124,117	144,459
	2,380,276	2,380,372

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Non-current assets		
Mainland China	9,174,582	6,900,981
Thailand	265,527	263,191
	9,440,109	7,164,172

Contract liabilities

The Group has recognised the following revenue-related contract liabilities, which represented the unsatisfied performance obligation and will be expected to be recognised within one year:

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Contract liabilities related to tuition and boarding fees (a)	725,198	1,465,290
Revenue from property management and training programs	4,393	6,111
	729,591	1,471,401

- (a) The Group in general receives annual tuition and boarding fees from students in advance prior to the beginning of each academic year. The performance obligation is satisfied proportionately over the relevant period of the applicable program. The students are entitled to a refund of their advanced payment on a proportional basis up to the time when the students no longer require the Group's services.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5 REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Contract liabilities (Continued)

Significant changes in the contract liability balances during the year are as follows:

	Year ended 31 August 2023 RMB'000
At beginning of the year	1,471,401
Revenue recognised that was included in the balance of contract liabilities at beginning of the year	(1,471,401)
Increases due to cash received, excluding amounts recognised as revenue during the year	729,591
At end of the year	729,591

(i) Revenue recognised in relation to contract liabilities

The following table shows how much of the revenue recognised in the current year relates to carried-forward contract liabilities.

	Year ended 31 August 2023 RMB'000
Revenue recognised that was included in the balance of contract liabilities at beginning of the year	
Tuition and boarding fees	1,465,290
Others	6,111
	1,471,401

(ii) Unsatisfied contracts

	Year ended 31 August 2023 RMB'000
Expected to be recognised within one year	
Tuition and boarding fees	725,198
Others	4,393
	729,591

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5 REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Contract liabilities (Continued)

(ii) *Unsatisfied contracts (Continued)*

As at 31 August 2023, the contract liabilities were expected to be recognised within one year. As the contract terms with customers usually within 12 months, the Group applied the practical expedient as permitted under IFRS 15 not to disclose the transaction price allocated to unsatisfied performance obligations as at 31 August 2023.

6 OTHER INCOME

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Government grants and subsidies	13,997	11,502
Examination fee income	1,909	2,203
Auxiliary income from school operations	5,772	6,631
	21,678	20,336

7 OTHER GAINS/(LOSSES) — NET

	Note	Year ended 31 August	
		2023	2022
		RMB'000	RMB'000
Net gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	3.3	40,957	(73,436)
Write-off of long-aged payables		309	2,643
Gains on disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3.3	3,148	—
Losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets		(17,015)	(4,602)
Gains on disposal of land use right		—	14,453
Donation		64	(2,568)
Net gains on repurchase of Convertible Bonds	25(b)(i)	169,738	—
Losses on revising terms and waivers in relation to the Convertible Bonds	25(b)(iv)	(6,781)	—
		190,420	(63,510)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

8 EXPENSES BY NATURE

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Employee benefit expenses	649,933	550,515
— Wages, salaries, bonus and other welfare (Note 9)	626,692	516,310
— Share Award Scheme expenses (Note 22(b))	8,501	16,906
— Share-based compensation expenses (Note 22(a))	14,740	17,299
Depreciation expenses		
— Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 13 (a))	264,449	165,356
— Depreciation of right-of-use assets (Note 13 (b))	60,564	55,891
Students training and scholarship expenses	157,761	141,232
Office expenses	76,704	60,967
Maintenance expenses	60,505	54,461
School consumables	64,367	51,409
Utilities expenses	33,966	29,852
Marketing expenses	18,682	22,682
Amortisation of intangible assets (Note 14)	19,354	11,048
Consultancy and professional fee	6,160	6,548
Travel and entertainment expenses	13,941	5,681
Auditors' remuneration	4,251	3,863
Operating lease payments (Note 13 (b))	3,113	2,238
Other expenses	24,206	26,427
	1,457,956	1,188,170

9 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Wages, salaries and bonuses	525,273	441,156
Pension costs — defined contribution plans (a)	44,772	33,519
Pension costs — defined benefit plans (b)	1,074	1,204
Welfare and other expenses	55,573	40,431
	626,692	516,310

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES (CONTINUED)

Employee benefit expenses were charged in the following categories in the consolidated statement of profit or loss:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Cost of revenue	544,885	437,303
Administrative expenses	75,617	73,787
Selling expenses	6,190	5,220
	626,692	516,310

(a) Contributions to pension plan

For defined contribution plans, the Group pays contributions to publicly or privately administered pension insurance plans on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. The Group has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. During the year, there were no forfeited contributions under the Group's defined contribution plans (2022: Nil).

(b) Defined benefit plans

	As at 31 August 2023		
	Current	Non-current	Total
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
Defined pension benefits	—	9,189	9,189

The defined pension benefits plans operated by the subsidiaries of the Group in Thailand are final salary pension plans, which provide benefits to members in the form of a guaranteed level of pension payable for life. The level of benefits provided depends on members' monthly salary prior to retirement and length of service and their salary in the final years leading up to retirement.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES (CONTINUED)

(b) Defined benefit plans (Continued)

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet and the movements in the defined benefit obligation over the period are as follows:

	Present value of obligation RMB'000
At 1 September 2022	7,772
Recognised in profit or loss:	
– Current service costs	1,074
– Interest expenses	240
	1,314
Recognised in other comprehensive income:	
– Remeasurements-gain from change in actuarial assumptions	(524)
Payments	(138)
Exchange differences	765
At 31 August 2023	9,189

The significant actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	As at 31 August 2023
Retirement age	60.94 to 61.02 years old
Discount rate	2.69%–3.24%
Future salary increase rate	4.00%
Employee turnover rate	1.91%–34.38%
Mortality rate	105% of TMO ^(a) 2017
Disability rate	Insignificant, included in Mortality rate

Note:

(a) TMO: The ordinary mortality rate of Thailand.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES (CONTINUED)

(b) Defined benefit plans (Continued)

The defined benefit under the Group's defined benefit plans is determined based on an actuarial valuation performed by Actuarialbiz Company Limited (ABS), an independent actuary in Thailand. The undersigned actuary of the actuarial valuation is Tommy Pichet Jaramaneetaweessin, a fellow of the Society of Actuaries from the United States, a fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of the United Kingdom, a fellow of the Society of Actuaries of Thailand, and a certified actuary from the Office of Insurance Commission of Thailand.

(c) Five highest paid individuals

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Five highest paid individuals:		
– Directors	3	3
– Non-director individual	2	2
	5	5

The five individuals whose remunerations were the highest in the Group for the year include three directors (2022: three), whose remuneration are included in the analysis presented in Note 31. Details of the remunerations of the highest paid non-director individuals during the year are set out as below:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Wages and salaries	358	588
Share-based compensation	56	—
Contributions to pension plan	22	13
Welfare and other expenses	17	15
	453	616

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES (CONTINUED)

(c) Five highest paid individuals (Continued)

The remunerations fell within the following band:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	No. of employees	No. of employees
Emolument band Nil to HK\$1,000,000	2	2

During the year, none of the five highest paid individuals waived or has agreed to waive any emoluments, and none of the five highest paid individuals received emoluments from the Group as inducement to join or upon joining the Group, or as compensation for loss of office.

10 FINANCE EXPENSES — NET

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Finance income:		
— Interest income from deposits	44,688	36,354
— Net foreign exchange gains	3,443	4,799
	48,131	41,153
Finance expenses:		
— Interest expenses	(40,956)	(53,563)
— Net foreign exchange losses	(1,492)	(6,432)
— Interest and finance charges for lease liabilities	(822)	(785)
— interests capitalised on qualifying assets	5,992	—
	(37,278)	(60,780)
Finance expenses — net	10,853	(19,627)

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

11 INCOME TAXATION

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Current income tax		
– Withholding tax on royalty income from Stamford International University (i)	6,816	–
Deferred income tax		
– Decrease in deferred income tax assets (Note 15)	1,198	836
– Decrease in deferred income tax liabilities (Note 15)	(9,559)	(9,490)
Total deferred income tax benefit	(8,361)	(8,654)
Income taxation	(1,545)	(8,654)

(i) The withholding tax was determined and paid based on the royalty income charged by China HongKong Yuhua Education Limited to Stamford International University (2022: Nil) during the year (2022: Nil).

The current tax on the Group's profit before income tax differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the taxation rate of mainland China, the principal place of the Group's operations, as follows:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Profit before income tax	1,138,559	1,126,299
Tax calculated at domestic tax rate applicable to profits in the respective locations	245,831	307,130
Tax effects of profit from tuition and boarding not subject to tax	(255,179)	(326,452)
Tax losses for which no deferred income tax asset was recognised	7,803	10,668
	(1,545)	(8,654)

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Tax losses		
Unused tax losses for which no deferred income tax asset was recognised	31,212	42,672
Potential tax benefit	7,803	10,668

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

11 INCOME TAXATION (CONTINUED)

(a) Cayman Islands

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands and accordingly, is exempted from Cayman Islands income tax.

(b) British Virgin Islands

The Company's subsidiary incorporated under the BVI Companies Act, 2004 is exempted from British Virgin Islands income tax.

(c) Hong Kong

No provision for Hong Kong profit tax was provided as the Company and the Group did not derive any assessable profits in Hong Kong during the year (2022: Nil).

(d) Mainland China corporate income tax ("CIT")

Corporate income tax ("**CIT**") is provided on the estimated taxable profits of entities incorporated in mainland China. Pursuant to the Corporate Income Tax Law of the PRC (the "**CIT Law**"), which was effective from January 2008, the CIT rate applicable to the Group's subsidiaries incorporated in mainland China was 25% (2022: 25%).

According to the Implementation Rules for the Law for Promoting Private Education, private schools for which the sponsors do not require reasonable returns are eligible to enjoy the same preferential tax treatment as public schools. As a result, private schools providing academic qualification education are eligible to enjoy CIT exemption treatment if the sponsors of such schools do not require reasonable returns. The Group's high schools and universities in the mainland China have been granted corporate income tax exemption for the tuition income from relevant local tax authorities. Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College is subject to corporate income tax. During the year, this school did not derived any taxable profit.

