

## 1. TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

The taxation of income and capital gains of holders of H Shares is subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of H Shares are resident or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current laws and practices, is subject to change and does not constitute legal or tax advice. The discussion does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an [REDACTED] in the H Shares, nor does it take into account the specific circumstances of any particular [REDACTED], some of which may be subject to special regulation. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax adviser regarding the tax consequences of an [REDACTED] in the H Shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the date of this Document, all of which are subject to change and may have retrospective effect.

This discussion does not address any aspects of the PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital tax, stamp duty and estate duty. Prospective [REDACTED] are urged to consult their financial advisers regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H Shares.

### A. 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 Circular on Certain Policy Questions Concerning Individual Income Tax (《關於個人所得稅若干政策問題的通知》), which was issued by the MOF and the SAT on May 13, 1994 and came into effect on the same date, the incomes gained by individual foreigners from dividends and bonuses of enterprise with foreign investment are exempt from individual income tax for the time being.

##### *– 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 Regulations for 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, the rate of enterprise income tax

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

shall be 25%. 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 that issues shares in Hong Kong), if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise.

The Circular of the SAT 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 enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on the dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of H Shares. In addition, the Response to Questions on Levying Enterprise Income Tax on Dividends Derived by Non-resident Enterprise from Holding Stock such as B Shares (《關於非居民企業取得B股等股票股息徵收企業所得稅問題的批覆》), which was issued by the SAT and came into effect on July 24, 2009, further provides that any PRC-resident enterprise whose shares are listed on overseas stock exchanges must withhold and remit enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to non-resident enterprises. Such tax rates may be further modified pursuant to the tax treaty or agreement that China has entered into with a relevant country or area, where applicable.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion (《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 "**the Arrangement**"), which was signed on August 21, 2006, the Chinese Government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a PRC-resident enterprise to Hong Kong residents (including resident individuals and resident entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends payable by the PRC-resident enterprise unless a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in a PRC-resident enterprise, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the PRC-resident enterprise. The Fifth Protocol of the Arrangement between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion (《<內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排>第五議定書》), which came into effect on December 6, 2019, adds a criteria for the qualification of entitlement to enjoy treaty benefits. Although there may be other provisions under the Arrangement, the treaty benefits under the criteria shall not be granted in the circumstance where relevant gains, after taking into account all relevant facts and conditions, are reasonably deemed to be one of the main purposes for the arrangement or transactions which will bring any direct or indirect benefits under this Arrangement, except when the grant of benefits under such circumstance is consistent with relevant objective and goal under the Arrangement. The application of the dividend clause of tax agreements is subject to the requirements of PRC tax law and regulation, such as the Notice of the SAT 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》).

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

### – *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 enterprise 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 enterprise 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*

According to the Interim Regulations of the PRC on Value-added Tax (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) which was promulgated by the State Council on December 13, 1993, and amended on November 10, 2008, February 6, 2016 and November 19, 2017, and the Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Interim Regulations of the PRC on Value-Added Tax (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) which was promulgated by the MOF on December 25, 1993 and subsequently amended on December 15, 2008 and October 28, 2011, all enterprises and individuals that engage in the sale of goods, the provision of processing, repair and replacement services, sales of service, intangible assets and real estate and the importation of goods within the territory of the PRC shall pay value-added tax at the rate of 0%, 6%, 11% and 17% for the different goods it sells and different services it provides, except when specified otherwise.

Pursuant to the Circular on Comprehensively Promoting the Pilot Program of the Collection of Value added Tax to Replace Business Tax (《關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》), which was promulgated by the MOF and the SAT on March 23, 2016 and last amended on 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. It 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 third appendix of the Notice of the MOF and the SAT on Implementing the Pilot Program of Replacing Business Tax with Value-Added Tax in an All-round Manner, namely Provisions on the Transitional Policies for the Pilot Collection of Value-added Tax in Lieu of Business Tax (《營業稅改徵增值稅試點過渡政策的規定》). 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

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

the H-share buyer is an individual or entity located outside China, 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. However, 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.

### *Income Tax*

#### *– Individual Investors*

Under the IIT Law and its implementation rules, individuals are subject to individual income tax at a rate of 20% on gains realized on the sale of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises. Pursuant to the Circular on Continuing the Temporary Exemption of Individual Income Tax on Gains from Share Transfers by Individuals (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》), which was promulgated by the MOF and the SAT and became effective on March 30, 1998, from January 1, 1997, income of individuals from the transfer of shares in listed companies continues to be temporarily exempted from individual income tax. The SAT does not specify whether to continue to exempt individuals from personal income tax on the income from the transfer of shares in listed company.

#### *– Enterprise Investors*

In accordance with the EIT Law, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to enterprise 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 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》) promulgated by the SCNPC on June 10, 2021 and became effective on July 1, 2022, the PRC stamp duty is applicable to the entities and individuals that conclude taxable vouchers or conduct securities trading within the territory of the PRC, and the entities and individuals outside the territory of the PRC that conclude taxable vouchers that are used inside China. Therefore, the purchase and disposal of H shares by non-PRC investors outside of the PRC does not apply to the relevant provisions of the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC.

