

## APPENDIX IV

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

### TAXATION FOR HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

Income tax and capital gains tax of holders of the H Shares is subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of H Shares are residents or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current laws and practices, and has not taken in to account the expected change or amendment to the relevant laws and policies and does not constitute any opinion or advice. The discussion does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an investment in the H shares, nor does it take into account the specific circumstances of any particular investor, some of which may be subject to special regulation. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the H shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the Latest Practicable Date, all of which are subject to change and may have retrospective effect.

No issues on PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital gain tax and profits tax, business tax/VAT, stamp duty and estate duty were referred in the discussion. Prospective investors are urged to consult their financial advisors regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of the H Shares.

### THE PRC TAXATION

#### Taxation on Dividends

##### *Individual Investor*

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

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》) (hereinafter referred to as the “**Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income** (《對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》)”) signed by the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on August 21, 2006, the PRC government may impose tax on dividends paid by a PRC company to a Hong Kong resident (including natural person and legal entity), but such tax shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of dividends payable. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of equity interest in a PRC

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company and the Hong Kong resident is the beneficial owner of the dividends and meets other conditions, such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total amount of dividends payable by the PRC company. The Fifth Protocol to the Arrangement between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (《國家稅務總局關於〈內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排〉第五議定書》) (the “**Fifth Protocol** (《第五協議書》)”) issued by the SAT and became effective on December 6, 2019 provides that such provisions shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of obtaining such tax benefits.

### *Enterprise Investors*

In accordance with the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) issued by NPC on March 16, 2007 and latest amended on December 29, 2018 and the Implementation Provisions of the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) issued by the State Council on December 6, 2007, came into effect on January 1, 2008 and amended on April 23, 2019 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**EIT Law**”), a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% enterprise income tax on PRC-sourced income (including dividends received from a PRC resident enterprise), if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise. Such withholding tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to an applicable treaty for the avoidance of double taxation.

The Circular of the State Administration of Tax on Issues Relating to the Withholding and Remitting of Enterprise Income Tax by PRC Resident Enterprises on Dividends Distributed to Overseas Non-Resident Enterprise Shareholders of H Shares (《國家稅務總局關於中國居民企業向境外H股非居民企業股東派發股息代扣代繳企業所得稅有關問題的通知》), which was issued and implemented by the SAT on November 6, 2008, further clarified that a PRC-resident enterprise must withhold corporate income tax at a rate of 10% on the dividends paid to non-PRC resident enterprise holders of H Shares which are derived out of profit generated since 2008. Non-PRC resident enterprise shareholders who need to enjoy tax treaty benefits, the relevant provisions of such tax treaty shall apply.

Pursuant to the Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》), the PRC government may impose tax on dividends paid by a PRC company to a Hong Kong resident (including natural person and legal entity), but such tax shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of dividends payable. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of equity interest in a PRC company and the Hong Kong resident is the beneficial owner of the dividends and meets other conditions, such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total amount of dividends payable by the PRC company. The Fifth Protocol (《第五協議書》) provides that such provisions shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of obtaining such tax benefits.

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Although there may be other provisions under the Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》), the treaty benefits under the criteria shall not be granted in the circumstance where relevant gains, after taking into account all relevant facts and conditions, are reasonably deemed to be one of the main purposes for the arrangement or transactions which will bring any direct or indirect benefits under this Arrangement, except when the grant of benefits under such circumstance is consistent with relevant objective and goal under the Arrangement. The application of the dividend clause of tax agreements is subject to the requirements of PRC tax law and regulation, such as the Notice of the State Administration of Taxation on the Issues Concerning the Application of the Dividend Clauses of Tax Agreements (《國家稅務總局關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》).

### *Tax Treaties*

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

### **Taxation on Share Transfer**

#### *VAT and Local Additional Tax*

Pursuant to the Notice of Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation on Fully Implementing the Pilot Reform for the Transition from Business Tax to Value-added Tax (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》) (the “**Circular 36**”), which was implemented on May 1, 2016 and partially repealed on July 1, 2017, January 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019, entities and individuals engaged in the services sale in the PRC are subject to VAT and “engaged in the services sale in the PRC” means that the seller or buyer of the taxable services is located in the PRC. Circular 36 also provides that transfer of financial products, including transfer of the ownership of marketable securities, shall be subject to VAT at 6% on the taxable revenue (which is the balance of sales price upon deduction of purchase price), for a general or a foreign VAT taxpayer. However, individuals who transfer financial products are exempt from VAT, which is also provided in the Notice of Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation on Several Tax Exemption Policies for Business Tax on Sale and Purchase of Financial Commodities by Individuals (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於個人金融商品買賣等營業稅若干免稅政策的通知》) effective on January 1, 2009. According to these regulations, if the holder is a non-resident individual, the PRC VAT is exempted from the sale or disposal of H shares; if the holder is a non-resident enterprise and the H-share buyer is an individual or entity located outside the PRC, the holder is not necessarily required to pay the PRC VAT, but if the H-share buyer is an individual or entity located in China, the holder may be required to pay the PRC VAT.