The corporate income tax rate for Xizang Yuanpei Information Technology Management Company Limited ("**Xizang Yuanpei**"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, is 15% based on the relevant tax regulations of Tibet Autonomous Region.

(e) Thailand income tax

The statutory income tax rate applied on the taxable profits for Thailand companies is 20% (2022: 20%). According to the relevant Thailand regulations, entities which engages in provision of higher education services are not subject to Thailand income taxes.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

12 EARNINGS PER SHARE

(a) Basic

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to owners of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year excluding ordinary shares purchased by the Company.

	For the year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
Profit attributable to owners of the Company (RMB'000)	1,134,726	1,125,705
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue (Thousands)	3,600,388	3,538,476
Basic earnings per share (RMB Yuan)	0.32	0.32

(b) Diluted

Diluted earnings per share is calculated based on the profit attributable to owners of the Company after adjusting the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding to assume conversion of all dilutive potential ordinary shares during the year.

The Company had two categories of dilutive potential ordinary shares: Pre-IPO share options and Convertible Bonds. For Pre-IPO share options, a calculation is done to determine the number of shares that could have been acquired at fair value (determined as the average market share price of the Company's shares) based on the monetary value of the subscription rights attached to outstanding Pre-IPO share options. The Convertible Bonds are assumed to have been converted into ordinary shares. Gains or loss in related with interest savings, fair value change, disposal and early redemption on Convertible Bonds are adjusted to the extent of the amount charged to the profits or losses attributable to owners of the Company, if applicable. The number of shares calculated as above is compared with the number of shares that would have been issued assuming the exercise of the Pre-IPO shares options and conversion of Convertible Bonds.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

12 EARNINGS PER SHARE (CONTINUED)

(b) Diluted (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the impact of Pre-IPO share options was excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share as it is anti-dilutive.

	For the year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
Profit attributable to owners of the Company (RMB'000)	1,134,726	1,125,705
Adjustments for:		
– impact of Convertible Bonds (RMB'000)	(192,585)	88,987
Adjusted profit attributable to owners of the Company (RMB'000)	942,141	1,214,692
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue (Thousands)	3,600,388	3,538,476
Adjustments for:		
– impact of Convertible Bonds (Thousands)	312,575	312,575
– Pre-IPO share options (Thousands)	–	51,454
Adjusted weighted average number of ordinary shares for diluted earnings per share (Thousands)	3,912,963	3,902,505
Diluted earnings per share (RMB Yuan)	0.24	0.31

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, AND LEASES

(a) Property, plant and equipment

	Buildings RMB'000	Decoration improvements RMB'000	Motor vehicles RMB'000	Electronic equipment RMB'000	Furniture and fixtures RMB'000	Construction in progress RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Year ended 31 August 2022							
Opening net book amount	3,435,330	15,867	6,246	94,528	58,165	14,004	3,624,140
Exchange differences	(2,983)	–	(10)	(50)	(40)	(2)	(3,085)
Additions	11,177	91,408	1,116	51,701	40,099	60,321	255,822
Transfer upon completion	36,336	–	–	6,132	5,876	(48,344)	–
Disposals	(1,658)	–	(1,169)	(800)	(1,610)	–	(5,237)
Depreciation charge (Note 8)	(113,460)	(9,275)	(1,768)	(24,445)	(16,408)	–	(165,356)
Closing net book amount	3,364,742	98,000	4,415	127,066	86,082	25,979	3,706,284
At 31 August 2022							
Cost	3,928,540	123,018	8,047	264,930	176,986	25,979	4,527,500
Accumulated depreciation	(563,798)	(25,018)	(3,632)	(137,864)	(90,904)	–	(821,216)
Net book amount	3,364,742	98,000	4,415	127,066	86,082	25,979	3,706,284
Year ended 31 August 2023							
Opening net book amount	3,364,742	98,000	4,415	127,066	86,082	25,979	3,706,284
Exchange differences	5,581	–	14	191	286	2	6,074
Additions	37,411	400	1,892	148,428	165,784	2,095,267	2,449,182
Transfer upon completion	203,988	939,259	–	–	32,689	(1,175,936)	–
Disposals	(7,440)	–	(1,013)	(12,201)	(14,001)	–	(34,655)
Depreciation charge (Note 8)	(125,124)	(68,556)	(1,439)	(37,605)	(31,725)	–	(264,449)
Closing net book amount	3,479,158	969,103	3,869	225,879	239,115	945,312	5,862,436
At 31 August 2023							
Cost	4,162,359	1,063,185	5,128	297,950	279,118	945,312	6,753,052
Accumulated depreciation	(683,201)	(94,082)	(1,259)	(72,071)	(40,003)	–	(890,616)
Net book amount	3,479,158	969,103	3,869	225,879	239,115	945,312	5,862,436

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, AND LEASES (CONTINUED)

(a) Property, plant and equipment (Continued)

- (i) Depreciation charges were charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss as follows:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Cost of revenue	206,319	124,668
Administrative expenses	58,130	40,688
	264,449	165,356

- (ii) As at 31 August 2023 and 2022, construction-in-progress mainly comprised buildings being constructed in mainland China.
- (iii) As at 31 August 2023, the carrying amount of buildings without building ownership certificates was RMB1,862,328,000(2022: RMB1,929,769,000). The Group is in the process to obtain the certificates except for the buildings of Kaifeng Yuhua Elite High School with a carrying amount of RMB20,323,000(2022: RMB20,974,000).
- (iv) As at 31 August 2023, the Group had no property, plant and equipment which was pledged as security (2022: nil).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, AND LEASES (CONTINUED)

(b) Leases

(i) Amounts recognised in the balance sheet

The balance sheet shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	As at 31 August 2023 RMB'000	As at 31 August 2022 RMB'000
Right-of-use assets		
— Buildings	20,975	21,444
— Land use right	1,826,719	1,870,256
— Vehicles	259	366
	1,847,953	1,892,066
Lease liabilities		
— Current	9,427	4,732
— Non-current	8,102	12,564
	17,529	17,296

During the year, additions to the right-of-use assets were RMB8,796,000 (2022: RMB133,699,000).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, AND LEASES (CONTINUED)

(b) Leases (Continued)

(ii) Amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss

The statement of profit or loss shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	Notes	Year ended 31 August	
		2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets			
— Buildings		9,448	5,749
— Land use right		50,980	49,986
— Vehicles		136	156
	8	60,564	55,891
Interest expense (included in finance expense)	10	822	785
Expense relating to short-term leases (included in cost of revenue and administrative expenses)	8	3,113	2,238

During the year, the total cash outflow for leases was RMB9,597,000 (2022: RMB5,106,000).

(iii) *The Group's leasing activities and how these are accounted for*

The Group leases various offices, equipment and cars. Rental contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 2 to 20 years with no extension options. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants, but leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes.

(iv) As at 31 August 2023, land use right allocated by the government with a carrying value of RMB466,822,000 (2022: RMB481,498,000), has no definite life of use stated in the relevant land use right certificates. The estimated useful life is 50 years which is the best estimate based on the normal terms in mainland China. However, without the relevant administrative authorities' permission, the Group cannot transfer, lease or mortgage such land use right allocated by the government.

(v) As at 31 August 2023, the carrying amount of land use right without land use right certificates was RMB17,167,000 (2022: RMB18,142,000). The Group is in the process of applying for the certificates except for the land use right of Kaifeng Yuhua Elite High School with a carrying amount of RMB9,382,000 (2022: RMB10,085,000).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

14 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Trademark (i) RMB'000	Goodwill RMB'000	Softwares RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Year ended 31 August 2022				
Opening net book amount	441,014	1,084,625	12,712	1,538,351
Exchange differences	—	—	(30)	(30)
Additions	—	—	4,433	4,433
Disposals	—	—	(161)	(161)
Amortisation (Note 8)	(4,288)	—	(6,760)	(11,048)
Closing net book amount	436,726	1,084,625	10,194	1,531,545
At 31 August 2022				
Cost	455,606	1,084,625	40,574	1,580,805
Accumulated depreciation	(18,880)	—	(30,380)	(49,260)
Net book amount	436,726	1,084,625	10,194	1,531,545
Year ended 31 August 2023				
Opening net book amount	436,726	1,084,625	10,194	1,531,545
Exchange differences	—	—	1	1
Additions	—	—	97,029	97,029
Disposals	—	—	(19)	(19)
Amortisation (Note 8)	(4,288)	—	(15,066)	(19,354)
Closing net book amount	432,438	1,084,625	92,139	1,609,202
At 31 August 2023				
Cost	455,606	1,084,625	137,585	1,677,816
Accumulated depreciation	(23,168)	—	(45,446)	(68,614)
Net book amount	432,438	1,084,625	92,139	1,609,202

- (i) As at 31 August 2023, the trademark consisted of trademark with indefinite useful lives of RMB409,400,000 and trademark with useful lives of 10 years of RMB23,038,000.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

14 INTANGIBLE ASSETS (CONTINUED)

- (a) Amortisation of the Group's intangible assets were charged in the following categories in the consolidated statement of profit or loss as follows:

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Cost of revenue	16,247	8,818
Administrative expenses	3,107	2,230
	19,354	11,048

- (b) Impairment tests of goodwill and trademark

	Hunan International Economics University RMB'000	Jinan Shuangsheng RMB'000	Yubohui Education RMB'000	Stamford International University RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Year ended 31 August 2023					
Goodwill	528,703	432,925	81,437	41,560	1,084,625
Trademark with indefinite useful lives (i)	219,000	190,400	–	–	409,400
Year ended 31 August 2022					
Goodwill	528,703	432,925	81,437	41,560	1,084,625
Trademark with indefinite useful lives (i)	219,000	190,400	–	–	409,400

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

14 INTANGIBLE ASSETS (CONTINUED)

(b) Impairment tests of goodwill and trademark (Continued)

The following table sets out the key assumptions for those CGUs that have significant goodwill allocated to them:

