

TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

The taxation of income and capital gains of holders of H Shares is subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of H Shares are residents or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current effective laws and practices, and no predictions are made about changes or adjustments to relevant laws or policies, and no comments or suggestions will be made accordingly. The discussion has no intention to cover all possible tax consequences resulting from the [REDACTED] in H Shares, nor does it take the specific circumstances of any particular [REDACTED] into account, some of which may be subject to special provisions. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an [REDACTED] in H Shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the date of this Document, which is subject to change or adjustment and may have retrospective effect. No issues on PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital appreciation and profit tax, business tax/appreciation tax, stamp duty and estate duty were referred in the discussion. Prospective [REDACTED] are urged to consult their financial advisors regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of 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》) (the “IIT Law”), which was last amended on August 31, 2018 and the Regulation on the Implementation 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 last amended on December 18, 2018, dividends from sources within China paid to foreign individual investors who are not PRC residents are generally subject to a PRC withholding tax at a rate of 20% and gains from PRC sources realized by such investors on the transfer of shares are generally subject to a 20% PRC income tax rate, in each case, subject to any reduction or exemption set forth in applicable tax treaties and PRC laws.

Pursuant to Notice on Matters Concerning the Levy and Administration of Individual Income Tax after the Repeal of Guo Shui Fa [1993] No. 045 (《國家稅務總局關於國稅發[1993] 045號文件廢止後有關個人所得稅徵管問題的通知》) issued and implemented by the SAT on June 28, 2011, domestic non-foreign-invested enterprises issuing shares in Hong Kong may, when distributing dividends to overseas resident individuals in the jurisdiction of the tax treaty, withhold individual income tax at the rate of 10%. When a tax rate of 10% is not applicable, the withholding company shall: (a) return the excessive tax amount pursuant to due procedures if the applicable tax rate is lower than 10%; (b) withhold such foreign individual income tax at the effective tax rate agreed on if the applicable tax rate is between 10% and 20%; or (c) withhold such foreign individual income tax at a rate of 20% if no taxation treaty is applicable.

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Meanwhile, pursuant to the Notice on Issues Concerning the Differentiated Individual Income Tax Policies on Dividends and Bonuses of Listed Companies 《(關於上市公司股息紅利差別化個人所得稅政策有關問題的通知)》 promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on September 7, 2015 and came into effect on September 8, 2015, where an individual acquires the stocks of listed companies from the market of public offerings and transfer of stock, to the extent that the holding period is over one year, the income from the dividends and bonuses thereof are temporarily exempted from individual income tax. Where an individual acquires the stocks of listed companies from the market of public offering and transfer of stock, to the extent that the holding period is one month or less (one month inclusive), the income from dividends thereof shall be included in the taxable income in full amount; and to the extent that the holding period is more than one month and up to one year (one year inclusive), the incomes from the dividends thereof shall be included in the taxable income at a tax rate of 50%. The aforesaid income is subject to an individual income tax at a flat rate of 20%.

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》) issued on August 21, 2006, effective on December 8, 2006, if the beneficial owner directly holds at least 25% of the equity capital in a PRC company, a withholding tax at the rate of 5% shall be paid in connection with the dividend paid by the PRC company to such Hong Kong tax resident; while if the beneficial owner directly holds less than 25% of the equity capital in a PRC company, a withholding tax at the rate of 10% shall be paid in connection with the dividend paid by the PRC company to such Hong Kong tax resident.

Enterprise Investors

In accordance with the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) (the “**EIT Law**”), which was last amended as of December 29, 2018, and Regulation on the Implementation of the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) which was last amended on April 23, 2019, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% corporate income tax on PRC-sourced income (including dividends received from a PRC resident enterprise that issues shares in Hong Kong), if such non-resident enterprise does not have an establishment or place in the PRC or has an establishment or place in the PRC but the PRC-sourced income is not effectively connected with such establishment or place in the PRC. The withholding tax may be reduced pursuant to applicable treaties for the avoidance of double taxation. Such income tax for non-resident enterprises is 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 when such payment is made or due.

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Notice from the State Administration of Taxation on Issues Concerning Withholding the Corporate Income Tax on Dividends Paid by Chinese Resident Enterprises to H-share Holders which are Overseas Non-Residents Enterprises (《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》) (Guo Shui Han [2008] No. 897) which was 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 dividends paid to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of H Shares for 2008 and subsequent years. In addition, Official Reply from the State Administration of Taxation on Issues Concerning the Levying of the Corporate Income Tax on Dividends Derived by Non-Resident Enterprises from B Shares, Etc. (《國家稅務總局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》) (Guo Shui Han [2009] No. 394) which was issued and implemented by the SAT on July 24, 2009, further provides that any PRC-resident enterprise that is listed on overseas stock exchanges must withhold corporate 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 concluded with a relevant jurisdiction, where applicable.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland 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》) entered into on August 21, 2006, PRC Government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a Chinese company to Hong Kong residents (including natural persons and legal entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of total dividends payable by the Chinese company. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in a Chinese company, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the Chinese company. The Announcement of the State Taxation Administration on the Implementation of the Protocol V to the Arrangement between the Mainland 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》) issued by the SAT and effective on December 6, 2019 states that such provisions shall not apply to arrangement made for the primary purpose of gaining such tax benefit, unless it can be confirmed that the tax benefit granted under such circumstances comply with the principles and purposes of the relevant regulations. The application of the dividend clause of tax agreements shall be subject to the PRC tax laws and regulations, 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》) (Guo Shui Han [2009] No. 81).