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However, in view of no clear regulations, it is still uncertain whether the non-Chinese resident enterprises are required to pay the PRC VAT for the disposal of H shares in practice.

At the same time, VAT payers are also required to pay urban maintenance and construction tax, education surtax and local education surcharge, which shall be usually subject to 12% of the VAT payable (if any).

### **Income Tax**

#### *Individual Investors*

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

Pursuant to the Circular on Declaring that Individual Income Tax Continues to be Exempted over Income of Individuals from the Transfer of Shares (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》) issued by the Ministry of Finance and the SAT on March 30, 1998, from January 1, 1997, income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises continues to be exempted from individual income tax. The Ministry of Finance and the SAT have not expressly stated whether they will continue to exempt tax on income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises in the latest amended IIT Law.

However, on December 31, 2009, the Ministry of Finance, SAT and CSRC jointly issued the Circular on Related Issues on Levying Individual Income Tax over the Income Received by Individuals from the Transfer of Listed Shares Subject to Sales Limitation (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的通知》), which came into effect on January 1, 2010, which states that individuals' income from the transfer of listed shares obtained from the public offering of listed companies and transfer market on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange shall continue to be exempted from individual income tax, except for the relevant shares which are subject to sales restriction (as defined in the Supplementary Notice on Issues Concerning the Levy of Individual Income Tax on Individuals' Income from the Transfer of Restricted Stocks of Listed Companies (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的補充通知》) jointly issued and implemented by such departments on November 10, 2010). As of the Latest Practicable Date, no aforesaid provisions have expressly provided that individual income tax shall be levied from non-Chinese resident individuals on the transfer of shares in PRC resident enterprises listed on overseas stock exchanges.

#### *Enterprise Investors*

In accordance with the EIT Law, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to corporate income tax at the rate of a 10% on PRC-sourced income, including gains derived from the disposal of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. Such income

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tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise. Such tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to relevant tax treaties or agreements on avoidance of double taxation.

### *Stamp Duty*

According to the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》), which was promulgated on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, PRC stamp duty only applies to specific taxable document executed or received within the PRC, having legally binding force in the PRC and protected under the PRC laws, thus the requirements of the stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC listed companies shall not apply to the acquisition and disposal of H Shares by non-PRC investors outside of the PRC.

### *Estate Duty*

As of the date of this document, no estate duty has been levied in the PRC under the PRC laws.

### *EIT*

According to the EIT Law, enterprises and other income-generating organizations (hereinafter collectively referred to as “an enterprise” or “enterprises”) within the territory of the PRC are the taxpayers of enterprise income tax and shall pay enterprise income tax in accordance with the provisions of the EIT Law. The Enterprise Income Tax rate is 25%.

According to the Administrative Measures for Determination of High and New Tech Enterprises (《高新技術企業認定管理辦法》), which was promulgated by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on April 14, 2008, amended on January 29, 2016 and became effective on January 1, 2016, an enterprise recognized as a high and new technology enterprise may apply for a preferential enterprise income tax rate of 15% pursuant to the relevant requirements of the EIT Law.

### *VAT*

Pursuant to the Interim Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) issued on December 13, 1993 by the State Council, came into effect on January 1, 1994, and revised on November 10, 2008, February 6, 2016 and November 19, 2017, as well as the Implementation Rules for the Interim Regulations on Value-Added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) issued on December 25, 1993 by the MOF, came into effect on the same day and revised on December 15, 2008 and October 28, 2011, any entities and individuals engaged in the sale of goods, supply of processing, repair and replacement services, and import of goods within the territory of the PRC are taxpayers of VAT and shall pay the VAT in accordance with the law and regulation. The rate of VAT for sale of goods is 17% unless otherwise specified, such as the rate of VAT for sale of transportation

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is 11%. With the VAT reforms in the PRC, the rate of VAT has been changed several times. The MOF and the SAT issued the Notice of on Adjusting VAT Rates (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》) on April 4, 2018 to adjust the tax rates of 17% and 11% applicable to any taxpayer's VAT taxable sale or import of goods to 16% and 10%, respectively, this adjustment became effect on May 1, 2018. Subsequently, the MOF, the SAT and the General Administration of Customs jointly issued the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening the VAT Reform (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》) on March 20, 2019 to make a further adjustment, which came into effect on April 1, 2019. The tax rate of 16% applicable to the VAT taxable sale or import of goods shall be adjusted to 13%, and the tax rate of 10% applicable thereto shall be adjusted to 9%.