	Hunan International Economics University	Jinan Shuangsheng	Yubohui Education	Stamford International University
Year ended 31 August 2023				
Revenue growth rates (%)	1.6–9.0	4.8–14.7	(1.3)–10.6	2.8–3.6
EBIT margin (% of revenue) (%)	43	44	39	22
Long-term growth rate (%)	2	2	2	2
Discount rate (%)	15	15	16	16
Year ended 31 August 2022				
Revenue growth rates (%)	1.8–9.2	0–21	(2.3)–8.5	(7.3)–2.9
EBIT margin (% of revenue) (%)	45	40	40	22
Long-term growth rate (%)	2	2	2	2
Discount rate (%)	15	15	16	16

Management has determined the values assigned to each of the above key assumptions as follows:

Assumption	Approach used to determine values
Revenue growth rates	Revenue growth rates are for the five-year forecast period. They are based on past performance and management's expectations of market development.
EBIT margins	Based on past performance and management's expectations for the future.
Long-term growth rates	This is the weighted average growth rates used to extrapolate cash flows beyond the budget period. The rates are consistent with forecasts included in industry reports.
Pre-tax discount rates	The discount rates used reflects specific risks relating to the CGU.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

14 INTANGIBLE ASSETS (CONTINUED)

(c) Impact of possible changes in key assumptions

If one key assumption was to change as follows while the others remain the same, the recoverable amount of CGUs would equal to its carrying amount:

	Hunan International Economics University		Jinan Shuangsheng		Yubohui Education		Stamford International University	
	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
Year ended 31 August 2023								
Revenue growth rates (%)	1.6-9.0	(7.0)-0.4	4.8-14.7	4.7-14.6	(1.3)-10.6	(6.4)-5.5	2.8-3.6	1.9-2.7
EBIT margin (% of revenue) (%)	43	28.0	44	43.9	39	31.6	22	17.8
Long term growth rate (%)	2	(6.6)	2	2	2	(2.8)	2	(2.8)
Pre-tax discount rate (%)	15	20.5	15	15	16	19.1	16	19.3
Year ended 31 August 2022								
Revenue growth rates (%)	1.8-9.2	(10.5)-(3.1)	0-21	(0.2)-20.7	(2.3)-8.5	(10.9)-(0.3)	(7.3)-2.9	(6.3)-4
EBIT margin (% of revenue) (%)	45	23.6	40	39.5	40	27.3	22	20.1
Long term growth rate (%)	2	(14.2)	2	1.8	2	(8.4)	2	0.1
Pre-tax discount rate (%)	15	24.5	15	15.1	16	22	16	17.3

15 DEFERRED INCOME TAX ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The movements in deferred income tax assets and liabilities during the year, without taking into consideration the offsetting of balances within the same tax jurisdiction, is as follows:

(a) Deferred income tax assets

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
As at beginning of the year	18,065	18,901
Charged to profit or loss (Note 11)	(1,198)	(836)
As at end of the year	16,867	18,065

At 31 August 2023, deferred income tax asset amounting to RMB16,867,000 (2022: RMB18,065,000) has been recognised for the Group's subsidiaries established in Thailand. In the opinion of the directors, it is probable that these subsidiaries will distribute such earnings in the foreseeable future.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

15 DEFERRED INCOME TAX ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Deferred income tax liabilities

	Right-of- use assets- leasehold land RMB'000	Trademark RMB'000	Software RMB'000	Property, plant and equipment appreciation RMB'000	Other payables and accrued expenses RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Balance at 1 September 2022	(242,696)	(102,266)	(3)	(122,458)	(44,158)	(511,581)
Credited/(charged) to profit or loss	7,613	(39)	1	1,984	–	9,559
Balance at 31 August 2023	(235,083)	(102,305)	(2)	(120,474)	(44,158)	(502,022)

- (i) The deferred income tax liabilities arise from fair value adjustment of right-of-use assets-leasehold land, recognition of trademark and fair value adjustment of buildings and other fixed assets upon the acquisition of subsidiaries.
- (ii) Under the CIT Law, withholding tax is imposed on dividends declared in respect of profits earned by mainland China subsidiaries from 1 January 2008 onwards. Deferred income taxation has not been provided for in the consolidated financial statements in respect of temporary differences attributable to undistributed earnings of the Group's mainland China subsidiaries as the Group is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

At 31 August 2023, no deferred income tax has been recognised for withholding taxes payable on the unremitted earnings of the Group's subsidiaries established in mainland China that are subject to withholding taxes (2022: Nil). In the opinion of the directors, it is not probable that these subsidiaries will distribute such earnings for the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities after offset are listed as below:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Deferred tax liabilities	485,155	493,516

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

16 OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Prepayments for purchases of property, plant and equipment	110,798	25,424
Prepayments for prepaid land lease payment	6,571	6,571
Rental deposits	3,149	2,282
	120,518	34,277

17 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Trade receivables		
Due from students (a)	14,679	15,837
Provision for impairment (b)	(6,762)	(4,933)
	7,917	10,904
Other receivables		
Receivables from local government	48,339	51,729
Staff advances	4,863	4,059
Deposits	2,127	2,187
Interest receivables	—	200
Receivable from a third party (c)	100,000	—
Others	5,788	3,550
Provision for impairment (b)	(1,097)	(151)
	160,020	61,574
Prepayments		
Prepaid expenses	6,808	3,794
	174,745	76,272

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

17 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES (CONTINUED)

- (a) The Group's students are required to pay the annual tuition fees and boarding fees in advance for upcoming school year, which normally commence in September. The outstanding receivables represent amounts related to certain qualified students who have applied for late payment of tuition fees and boarding fees with no fixed credit item.

The aging analysis of the trade receivables based on the invoice date is set as followings:

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Less than 1 year	10,620	12,188
Over 1 year	4,059	3,649
	14,679	15,837

(b) Impairment and risk exposure

The Group applies the IFRS 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade receivables and other receivables. The loss allowance increased from RMB4,933,000 to RMB6,762,000 for trade receivables and increased from RMB151,000 to RMB1,097,000 for other receivables during the current reporting period. The impaired trade receivables relate to students that were in financial difficulties or default in payments, and the impaired other receivables relate to staff advances and deposits.

Information about the impairment of trade receivables and the Group's exposure to credit risk and foreign currency risk is set out in note 3.1.

Movements in the provision for impairment of trade and other receivables that are assessed for impairment collectively are as follows:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
At beginning of the year	5,084	4,588
Provision for impairment recognised during the year	8,302	5,118
Provision reversed	(1,590)	(2,016)
Receivables written off during the year as uncollectible	(3,937)	(2,606)
At end of the year	7,859	5,084

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

17 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES (CONTINUED)

- (c) The amount represented refundable prepayments relating to a contract with a supplier cancelled before the year end and was fully settled subsequent to the year end.
- (d) The carrying amounts of the Group's trade and other receivables were denominated in the following currencies:

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
US\$	—	200
RMB	168,598	67,075
THB	6,147	8,997
	174,745	76,272

- (e) As at 31 August 2023 and 2022, the fair values of trade and other receivables, except the prepayments which are not financial assets of the Group, approximated their carrying amounts.

18 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH

- (a) Cash and cash equivalents

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Cash at bank and on hand		
– RMB	1,781,791	2,920,828
– HK\$	153,699	971,339
– US\$	147,683	119,369
– THB	129,329	138,611
Short-term bank deposits		
– US\$	93,354	47,999
Cash at financial institutions other than bank		
– RMB	65,110	42,637
Cash and cash equivalents	2,370,966	4,240,783

Cash at bank and other financial institutions can be redeemed by the Company within a short-term.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

18 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND RESTRICTED CASH (CONTINUED)

(b) Restricted cash

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Restricted cash	552	11,576

As at 31 August 2023, the restricted cash is cash in dormant accounts totally amounting to RMB552,000.

19 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS BY CATEGORY

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Financial assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Trade and other receivables excluding prepayments (Note 17)	167,937	72,478
Restricted cash (Note 18)	552	11,576
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 18)	2,370,966	4,240,783
	2,539,455	4,324,837

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
Accruals and other payables excluding non-financial liabilities	1,216,632	965,584
Borrowings	1,456,900	640,198
Lease liabilities	17,529	17,296
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	811,117	1,797,105
	3,502,178	3,420,183

The Group's exposure to various risks associated with the financial instruments is discussed in Note 3. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of each class of financial assets mentioned above.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

20 SHARE CAPITAL AND SHARE PREMIUM

			Number of ordinary shares	Nominal value of ordinary shares HK\$	
Authorised:					
As at 31 August 2022 and 2023 par value of HK\$0.00001 each					
			50,000,000,000	500,000	
	Number of ordinary shares	Nominal value of ordinary shares HK\$	Equivalent nominal value of ordinary shares RMB'000	Share premium RMB'000	Total share capital and share premium RMB'000
Issued and paid:					
As at 1 September 2021	3,355,139,983	33,551	28	966,087	966,115
Share issued upon exercise of share-based compensation (Note 22)	13,758,850	138	—	33,691	33,691
Share Award Scheme	5,595,000	56	—	16,906	16,906
Issue of ordinary shares	220,000,000	2,200	2	752,741	752,743
Disposal of treasury shares	—	—	—	(27,897)	(27,897)
As at 31 August 2022	3,594,493,833	35,945	30	1,741,528	1,741,558
As at 1 September 2022	3,594,493,833	35,945	30	1,741,528	1,741,558
Share issued upon exercise of share-based compensation (Note 22)	4,751,750	48	—	12,376	12,376
Share Award Scheme	7,542,300	75	—	8,501	8,501
As at 31 August 2023	3,606,787,883	36,068	30	1,762,405	1,762,435

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

21 OTHER RESERVES

(a) Capital reserve

Capital reserve of the Group represented the capital contribution premium of the Consolidated Affiliated Entities from its then shareholders.

(b) Statutory surplus reserve

Pursuant to the relevant laws and regulations in mainland China, the Company's subsidiaries established in mainland China shall make appropriations from after-tax profit to non-distributable reserve funds as determined by the boards of directors of the relevant mainland China subsidiaries. These reserves include (i) statutory reserve fund of the limited liability companies, (ii) general reserve fund of foreign invested enterprise and (iii) the development fund of schools.