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

### *Estate Duty*

According to PRC law, no estate duty is currently levied in the PRC.

### **B. Hong Kong Taxation**

#### *Tax on Dividends*

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

#### *Capital Gains and Profit Tax*

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

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

#### *Stamp Duty*

Hong Kong stamp duty, currently charged at the ad valorem rate of 0.10% on the higher of the consideration for or the market value of the H Shares, will be payable by the purchaser on every purchase and by the seller on every sale of any Hong Kong securities, including H Shares (in other words, a total of 0.2% is currently payable on a typical sale and purchase transaction involving H Shares). In addition, a fixed stamp duty of HK\$5.00 is currently payable on any instrument of transfer of H Shares. Where one of the parties is a resident outside Hong Kong and does not pay the ad valorem duty due by it, the duty not paid will be assessed on the instrument of transfer (if any) and will be payable by the transferee. If no stamp duty is paid on or before the due date, a penalty of up to 10 times the duty payable may be imposed.

#### *Estate Duty*

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

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

### 2. PRINCIPAL TAXATION OF THE COMPANY IN THE PRC

Please refer to “Regulatory Overview” of the Document.

### 3. TAXATION OF THE COMPANY IN HONG KONG

The Inland Revenue Ordinance (Chapter 112 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (“**IRO**”) is an ordinance for the purposes of imposing taxes on property, earnings and profits in Hong Kong. The IRO provides, among others, that persons, which include corporations, partnerships, trustees and bodies of persons, carrying on any trade, profession or business in Hong Kong are chargeable to tax on all profits (excluding profits arising from the sale of capital assets) arising in or derived from Hong Kong from such trade, profession or business.

Under the two-tiered profits tax rates regime in Hong Kong, the first HK\$2 million of profits of the qualifying group entity will be taxed at 8.25%, and profits above HK\$2 million will be taxed at 16.5%. The profits of a group entity not qualifying for the two-tiered profits tax rates regime will continue to be taxed at a flat rate of 16.5%.

As our Group carries on certain trade and business in Hong Kong, our Group may be subject to the profits tax regime under the IRO.

### 4. FOREIGN EXCHANGE

#### *Foreign Exchange*

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

The Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》), which was promulgated by the State Council on January 29, 1996 and most recently amended on August 5, 2008, classifies all international payments and transfers into current items and capital items. Current account items are subject to the reasonable examination of the veracity of transaction documents and the consistency of the transaction documents and the foreign exchange receipts and payments by financial institutions engaging in conversion and sale of foreign currencies and supervision and inspection by the foreign exchange control authorities. For capital account items, overseas organizations and overseas individuals making direct investments in China shall, upon approval by the relevant authorities in charge, process registration formalities with the foreign exchange control authorities. Foreign exchange income received overseas can be repatriated or deposited overseas, and foreign exchange and 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

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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 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 [REDACTED] raised from the overseas [REDACTED] of the foreign shares into RMB domestic accounts.

## APPENDIX V

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

According to the Circular of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Issues concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange Involved in 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 [REDACTED] issuance, register the overseas [REDACTED] with the local branch office of state administration of foreign exchange at the place of its establishment; the [REDACTED] from an overseas [REDACTED] of a domestic company may be remitted to the domestic account or deposited in an overseas account, but the use of the [REDACTED] shall be consistent with the content of the document and other disclosure documents. A domestic company (except for bank financial institutions) shall present its certificate of overseas [REDACTED] to open a special account at a local bank for its [REDACTED] (or follow-on [REDACTED]) and repurchase business to handle the exchange, remittance and transfer of funds for the business concerned.

According to the Notice of the SAFE on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), which took effect on June 1, 2015 and was amended on December 30, 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. SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the Circular on Reforming and Regulating Policies on the Control over Foreign Exchange Settlement of Capital Accounts (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) 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 [REDACTED]) may undertake foreign exchange settlement in the banks according to actual business needs of the domestic institutions. The tentative percentage of foreign exchange settlement for foreign currency earnings in capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjustment of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.

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



On October 23, 2019, the SAFE issued the Notice on Further Facilitating Cross-Board Trade and Investment (《關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》), which canceled restrictions on domestic equity investments made with capital funds by non-investing foreign-funded enterprises. In addition, restrictions on the use of funds for foreign exchange settlement of domestic accounts for the realization of assets have been removed and restrictions on the use and foreign exchange settlement of foreign investors’ security deposits have been relaxed. Eligible enterprises in the pilot area are also allowed to use revenues under capital accounts, such as capital funds, foreign debts and overseas [REDACTED] revenues for domestic payments without providing materials to the bank in advance for authenticity verification on an item-by-item basis, while the use of funds should be true, in compliance with applicable rules and conforming to the current capital revenue management regulations.