### TAXATION IN HONG KONG

#### Tax on Dividends

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

#### *Capital Gains Tax and Profit Tax*

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

#### *Stamp Duty*

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

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### *Estate Duty*

The Revenue (Abolition of Estate Duty) Ordinance 2005 came into effect on February 11, 2006 in Hong Kong, pursuant to which no Hong Kong estate duty is payable and no estate duty clearance papers are needed for an application of a grant of representation in respect of holders of H Shares whose deaths occur on or after February 11, 2006.

### **FOREIGN EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION IN THE PRC**

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

The Administrative Regulations on Foreign Exchange of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) which was issued by the State Council on January 29, 1996, implemented on April 1, 1996 and latest amended on 5 August, 2008, classifies all international payments and transfers into current items and capital items. Current items are subject to the reasonable examination of the veracity of transaction documents and the consistency of the transaction documents and the foreign exchange receipts and payments by financial institutions engaging in conversion and sale of foreign currencies and supervision and inspection by the foreign exchange control authorities. For capital items, overseas organizations and overseas individuals making direct investments in the PRC shall, upon approval by the relevant authorities in charge, process registration formalities with the foreign exchange control authorities. Foreign exchange income received overseas can be repatriated or deposited overseas, and foreign exchange and foreign exchange settlement funds under the capital account are required to be used only for purposes as approved by the competent authorities and foreign exchange administrative authorities. In the event that international revenues and expenditure occur or may occur a material imbalance, or the national economy encounters or may encounter a severe crisis, the State may adopt necessary safeguard and control measures on international revenues and expenditure.

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

According to the Announcement on Improving the Reform of the Renminbi Exchange Rate Formation Mechanism (《關於完善人民幣匯率形成機制改革的公告》), which was issued by the PBOC and implemented on July 21, 2005, the PRC has started to implement a managed floating exchange rate system in which the exchange rate would be determined based on market supply and demand and adjusted with reference to a basket of currencies since July

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21, 2005. Therefore, the Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. PBOC would publish the closing price of the exchange rate of the Renminbi against trading currencies such as the U.S. dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each working day, as the central parity of the currency against Renminbi transactions on the following working day.

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

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

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

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of the PRC on Revolutionizing and Regulating Capital Account Settlement Management Policies (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) which was promulgated by the SAFE and implemented on June 9, 2016, foreign currency earnings in capital account that relevant policies of willingness exchange settlement have been clearly implemented on (including the recalling of raised capital by overseas listing) may undertake foreign exchange settlement in the banks according to actual business needs of the domestic institutions.



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The tentative percentage of foreign exchange settlement for foreign currency earnings in capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjustments of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations. The Circular on Issues Concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange in Offshore Investments and Financing and Return Investments by Domestic Residents through Special Purpose Vehicles (《國家外匯管理局關於境內居民通過特殊目的公司境外投融資及返程投資外匯管理有關問題的通知》) (the “**Circular 37**”) was promulgated and implemented by the SAFE on July 4, 2014. According to Circular 37, domestic residents, individuals and entities shall apply to the SAFE for registration of foreign exchange for offshore investment before making contributions to special purpose vehicles with domestic and overseas legal assets or equities. In addition, any domestic resident who is a shareholder of an overseas special purpose vehicle shall complete the registration formality of foreign exchange alteration for offshore investment with the SAFE in a timely manner in the event of any change of significant matters of such overseas special purpose vehicle such as capital increase/decrease, equity transfer or swap, merge and spin-off.

The subsequent foreign exchange business (including remittance of profits and dividend) of a domestic resident who fails to comply with the registration requirements as set out in Circular 37 may be restricted. Domestic residents that have made contributions to special purpose vehicles with domestic and overseas legal assets or equities without the required registration of foreign exchange for offshore investment prior to the implementation of Circular 37 shall issue a letter of explanation to the SAFE containing specific reasons. The SAFE shall make a post-registration following the principles of legality and rationality and impose administrative penalties in case of suspected violation of the Regulations on Foreign Exchange Control of the PRC. According to the Circular on Further Simplifying and Improving Foreign Exchange Administration Policies in Respect of Direct Investment (《關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), which was issued by the SAFE on February 13, 2015, came into effect on June 1, 2015 and partially repealed on 30 December, 2019, the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment shall be directly examined and handled by banks and the foreign exchange authorities shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks. The banks that have obtained financial institution identification codes from foreign exchange authorities and have connected to the Capital Account Information System with the local foreign exchange authorities may directly handle the registration under Circular 37.