- (i) In accordance with the relevant laws and regulations in mainland China and Articles of Association of the companies incorporated in mainland China now comprising the Group (the "**mainland China Subsidiaries**"), it is required to appropriate 10% of the annual statutory net profits of the mainland China Subsidiaries, after offsetting losses in the prior year, if any, as determined under the mainland China accounting standards, to the statutory reserves fund before distributing the net profit. When the balance of the statutory reserves fund reaches 50% of the registered capital of the mainland China Subsidiaries, any further appropriation is at the discretion of shareholders. The statutory reserves fund can be used to offset prior years' losses, if any, and may be converted into share capital by issuing new shares to shareholders in proportion to their existing shareholding, provided that the remaining balance of the statutory reserves fund after such issue is not less than 25% of registered capital.
- (ii) Pursuant to the laws applicable to China's Foreign Investment Enterprises, the Company's subsidiary that is a foreign investment enterprise in China has to make appropriations from its after-tax profit to reserve funds including (i) general reserve fund, (ii) enterprise expansion fund and (iii) staff bonus and welfare fund. The appropriation to the general reserve fund must be at least 10% of the after-tax profits calculated. Appropriation is not required if the reserve fund has reached 50% of the registered capital of the respective company. Appropriations to the other two reserve funds are at the respective companies' discretion.
- (iii) According to the relevant PRC laws and regulations, for a private school that does not require reasonable return, it is required to appropriate to development fund of not less than 10% of the annual increase of net assets of the relevant school as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in mainland China. The development fund is for the construction or maintenance of the school or procurement or upgrading of educational equipment.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

22 SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS

Movements in the number of share options outstanding under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and their weighted average exercise prices are as follows:

	31 August 2023	
	Average exercise price in HK\$ per share option	Number of share options
As at beginning of the year	0.00001	109,795,440
Share options exercised	0.00001	(4,751,750)
As at end of the year	0.00001	105,043,690
Exercisable at period end	0.00001	4,327,190

	31 August 2022	
	Average exercise price in HK\$ per share option	Number of share options
As at beginning of the year	0.00001	123,554,290
Share options exercised	0.00001	(13,758,850)
As at end of the year	0.00001	109,795,440
Exercisable at period end	0.00001	2,169,990

Options exercised for the year ended 31 August 2023 resulted in 4,751,750 shares being issued at a weighted average price of HK\$1.24 each. Options exercised for the year ended 31 August 2022 resulted in 13,758,850 shares being issued at a weighted average price of HK\$3.82 each.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

22 SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS (CONTINUED)

As at 31 August 2023, outstanding share options have the following expiry date and exercise prices:

	31 August 2023	
	Exercise price in HK\$ per share option	Number of share options
Expiry date		
1 September 2036	0.00001	105,043,690

(a) Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme

On 1 September 2016, 102,621,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 20 years. Commencing from the first, second to sixth, seventh to eleventh, twelfth to sixteenth and seventeenth to twentieth anniversaries, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 5%, 20%, 30%, 50% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 20,524,200 share options have been vested, and 3,278,900 share options have not yet exercised.

On 1 September 2016, 15,658,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 20 years. Upon the Listing and commencing from the second to sixth, seventh to eleventh, twelfth to sixteenth and seventeenth to twentieth anniversaries, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 5%, 20%, 30%, 50% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 3,131,600 share options have been vested, and 363,590 share options have not yet exercised.

On 1 September 2016, 4,402,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 15 years. Commencing from the first, second to sixth, seventh to eleventh and twelfth to fifteenth anniversaries, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 5%, 25%, 45% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 1,100,500 share options have been vested and 440,200 share options not exercised.

On 1 September 2016, 1,636,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 15 years. Upon the Listing and commencing from the second to sixth, seventh to eleventh and twelfth to fifteenth anniversaries, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 5%, 25%, 45% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 409,000 share options have been vested and exercised.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

22 SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS (CONTINUED)

(a) Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme (Continued)

On 1 September 2016, 2,608,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 10 years. Upon the Listing and commencing from the second to sixth and seventh to tenth anniversaries, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 5%, 40% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 1,043,200 share options have been vested and 244,500 share options not exercised.

On 1 September 2016, 44,075,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 5 years. Upon the Listing and commencing from the second to fifth anniversaries, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 3% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 44,075,000 share options have been vested and exercised.

On 1 September 2016, 9,000,000 share options were granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme which have a vesting period of 3 years. Upon the Listing and commencing from the first and second to third anniversary, the relevant grantees may exercise up to 40%, 60% and 100% of the shares comprised in his or her option. As at 31 August 2023, 9,000,000 share options have been vested and exercised.

The fair value of the options granted under the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme as determined using the Binominal model was HK\$464,583,000. Significant inputs into the model were as follows:

Spot price (HK\$)	2.58
Exercise price (HK\$)	0.00001
Expected volatility	62.0%
Time to maturity	Based on the terms of the options
Weighted average annual risk free interest rate	1.1%
Expected dividend yield	0.0%

The fair value of the Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme is charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss over the vesting period of the options. Total share option expenses charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss for the year ended 31 August 2023 amounted to HK\$17,121,000 (equivalent to RMB14,740,000) (2022: HK\$20,093,000 (equivalent to RMB17,299,000)).

(b) Share Award Scheme

On 9 March 2023, the Group awarded a total of 7,542,300 award shares to 102 selected participants who are unconnected grantees under the Share Award Scheme, and all the award shares were vested and exercised at the same day. The closing price of the shares on this grant date was HK\$1.27 per share.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

22 SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS (CONTINUED)

(b) Share Award Scheme (Continued)

The fair value of the award shares is determined by the total shares awarded and exercised multiplied by the closing price of the shares on this grant date, and it is charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss when the award shares were exercised. Total expenses related to the Share Award Scheme charged to this annual condensed financial information was amounted to HK\$9,579,000 (equivalent to RMB8,501,000) (2022: HK\$20,366,000 (equivalent to RMB16,906,000)).

23 ACCRUALS AND OTHER PAYABLES

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Net payables to the Affected Business upon deconsolidation (Note 28(b))	594,030	594,030
Payables for purchases of property, plant and equipment	372,974	99,635
Salary and welfare payables	70,247	76,434
Miscellaneous expenses received from students (a)	83,010	102,125
Payables for teaching materials and other operating expenditure	62,723	58,819
Government subsidies payable to students and teachers	34,864	46,146
Taxes payable	27,671	27,812
Deposits received	21,245	18,683
Amount due to related parties (Note 28(b))	11,719	11,003
Interest payables	8,195	6,526
Defined pension benefits	9,189	7,772
Audit and consulting fees	3,542	3,796
Legal claim payables	2,189	6,589
Others	22,141	18,232
	1,323,739	1,077,602

(a) The amounts represent the miscellaneous expenses received from students which will be paid out on behalf of students.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

23 ACCRUALS AND OTHER PAYABLES (CONTINUED)

- (b) The carrying amounts of the Group's accruals and other payables were denominated in the following currencies:

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
RMB	1,286,150	1,041,584
THB	37,589	36,018
	1,323,739	1,077,602

24 BORROWINGS

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Non-current		
Secured Bank loans	220,000	430,000
	220,000	430,000
Current		
Secured Bank loans	210,000	210,198
Unsecured Bank loans	1,026,900	—
	1,236,900	210,198
Total borrowings	1,456,900	640,198

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

24 BORROWINGS (CONTINUED)

(a) Bank borrowings

- (i) The weighted average effective interest rates at the balance sheet dates are set out as follows:

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
Bank borrowings	3.75%	4.09%

- (ii) Secured bank loans of the Group which were guaranteed and pledged are set out below:

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Guaranteed by a related party	430,000	640,000
Secured by equity interests of a subsidiary	—	198
	430,000	640,198

- (iii) The maturity date of the borrowing was analysed as follows:

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Within 1 year	1,236,900	210,198
Between 1 and 2 years	220,000	210,000
Between 2 and 5 years	—	220,000
	1,456,900	640,198

- (iv) The fair values of the Group's borrowings are not materially different to their carrying amounts, since the interest payable on those borrowings is either close to current market rates or the borrowings are of a short-term nature.

- (v) The Group's borrowings were denominated in RMB and US\$.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

24 BORROWINGS (CONTINUED)

(a) Bank borrowings (Continued)

(vi) Risk exposures

Details of the Group's exposure to risks arising from current and non-current borrowings are set out in note 3.1.

(vii) Financial arrangements

As at 31 August 2023, the Group had no undrawn borrowing facilities (2022: Nil).

25 FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Non-current		
Convertible Bonds	811,117	—
Current		
Convertible Bonds	—	1,797,105

(a) Issuance of the Convertible Bonds

On 27 December 2019, the Company issued Convertible Bonds with an aggregate principal amount of HK\$2,088,000,000 (approximately RMB1,876,402,000). The issuance cost of approximately RMB18,756,000 was charged as finance expenses. The Convertible Bonds were recognised and measured as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss pursuant to the terms of the trust deed (the “**Trust Deed**”) constituting the Convertible Bonds.

The Convertible Bonds bear interest on their outstanding principal amount from and including the issue date at the rate of 0.90 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually in arrears on 27 June and 27 December in each year, commencing on 27 June 2020. Pursuant to the Trust Deed, the Convertible Bonds can be converted into fully paid ordinary shares of the Company with a par value of HK\$0.00001 each, at the option of the holders of the Convertible Bonds (the “**Bondholders**”). Each convertible bond will, at the option of the holder, be convertible (unless previously redeemed, converted or purchased and cancelled) on or after the date which is 41 days after the Issue Date up to the close of business on the date falling seven days prior to the Maturity Date (the “**Conversion Period**”) into fully paid ordinary shares with a par value of HK\$0.00001 each of the Company at an initial conversion price of HK\$7.1303 per share. The conversion price is subject to adjustment in the circumstances described under certain terms and conditions of the Trust Deed. As at 31 August 2022, the conversion price of the Convertible Bonds was HK\$6.68 per share and no conversion related to the Convertible Bonds was exercised by the Bondholders.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

25 FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS (CONTINUED)

(a) Issuance of the Convertible Bonds (Continued)

On giving notice in accordance with the respective terms and conditions of the Trust Deed, at any time after 1 March 2023 and prior to the Maturity Date, the Convertible Bonds may be redeemed at the option of the Company.

The Convertible Bonds may be redeemed at the option of the Company or the Bondholders pursuant to the respective terms and conditions under the Trust Deed. The convertible bonds may be redeemed at the option of the Company in whole but not in part for taxation reasons as described in the Trust Deed. According to the terms of the Trust Deed, the Bondholders had rights to require the Company to redeem all or part of the Convertible Bonds at the nominal value together with the accrued interest on 27 December 2022 (the “**Early Redemption Date**”). As at 31 August 2022, the Convertible Bonds was reclassified as current liability due to the relevant redemption option of the Bondholders.

(b) Repurchase of and amendments to the Convertible Bonds

- (i) On 25 October 2022, the Company repurchased and cancelled a portion of the Convertible Bonds with principal amounts of HK\$614,000,000 from certain Bondholders at a total consideration of HK\$428,100,000 (equivalent to RMB388,784,000), resulted in an other gain of approximately HK\$186,000,000 (equivalent to RMB169,738,000). After such repurchase, the outstanding principal amount of the Convertible Bonds was reduced to HK\$1,474,000,000. On 25 November 2022, all of the remaining Bondholders confirmed to exercise of their early redemption rights under the Convertible Bonds. Although the Group had cash and cash equivalents of HK\$4,344,000,000 on the Early Redemption Date, the cash and cash equivalents available outside of mainland China were not sufficient to redeem all of the Convertible Bonds. The Group was also not able to arrange financing facilities outside mainland China before the Early Redemption Date. As a result, the outstanding principal of HK\$1,474,000,000 and the accrued interest of HK\$6,633,000 were not paid by the Company on the Early Redemption Date (the “**Events of Default**”). The following actions have been taken to mitigate the above conditions:

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

25 FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS (CONTINUED)

(b) Repurchase of and amendments to the Convertible Bonds (Continued)

- (ii) On 12 January 2023, the Company issued a notice to request the remaining Bondholders to approve an extraordinary resolution in accordance with the Trust Deed (the “**Extraordinary Resolution**”) which sets out certain revised terms and waivers in relation to the Convertible Bonds. The Extraordinary Resolution was approved by the requisite Bondholders on 18 January 2023 with the revised terms and waivers signed under a supplemental trust deed (“**Supplemental Trust Deed**”) effective and became irrevocable on 19 January 2023, details of which are set out below.
- (1) A mandatory redemption by the Company totaling HK\$500,000,000 to all the remaining Bondholders on a pro-rata basis on 30 January 2023. The remaining outstanding aggregate principal amount of HK\$974,000,000 will be fully repayable on 27 December 2024, with interest payable remains at 0.9% per annum payable semi-annually on 27 June and 27 December in each year, provided conversion under (3) below is not triggered.
 - (2) The conversion price to the shares of the Company under terms of the Convertible Bonds was amended to HK\$1.65 per share (the “**Amended Conversion Price**”) from the conversion price of HK\$6.68 per share immediately before the amendment.
 - (3) A right of mandatory conversion of the Convertible Bonds when the volume-weighted average price of the Company’s shares for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) out of any 30 consecutive trading days is at least 130% of the Amended Conversion Price, at any time after 1 March 2023 and prior to the maturity date of 27 December 2024.
 - (4) Waivers were granted with respect to the consequences of the Events of Default as stipulated in the Trust Deed, including immediate repayment of the principal and interest amounts and payment of default interests.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

25 FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS (CONTINUED)

(b) Repurchase of and amendments to the Convertible Bonds (Continued)

- (iii) On 30 January 2023, the Company mandatorily redeemed Convertible Bonds with principal amounts of HK\$500,000,000 at a total consideration of HK\$501,200,000 (equivalent to RMB433,487,000) with the Group's funding held outside mainland China as mentioned above.

- (iv) As mentioned above, certain terms and conditions of the remaining Convertible Bonds were amended pursuant to a Supplemental Trust Deed signed between the Company and the remaining Bondholders on 19 January 2023, such amendments constitute substantial modifications based on the relevant requirements under IFRS. Accordingly, the original financial liabilities related to the Convertible Bonds before the amendments are distinguished whereas the new financial liabilities under the revised terms and conditions are recognised at fair value, with the difference recognised in the profit or loss, resulted in an other loss of approximately RMB6,781,000. The accumulated changes in the fair value of the original Convertible Bonds attributable to changes in own credit risks included in other comprehensive income is transferred to the retained earnings. As the Convertible Bonds with a remaining outstanding aggregate principal amount of HK\$974,000,000 will be fully repayable on 27 December 2024, it was reclassified as non-current liability as at 31 August 2023.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

26 CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Cash generated from operations

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Profit before income tax	1,138,559	1,126,299
Adjustments for:		
– Depreciation of right-of-use assets (Note 13(b))	60,564	55,891
– Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 13(a))	264,449	165,356
– Amortisation of intangible assets (Note 14)	19,354	11,048
– Provision for impairment of trade and other receivables (Note 17(b))	6,712	3,102
– Write-off long-aged payables (Note 7)	(309)	(2,643)
– Losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets (Note 7)	17,015	4,602
– Net (gain)/loss on financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (Note 7)	(40,957)	73,436
– Gains on disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (Note 7)	(3,148)	–
– Share-based compensation expenses (Note 8)	14,740	17,299
– Share award scheme expenses (Note 8)	8,501	16,906
– Finance expenses — net	(10,923)	20,505
– Net gains on repurchase of the Convertible Bonds (Note 7)	(169,738)	–
– Losses arising from revising the terms of the Convertible Bonds (Note 7)	6,781	–
– Gains on disposal of land use right (Note 7)	–	(14,453)
Changes in working capital:		
– Trade and other receivables	(106,978)	27,396
– Contract liabilities	(741,810)	566,953
– Accruals and other payables	(38,190)	55,894
– Deferred income	(3,859)	77,650
Cash generated from operations	420,763	2,205,241

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

26 CASH FLOW INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

(a) Cash generated from operations (Continued)

In the consolidated statement of cash flows, proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment comprise:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Net book amounts (Note 13(a))	34,655	5,237
Losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(16,996)	(4,602)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	17,659	635

(b) Net debt reconciliation

This section sets out an analysis of net debt and the movements in net debt for each of the periods presented.

Net debt

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 18)	2,370,966	4,240,783
Borrowings (Note 24)	(1,456,900)	(640,198)
Convertible Bonds (Note 25)	(811,117)	(1,797,105)
Lease liabilities (Note 13(b))	(17,529)	(17,296)
Net debt	85,420	1,786,184
Cash and cash equivalents	2,370,966	4,240,783
Gross debt — fixed interest rates	(828,646)	(1,814,401)
Gross debt — variable interest rates	(1,456,900)	(640,198)
Net debt	85,420	1,786,184

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

26 CASH FLOW INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

(b) Net debt reconciliation (Continued)

	Assets		Liabilities from financing activities		
	Cash and cash equivalents RMB'000	Borrowings RMB'000	Convertible bonds RMB'000	Lease liabilities RMB'000	Net debt RMB'000
As at 31 August 2021	1,655,884	(850,351)	(1,667,555)	(21,380)	(883,402)
Cash flows	2,533,267	210,153	—	5,106	2,748,526
Foreign exchange adjustments	51,632	—	(95,685)	—	(44,053)
Other non-cash movements	—	—	(33,865)	(1,022)	(34,887)
As at 31 August 2022	4,240,783	(640,198)	(1,797,105)	(17,296)	1,786,184
Cash flows	(1,916,194)	(816,702)	822,271	9,597	(1,901,028)
Foreign exchange adjustments	46,377	—	55,048	—	101,425
Other non-cash movements	—	—	108,669	(9,830)	98,839
As at 31 August 2023	2,370,966	(1,456,900)	(811,117)	(17,529)	85,420

27 COMMITMENTS

(a) Capital commitments

The following is the details of capital expenditure contracted but not provided for in the consolidated financial statements.

	As at 31 August	
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Construction project of a new campus	527,215	633,392

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

28 SIGNIFICANT RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. Parties are also considered to be related if they are subject to common control or joint control.

The Controlling Shareholder, members of key management and their close family members of the Group are also considered as related parties. In the opinion of the Directors, the related party transactions were carried out in the normal course of business and at terms negotiated between the Group and the respective related parties.

Name and relationship with related parties:

Names of the related parties	Nature of relationship
Mr. Li Guangyu	The Controlling Shareholder
Zhengzhou corn Culture Communication Co. Ltd.	A company controlled by the Controlling Shareholder

(a) Transactions with related parties

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Purchases of services from related parties	716	716

(b) Balances with related parties

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Amounts due to related parties		
— The Affected Business upon deconsolidation	594,030	594,030
— The Controlling Shareholder	9,038	8,704
— Zhengzhou Corn Culture Communication Co., Ltd.	2,681	2,299
	605,749	605,033

As at 31 August 2023, all balances with the Controlling Shareholder and the related companies are non-interest bearing. All balances due from and due to the Controlling Shareholder and related parties are unsecured and repayable on demand.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

28 SIGNIFICANT RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

(c) Guarantees for borrowings

	As at 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Borrowings guaranteed by the Controlling Shareholder (Note 24(a)(ii))	430,000	640,000

(d) Key management compensation

Key management includes directors of the Company and senior managements of the Group. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below:

	Year ended 31 August	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Wages, salaries and bonuses	5,300	2,803
Share-based compensation	511	674
Contributions to pension plans	123	107
Welfare and other expenses	114	93
	6,048	3,677

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

29 BALANCE SHEET AND RESERVE MOVEMENT OF THE COMPANY

Balance Sheet of the Company

Note	As at 31 August 2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Non-current assets		
Investments in subsidiaries	139,472	119,927
Total non-current assets	139,472	119,927
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	1,315,130	1,285,271
Cash and cash equivalents	358,593	1,103,777
Total current assets	1,673,723	2,389,048
Total assets	1,813,195	2,508,975
Equity and liabilities		
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		
Share capital	30	30
Share premium	(a) 1,762,405	1,741,528
Other reserves	(a) 219,432	330,695
Accumulated losses	(a) (1,082,772)	(1,394,436)
Total equity	899,095	677,817
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	811,117	—
Other non-current liabilities	2,575	4,931
Total non-current liabilities	813,692	4,931
Current liabilities		
Accruals and other payables	100,408	28,924
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	—	1,797,105
Short-term borrowings	—	198
Total current liabilities	100,408	1,826,227
Total liabilities	914,100	1,831,158
Total equity and liabilities	1,813,195	2,508,975

The balance sheet of the Company was approved by the Board of Directors on 30 November 2023 and was signed on its behalf:

Li Hua
Director

Qiu Hongjun
Director

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

29 BALANCE SHEET AND RESERVE MOVEMENT OF THE COMPANY (CONTINUED)

(a) Reserve movement of the Company

	Share premium RMB'000	Capital reserve RMB'000	Share-based payments reserve RMB'000	Translation reserve RMB'000	Accumulated losses RMB'000	Total RMB'000
At 1 September 2021	966,087	46	126,932	136,776	(1,297,150)	(67,309)
Loss for the year	—	—	—	—	(97,286)	(97,286)
Other comprehensive income						
Currency translation differences	—	—	—	83,333	—	83,333
Transactions with owners						
Issue of ordinary shares	752,741	—	—	—	—	752,741
Issuance for share award scheme	16,906	—	—	—	—	16,906
Disposal of treasury shares	(27,897)	—	—	—	—	(27,897)
Exercise of share options	33,691	—	(33,691)	—	—	—
Share-based compensation	—	—	17,299	—	—	17,299
At 31 August 2022	1,741,528	46	110,540	220,109	(1,394,436)	677,787
At 1 September 2022	1,741,528	46	110,540	220,109	(1,394,436)	677,787
Profit for the year	—	—	—	—	155,082	155,082
Other comprehensive income						
Transfer of changes in fair value related to the changes in the credit risk of convertible bonds due to the termination of convertible bonds	—	—	—	(156,582)	156,582	—
Currency translation differences	—	—	—	42,955	—	42,955
Transactions with owners						
Issue of ordinary shares	—	—	—	—	—	—
Issuance for share award scheme	8,501	—	—	—	—	8,501
Disposal of treasury shares	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exercise of share options	12,376	—	(12,376)	—	—	—
Share-based compensation	—	—	14,740	—	—	14,740
At 31 August 2023	1,762,405	46	112,904	106,482	(1,082,772)	899,065

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

30 MAJOR SUBSIDIARIES

The following is a list of the principal subsidiaries at 31 August 2023:

Name of subsidiaries	Country/Place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Particulars of issued share capital	Percentage of equity interests held by the Group	Percentage of equity interests directly held by the Company	Principal activities/ kind of legal entity	Places of operation
Directly held:						
China YuHua Education Investment Limited (中國宇華教育投資有限公司)	BVI/28 April 2016	US\$1.00	100%	100%	Holding company, Limited Liability company	BVI
LEI Lie Ying Limited	Hong Kong/ 26 March 2009	HK\$1.00	100%	100%	Holding company, Limited Liability company	Hong Kong
Indirectly held:						
China HongKong Yuhua Education Limited (中國香港宇華教育有限公司)	Hong Kong/ 12 May 2016	HK\$1,000.00	100%	—	Holding company, Limited Liability company	Hong Kong
Xizang Yuanpei Information Technology Management Company Limited (西藏元培信息科技管理有限公司)	Mainland China/ 22 July 2016	US\$500,000.00	100%	—	Holding company, WFOE	Mainland China
Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments Co., Ltd. (鄭州宇華教育投資有限公司)	Mainland China/ 9 April 2004	RMB50,000,000	100%	—	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Zhengzhou Technology and Business University (鄭州工商學院)	Mainland China/ 9 April 2013	RMB100,000,000	100%	—	University	Mainland China
Hunan Lie Ying Industry Co., Ltd. (湖南獵鷹實業有限公司)	Mainland China/ 17 December 1996	RMB113,333,334	100%	—	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Hunan International Economics University ("HIEU") (湖南涉外經濟學院)	Mainland China/ 13 May 1997	RMB10,000,000	100%	—	University	Mainland China

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

30 MAJOR SUBSIDIARIES (CONTINUED)

The following is a list of the principal subsidiaries at 31 August 2023: (Continued)

Name of subsidiaries	Country/Place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Particulars of issued share capital	Percentage of equity interests held by the Group	Percentage of equity interests directly held by the Company	Principal activities/ kind of legal entity	Places of operation
Indirectly held: (Continued)						
Hunan Lie Ying Property Management Co., Ltd. (湖南獵鷹物業管理有限公司)	Mainland China/ 29 July 2002	RMB2,000,000	100%	—	Property management, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Hunan Lie Ying Mechanic School (湖南獵鷹技工學校)	Mainland China/ 10 September 2007	RMB500,000	100%	—	Vocational school	Mainland China
Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Science and Technology Limited (鄭州秦風教育科技有限公司)	Mainland China/ 19 June 2019	RMB1,000,000	100%	—	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Kaifeng City Yubohui Education Information Consulting Co., Ltd. (開封市宇博慧教育信息諮詢有限公司)	Mainland China/ 2 Feb 2018	RMB33,000,000	100%	—	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Kaifeng Yuhua Elite High School (開封宇華實驗高中)	Mainland China/ 12 July 2000	RMB8,000,000	100%	—	High school	Mainland China
Thai Education Holdings Co., Ltd.	Thailand/ 12 Oct 2011	THB3,591,000	100%	—	Holding company, Limited Liability company	Thailand
Fareast Stamford International Co., Ltd.	Thailand/ 4 Mar 1994	THB400,000,000	99.9999%	—	Holding company, Limited Liability company	Thailand
Stamford International University	Thailand/ 29 Nov 1995	RMB1,000,000	99.9999%	—	University	Thailand

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

30 MAJOR SUBSIDIARIES (CONTINUED)

The following is a list of the principal subsidiaries at 31 August 2023: (Continued)

Name of subsidiaries	Country/Place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Particulars of issued share capital	Percentage of equity interests held by the Group	Percentage of equity interests directly held by the Company	Principal activities/ kind of legal entity	Places of operation
Indirectly held: (Continued)						
Zhengzhou Hanchen Education Science and Technology Limited (鄭州漢晨教育科技有限公司)	Mainland China/ June 2018	RMB1,000,000	100%	–	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Jinan Shuangsheng Education Consulting Co., Ltd. (濟南雙勝教育諮詢有限公司)	Mainland China/ October 2016	RMB25,500,000	100%	–	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Shandong Yingcai University (山東英才學院)	Mainland China/ May 1998	RMB20,000,000	100%	–	University	Mainland China
Shandong Yingcai Highly Mechanic School (山東英才高級技工學校)	Mainland China/ August 2014	RMB5,000,000	100%	–	Vocational school	Mainland China
Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd. (河南高文教育諮詢有限公司) (i)	Mainland China/ June 2021	RMB1,000,000	100%	–	Holding company, Limited liability company	Mainland China
Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College (鄭州軟件職業技術學院有限責任公司) (i)	Mainland China/ May 2023	RMB50,000,000	100%	–	Vocational school	Mainland China

Note:

- (i) Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd (“**Henan Gaowen**”) was incorporated in mainland China by Mr. Li Guangyu and Ms. Li Hua. Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College was incorporated in the mainland China on 30 May 2023 and it was a wholly owned subsidiary of Henan Gaowen. On 30 May 2023, with effect of certain contractual arrangements entered into between Xizang Yuanpei, Henan Gaowen, Mr. Li Guangyu and Ms. Li Hua, Henan Gao and Zhengzhou Software College became Consolidated Affiliated Entities controlled by Xizang Yuanpei and was therefore consolidated by the Group since 30 May 2023. Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College has not elected to be a private school whose sponsors do not require reasonable returns.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

30 MAJOR SUBSIDIARIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Non-controlling interests ("NCI")

Set out below is summarised financial information of the subsidiary that has non-controlling interests that are material to the Group. The amounts disclosed for each subsidiary are before inter-company eliminations.

Summarised balance sheet

	Kaifeng City Yubohui Education	
	31 August 2023 RMB'000	31 August 2022 RMB'000
Current assets	134,863	113,668
Current liabilities	(33,946)	(32,705)
Current net assets	100,917	80,963
Non-current assets	38,352	40,805
Non-current liabilities	(3,602)	(4,027)
Non-current net assets	34,750	36,778
Net assets	135,667	117,741
Accumulated NCI	40,742	35,364

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

30 MAJOR SUBSIDIARIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Non-controlling interests (“NCI”) (Continued)

Summarised statement of comprehensive income

	Kaifeng City Yubohui Education	
	Year ended 31 August 2023 RMB'000	Year ended 31 August 2022 RMB'000
Revenue	49,275	58,600
Profit for the year	17,926	30,824
Other comprehensive income	—	—
Total comprehensive income	17,926	30,824
Profit allocated to NCI	5,378	9,248
Dividends paid to NCI	—	—

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

31 BENEFITS AND INTERESTS OF DIRECTORS

(a) Directors' emoluments

The emoluments of the Directors are set out below:

	Salary RMB'000	Contribution to pension plan, welfare and other expenses RMB'000	Share-based compensation RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Year ended 31 August 2023				
Name of executive director				
Li Guangyu	2,118	12	—	2,130
Li Hua	1,678	39	—	1,717
Qiu Hongjun	68	—	212	280
Name of independent non-executive director				
Chen Lei	180	—	—	180
Xia Zuoquan	180	—	—	180
Zhang Zhixue	180	—	—	180
	4,404	51	212	4,667
Year ended 31 August 2022				
Name of executive director				
Li Guangyu	340	12	—	352
Li Hua	961	31	—	992
Qiu Hongjun	68	—	544	612
Name of independent non-executive director				
Chen Lei	180	—	—	180
Xia Zuoquan	180	—	—	180
Zhang Zhixue	180	—	—	180
	1,909	43	544	2,496

Note:

No emoluments have been paid by the Group to the Directors as an inducement to join or upon joining the Group or as compensation for loss of office. No Director waived or has agreed to waive any emoluments.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

31 BENEFITS AND INTERESTS OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)

(b) Directors' termination benefits

During the year, no payments was made to directors as compensation for early termination of the appointment (2022: nil).

(c) Consideration provided to third parties for making available directors' service

During the year, no payment was made to the former employer of directors or third parties for making available the services as a director of the Company (2022: nil).

(d) Information about loans, quasi-loans and other dealings in favour of directors, controlled bodies corporate by and connected entities with such directors

During the year, there was no loan, quasi-loan and other dealing in favour of directors, controlled bodies corporate by and connected entities with such directors (2022: nil).

(e) Directors' material interests in transactions, arrangements or contracts

During the year, no significant transaction, arrangement and contract in relation to the Group's business to which the Group companies were parties and in which a director of the Company had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time of the years except for the transactions disclosed in Note 30(a) (2022: nil).

32 DIVIDENDS

The Board does not recommend the distribution of a final dividend for the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022:Nil).

33 SUBSEQUENT EVENT

As of the date of this report, no significant subsequent event happened.

DEFINITIONS

“2016 Contractual Arrangements”	the series of contractual arrangements entered into by, among others, the Company, WFOE, Mr. Li, Ms. Li and the Group’s consolidated affiliated entities, details of which are described in the section headed “Contractual Arrangements” in the Prospectus
“2018 Contractual Arrangements”	a series of contracts and documents entered into in September 2018 between the WFOE, Zhengzhou Qinfeng Education Technology Co., Ltd., Kaifeng City Yubohui Education Information Technology Consulting Co., Ltd., Kaifeng City Xiangfu District Bowang High School and the Registered Shareholders, details of which are described in the section headed “2018 Contractual Arrangements” in this annual report
“2019 Contractual Arrangements”	a series of contracts and documents entered into in July 2019 between the WFOE, the Transferee and the Registered Shareholders, details of which are described in the section headed “The 2019 Contractual Arrangements” in the circular of the Company dated 2 December 2019
“2020 Contractual Arrangements”	a series of contracts and documents entered into in June 2020 between the WFOE, Changsha Jiuzhao Information Technology Co., Ltd. and the Registered Shareholders
“2023 Contractual Arrangements”	a series of contracts and documents entered into in May 2023 between the WFOE, Henan Gaowen Education Consulting Co., Ltd., Zhengzhou Software Vocational and Technical College Co., Ltd. and the Registered Shareholders
“2024 Convertible Bonds”	convertible bonds with an aggregate principal amount of HK\$2,088 million in 0.90% due in 2024 issued by the Company in 2019
“Affiliate”	means a company that directly, indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the Company and includes any company which is (a) the holding company of the Company; or (b) a subsidiary of holding company of the Company; or (c) a subsidiary of the Company; or (d) a fellow subsidiary of the Company; or (e) the controlling shareholder of the Company; or (f) a company controlled by the controlling shareholder of the Company; or (g) a company controlled by the Company; or (h) an associated company of the holding company of the Company; or (i) an associated company of the Company; or (j) associated company of controlling shareholder of the Company

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Amended Conversion Price”	The conversion price to the shares of the Company under terms of the Convertible Bonds was amended to HK\$1.65 per share
“Articles of Association”	the amended and restated memorandum and articles of association of the Company adopted by special resolution passed on 17 April 2023, as amended from time to time
“associate(s)”	has the meaning ascribed thereto under the Listing Rules
“Auditor”	PricewaterhouseCoopers
“Award”	an award granted by the Board to a Selected Participant, which may vest in the form of Award Shares or the Actual Selling Price of the Award Shares in cash, as the Board may determine in accordance with the terms of the Share Award Scheme Rules
“Award Shares”	the Shares granted to a Selected Participant in an Award
“Baikal Lake Investment”	Baikal Lake Investment Holdings Limited, a company incorporated in the BVI with limited liability on 29 August 2016 and the sole shareholder of GuangYu Investment and one of the Controlling Shareholders
“Board” or “Board of Directors”	the board of directors of the Company
“Bondholder(s)”	holder(s) of the Convertible Bond(s) from time to time
“Bowang High School”	Kaifeng City Xiangfu District Bowang High School (開封市祥福區博望高中)
“BVI”	the British Virgin Islands
“Capital Stock”	with respect to any person, any and all shares, interests, participations or other equivalents (however designated, whether voting or non-voting) in equity of such person, whether outstanding on the Issue Date of issued thereafter, including, without limitation, all common stock and preferred stock, but excluding debt securities convertible into such equity

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Change of Control”

the occurrence of one or more of the following events:

- (i) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of the properties or assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any “person” (within the meaning of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act), other than one or more Permitted Holders or any of the Company’s subsidiaries;
- (ii) the merger, amalgamation or consolidation of the Company with or into another person or the merger or amalgamation of another person with or into the Company, or the sale of all or substantially all the assets of the Company to another person;
- (iii) the Permitted Holders are the beneficial owners within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act of less than 40% of the total voting power of the Voting Stock of the Company;
- (iv) any “person” or “group” (as such terms are used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d) of the Exchange Act) is or becomes the “beneficial owner” (as such term is used in Rule 13d-3 of the Exchange Act), directly or indirectly, of total voting power of the Voting Stock of the Company greater than such total voting power held beneficially by the Permitted Holders;
- (v) individuals who on the Issue Date constituted the board of directors of the Company, together with any new directors whose election by the board of directors was approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the directors then still in office who were either directors or whose election was previously so approved, cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the board of directors of the Company then in office; or
- (vi) the adoption of a plan relating to the liquidation or dissolution of the Company.

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“China” or “PRC”	the People’s Republic of China and, except where the context requires otherwise and only for the purposes of this annual report, references to China or the PRC exclude Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan; the term “Chinese” has a similar meaning
“China YuHua Education Investment”	China YuHua Education Investment Limited, a company incorporated in the BVI with limited liability on 28 April 2016 and a wholly-owned subsidiary of our Company
“Companies Ordinance”	the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong) effective from 3 March 2014, as amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time
“Company”, “the Company” or “our Company”	China YuHua Education Corporation Limited (中国宇华教育集团有限公司), an exempted company with limited liability incorporated in the Cayman Islands on 25 April 2016
“compulsory education”	grade one to grade nine education, which all citizens in China must receive according to the Compulsory Education Law of the PRC (中華人民共和國義務教育法)
“Conditions”	the terms and conditions in relation to the Convertible Bonds
“Contractual Arrangements”	together, the 2016 Contractual Arrangements, 2018 Contractual Arrangements, 2019 Contractual Arrangements, 2020 Contractual Arrangements and 2023 Contractual Arrangements
“Controlling Shareholders”	has the meaning ascribed to it under the Listing Rules and unless the context otherwise requires, refers to Mr. Li, Baikai Lake Investment and/or GuangYu Investment
“Conversion Date”	the conversion date in respect of the Convertible Bonds, which must fall at a time when the Conversion Right attaching to the Convertible Bond is expressed in the Conditions to be exercisable
“Conversion Price”	the price at which the Shares will be issued upon conversion of the Convertible Bonds (subject to adjustments in the manner provided in the Conditions)
“Conversion Right”	the right of a Bondholder to convert its Convertible Bond(s) into Shares credited as fully paid subject as provided in the Conditions

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Conversion Share(s)”	the Share(s) to be issued by the Company upon conversion of the Convertible Bonds
“Corporate Governance Code”, or “CG Code”	the Corporate Governance Code as set out in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules
“Director(s)”	the director(s) of the Company from time to time
“Early Redemption Date”	27 December 2022
“Eligible Person(s)”	any individual, being an employee, director (including executive directors, non-executive directors and independent non-executive directors), officer, consultant, advisor, distributor, contractor, customer, supplier, agent, business partner, joint venture business partner or service provider of any member of the Group or any Affiliate (including nominees and/or trustees of any employee benefit trust established for them) who the Board or its delegate(s) considers, in their sole discretion, to have contributed or will contribute to the Group; however, no individual who is resident in a place where the grant, acceptance or vesting of an Award pursuant to the Share Award Scheme is not permitted under the laws and regulations of such place or where, in the view of the Board or its delegate(s), compliance with applicable laws and regulations in such place makes it necessary or expedient to exclude such individual, shall be entitled to participate in the Scheme and such individual shall therefore be excluded from the term Eligible Person
“Events of Default”	The Group was also not able to arrange financing facilities outside mainland China before 27 December 2022 and the outstanding principal of HK\$1,474,000,000 and the accrued interest of HK\$6,633,000 were not paid by the Company on 27 December 2022
“Exchange Act”	U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
“Extraordinary Resolution”	An extraordinary resolution in accordance with the Trust Deed regarding certain revised terms and waivers of the Convertible Bonds, which was approved by the requisite Bondholders on 18 January 2023
“Firm Bonds”	convertible bonds with an initial aggregate principal amount of HK\$2,024 million due 2024 to be issued by the Company, convertible into the Conversion Shares

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“General Mandate”	the general mandate granted to the Directors pursuant to ordinary resolution of the Shareholders of the Company passed on 24 January 2022 to allot, issue and deal with up to 718,898,766 Shares or options, warrants or similar rights to subscribe for such Shares
“Group”	the Company, its subsidiaries and the consolidated affiliated entities from time to time or, where the context so requires, in respect of the period prior to the Company becoming the holding company of its present subsidiaries, such subsidiaries as if they were subsidiaries of the Company at the relevant time
“GuangYu Investment”	GuangYu Investment Holdings Limited, a company incorporated in the BVI with limited liability on 21 March 2016 and a Controlling Shareholder of the Company
“HIEU Schools”	Hunan International Economics University (湖南涉外經濟學院), Hunan Lie Ying Mechanic School (湖南獵鷹技工學校) and Hunan International Economics University Vocational Skills Training Centre (湖南涉外經濟學院職業技能培訓中心)
“high school(s)”	schools that provide education for students in grade 10 through grade 12
“higher education”	an optional final stage of formal learning that occurs after secondary education, which is often delivered at universities, academies, colleges, seminaries and institutes of technologies
“HK\$”	Hong Kong dollars, the lawful currency of Hong Kong
“Hong Kong” or “HK”	the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC
“HongKong Yuhua”	China HongKong Yuhua Education Limited (中國香港宇華教育有限公司), a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability on 12 May 2016 and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company
“IFRS”	International Financial Reporting Standards, as issued from time to time by the International Accounting Standards Board

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Implementation Opinions”	the Implementation Opinions on Encouraging and Guiding Private Fund’s Entry into the Education Sector and Promoting Healthy Development of Private Education (關於鼓勵和引導民間資金進入教育領域促進民辦教育健康發展的實施意見) promulgated by the Ministry of Education on 18 June 2012
“Independent College”	(獨立學院) a type of private higher education institution offering undergraduate courses that are run by non-governmental institutions or individuals through cooperation with public universities
“IPO”	initial public offering of the Shares on 16 February 2017
“Issue Date”	27 December 2019, being the date the Convertible Bonds are constituted by the Trust Deed
“January 2020 Convertible Bonds”	Company’s previously existing 3.00% convertible bonds due January 2020
“K-12”	kindergarten to grade 12
“kindergarten(s)”	educational establishments offering early childhood education to children prior to the commencement of compulsory education
“Latest Practicable Date”	18 December 2023, being the latest practicable date for ascertaining certain information in this annual report before its bulk print
“Laureate Education”	Laureate Education Inc., a Delaware public benefit corporation, the shares of which are listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol “LAUR”
“Listing”	the listing of the Shares on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange on 28 February 2017
“Listing Date”	28 February 2017, the date the Shares were listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange
“Listing Rules”	the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, as amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Loan” or “Loan Agreement”	the loan agreement between China YuHua Education Investment and HongKong YuHua, and the International Finance Corporation on 31 May 2018, pursuant to which the International Financial Corporation agreed to lend and the Company agreed to borrow up to the principal amount of US\$75 million, comprised of an initial US\$50 million tranche and a US\$25 million tranche which shall, at the option of the International Finance Corporation, be convertible into the ordinary share of the Company at a conversion price of HK\$5.75 per Share (subject to the adjustments as set out in the loan agreement) within the conversion period
“Main Board”	the stock exchange (excluding the option market) operated by the Stock Exchange which is independent from and operates in parallel with the Growth Enterprise Market of the Stock Exchange
“Mandatory Redemption Date”	30 January 2023
“Maturity Date”	27 December 2024, being the date on which the Convertible Bonds mature
“middle school(s)”	schools that provide education for students in grade seven through grade nine
“Mr. Li”	Mr. Li Guangyu (李光宇), a PRC citizen and the founder, executive Director and chairman of the Board of the Company
“Ms. Li”	Ms. Li Hua (李花), a PRC citizen and the daughter of Mr. Li. Ms. Li is also an executive Director, the chief executive officer and the vice chairman of the Board of the Company
“Model Code”	the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules
“MOFCOM”	the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC (中華人民共和國商務部)
“Notice”	a notice of extraordinary resolution to request Bondholders to consider and, if thought fit, approve and pass the Extraordinary Resolution

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“NDRC”	the National Development and Reform Commission of the PRC (中華人民共和國國家發展和改革委員會)
“Original Terms and Conditions”	the terms and conditions of the Convertible Bonds due 2024 issued in December 2019
“PRC Holdcos”	YuHua Investment Management, Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments and Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments
“PRC Legal Adviser”	Tian Yuan Law Firm
“Permitted Holders”	any or all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Mr. Li and Ms. Li, their spouses or immediate family members or any trust established by any of them for their own benefit or for the benefit of any of their immediate family members;(ii) any affiliate of the persons specified in clause (i) of this definition of Permitted Holders; and(iii) any person both the Capital Stock and the Voting Stock of which (or in the case of a trust, the beneficial interests in which) are owned 80% by persons specified in clauses (i) and (ii) of this definition of Permitted Holders
“Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme”	the share option scheme effective from 1 September 2016, the principal terms of which are set out in the section headed “Statutory and General Information — D. Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and Share Award Scheme — 1. Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme” in Appendix V to the Prospectus
“Pre-School Opinions”	the “Certain Opinions on Deepening the Reform and Regulating Development of Pre-school Education” (《關於學前教育深化改革規範發展的若干意見》) issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council of the PRC on 15 November 2018
“private education”	the term “private education” used in this annual report refers to private formal education

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Private Education Draft Law”	the “Implementation Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on the Law Regarding the Promotion of Private Education (Revised Draft) (Draft Submitted for Approval)” (《中華人民共和國民辦教育促進法實施條例(修訂草案) (送審稿)》) issued by the Ministry of Justice of the PRC on 10 August 2018
“Private HEI”	(民辦普通高校) a type of private higher education institution offering junior college, undergraduate and/or post-graduate course that are operated by non-governmental institutions or individuals and not affiliated with any public university
“private school(s)”	schools which are not administered by local, provincial or national governments
“Prospectus”	the prospectus of the Company published on 16 February 2017 in connection with the IPO on the Stock Exchange
“RMB”	Renminbi, the lawful currency of PRC
“Registered Shareholder(s)”	Mr. Li and Ms. Li, and each of them a Registered Shareholder
“Reporting Period”	the year ended 31 August 2023
“school year”	exception for the Group’s kindergartens, the school year for all of the Group’s schools, which generally starts on or around 1 September of each calendar year and ends on 31 August of the next calendar year
“Selected Participant”	any Eligible Person approved for participation in the Share Award Scheme
“SFC”	The Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong
“SFO”	the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong), as amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time
“Share(s)”	ordinary share(s) in the Company of par value of HK\$0.00001 each

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Share Award Scheme”	the share award scheme approved and adopted by the sole shareholder of the Company on 8 February 2017, the principal terms of which are set out in the section headed “Statutory and General Information — D. Pre-IPO Share Option Scheme and Share Award Scheme — 2. Share Award Scheme” in Appendix V to the Prospectus
“Share Award Scheme Rules”	the rules relating to the Share Award Scheme as amended from time to time
“Share Retention Agreement”	the agreement entered into, among others, Mr. Li Guangyu, Ms. Li Hua and the International Finance Corporation pursuant to which Mr. Li Guangyu and Ms. Li Hua will be required to maintain control over GuangYu Investment and the Company while any amount under the Loan remains outstanding
“Shareholder(s)”	holder(s) of Share(s)
“Stock Exchange”	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
“subsidiary(ies)”	has the meaning ascribed thereto in section 15 of the Companies Ordinance
“Supplemental Trust Deed”	A supplemental trust deed approved by the Extraordinary Resolution, which was effective and became irrevocable on 19 January 2023
“TEDCO”	Thai Education Holdings Co., Ltd., a private company limited by shares incorporated under the laws of Thailand
“Thailand”	the Kingdom of Thailand
“Transferee”	Zhengzhou Hanchen Education Technology Co., Ltd.* (鄭州漢晨教育科技有限公司), a company established under the laws of the PRC with limited liability and a subsidiary of the Company
“Trustee”	The Bank of New York Mellon, London Branch
“Trust Deed”	the trust deed to be entered into by the Company and the Trustee on or before the Closing Date as amended and/or supplemented from time to time
“United States” or “U.S.”	the United States of America, its territories, its possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“university” or “universities”	the term “university” used in this annual report refers to tertiary education
“US\$”	United States dollars, the lawful currency of the United States
“Volume Weighted Average Prices”	in respect of a Share on any trading day, the order book volume weighted average price of a Share appearing on or derived from Bloomberg (or its successor page) for such Share or such other source as shall be determined to be appropriate by an independent investment bank on such trading day, provided that if on any such trading day such price is not available or cannot otherwise be determined as provided above, the Volume Weighted Average Price of a Share in respect of such trading day shall be the Volume Weighted Average Price, determined as provided above, on the immediately preceding trading day on which the same can be so determined
“Voting Stock”	with respect to any person, Capital Stock of any class or kind ordinarily having the power to vote for the election of directors, managers or other voting members of the governing body of such person
“WFOE”	wholly foreign-owned enterprise
“Xizang Yuanpei”	Xizang Yuanpei Information Technology Management Company Limited (西藏元培信息科技管理有限公司), a company established in the PRC with limited liability on 22 July 2016 and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company
“Yubohui Education”	Kaifeng City Yubohui Education Information Consulting Co., Ltd. (開封市宇博慧教育信息諮詢有限公司)
“YuHua Investment Management”	YuHua Investment Management Co., Ltd. (宇華投資管理有限公司), a limited liability company established in the PRC on 23 November 1993 and one of the PRC Holdcos
“Zhengzhou Technology and Business University”	Zhengzhou Technology and Business University (鄭州工商學院), a Private HEI, or where the context requires, Wanfang College
“Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments”	Zhengzhou YuHua Education Investments Co., Ltd. (鄭州宇華教育投資有限公司), a limited liability company established in the PRC on 9 April 2004 and one of the PRC Holdcos

DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

“Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments” Zhengzhou Zhongmei Education Investments Co., Ltd. (鄭州中美教育投資有限公司), a limited liability company established in the PRC on 21 July 2011 and one of the PRC Holdcos

“%” percent

* *The English names of the PRC entities (including schools), PRC laws or regulations, and the PRC governmental authorities referred to in this annual report are translations from their Chinese names and are for identification purposes. If there is any inconsistency, the Chinese names shall prevail.*



中国宇华教育集团有限公司
China YuHua Education Corporation Limited