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Tax Treaties

Non-PRC resident investors residing in jurisdictions which have entered into treaties or arrangements for the avoidance of double taxation with the PRC are entitled to a reduction of the corporate income taxes imposed on the dividends received from PRC companies. The PRC currently has entered into treaties/arrangements regarding avoidance of double taxation with a number of countries and regions including HK, Macau, 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 income tax treaties or arrangements may apply to the Chinese tax authorities for a refund of the corporate income tax in excess of the agreed tax rate, and the refund payment is subject to approval by the Chinese tax authorities.

Taxation on Share Transfer

Value-Added Tax (“VAT”) and Local Additional Tax

Pursuant to the Notice of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on Implementing the Pilot Program of Replacing Business Tax with Value-Added Tax in an All-round Manner (《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, 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 Notice of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on Several Policies concerning the Exemption of Business Tax on Transactions of Individual Financial Commodities and Other Transactions (《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 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.

At the same time, VAT payers are also required to pay urban maintenance and construction tax, education surtax and local education surcharge (hereinafter collectively referred to as “**Local Additional Tax**”), which shall be usually subject to 12% of the value-added tax, business tax and consumption tax actually paid (if any).

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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 SAT has not expressly stated whether it will continue to exempt tax on income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises in the latest amended Individual Income Tax Law.

However, on December 31, 2009, the Ministry of Finance, SAT and China Securities Regulatory Commission jointly issued Notice of the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and China Securities Regulatory Commission on Relevant Issues Concerning the Individual Income Tax on Individual Income from Transfer of Non-tradable Shares of Listed Companies (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的通知》) (No. 167 [2009] of the Ministry of Finance), which came into effect on December 31, 2009, 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 of the Ministry of Finance, State Administration of Taxation and China Securities Regulatory Commission 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》) (No. 70 [2010] of the Ministry of Finance) 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 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.

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Stamp Duty

Pursuant to the Stamp Duty Law of the People’s Republic of China 《(中華人民共和國印花稅法)》 promulgated on June 10, 2021 and 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 《(中華人民共和國印花稅法)》.

Estate Duty

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

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 our company.

Profit Tax

No profit tax is imposed in Hong Kong in respect of the sale of H shares. However, trading profits from the sale of the H shares by persons carrying on any industry, profession or business in Hong Kong, where such profits are derived from or arise in Hong Kong from such industry, profession or business will be subject to Hong Kong profits tax. Trading profits 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 profits 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. The trading profits from sales of the H shares for certain categories of taxpayers are likely to be regarded as deriving trading profits rather than capital gains (for example, financial institutions, insurance companies and securities dealers) unless these taxpayers can prove that the investment securities are held for long-term investment purposes. Shareholders should take advice from their own professional advisers as to their particular tax position.

Currently, the profit tax rate for the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits of an incorporated company is 8.25%, and profits above such amount is subject to a tax rate of 16.5%. The profit tax rate for the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits of an unincorporated company is 7.5%, and profits above such amount is subject to a tax rate of 15%.

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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 0.20% is currently payable on a typical sale and purchase transaction involving H Shares). In addition, a fixed duty of HK\$5.00 is currently payable on any instrument of transfer of H Shares. Where one of the parties is a resident outside Hong Kong and does not pay the ad valorem duty due by it, the duty not paid will be assessed on the instrument of transfer (if any) and will be payable by the transferee. If no stamp duty is paid on or before the due date, a penalty of up to 10 times the duty payable may be imposed.

AFRC Transaction Levy

The AFRC Transaction Levy was applicable to all sale and purchase of securities at 0.00015% per side with effect from January 1, 2022, which will be regarded as one of the transaction costs.

Estate Duty

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL IN THE PRC

The lawful currency of the PRC is Renminbi, which is currently subject to foreign exchange controls and cannot be freely converted into foreign currency. The SAFE, under the authority of the PBOC, is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange control regulations.

According to Regulation of the People’s Republic of China on Foreign Exchange Administration (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) (the “**Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations**”), which was promulgated by the State Council on January 29, 1996 and came into effect since April 1, 1996, the Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations classify all international payments and transfers into current items and capital items. Most of the current items are not subject to the approval of foreign exchange administration agencies, while capital items are subject to such approval. The Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations were subsequently amended on January 14, 1997 and August 1, 2008, and came into effect on August 5, 2008. The latest amendment to the Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations clearly states that PRC will not impose any restriction on international current payments and transfers.

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On June 20, 1996, PBOC promulgated the Regulations for the Administrative Regulations on Settlements, Sales and Payments in Foreign Exchange (《結匯、售匯及付匯管理規定》) ([1996] No. 210 of the People's Bank of China June 20, 1996) (the "**Settlement Regulations**"), which became effective on July 1, 1996. The Settlement Regulations do not impose any restrictions on convertibility of foreign exchange under current items, while imposes restrictions on foreign exchange transactions under capital items.

According to the Announcement of the People's Bank of China on Reforming the RMB Exchange Rate Regime (《關於完善人民幣匯率形成機制改革的公告》) (Announcement No. 16 [2005] of the People's Bank of China), 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 financial institutions that carries foreign exchange business or operating institutions that carries settlement and sale business, on the strength of valid 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 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 opened at financial institutions that carries foreign exchange business or institutions that carries settlement and sale business, or effect exchange and payment at financial institutions that carry foreign exchange business or institutions that carry settlement and sale business.

Decision of the State Council on Cancelling and Adjusting a Group of Administrative Approval Items and Other Matters (《國務院關於取消和調整一批行政審批項目等事項的決定》) ((No. 11 [2015] of the State Council)) promulgated on October 23, 2014 has canceled 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.

On December 26, 2014, the SAFE issued 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》) (No. 54 [2014] of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange), pursuant to which a domestic company shall, within 15 business days of the date of the end of its overseas listing issuance, register the overseas listing with the SAFE's local branch at the place of its incorporation; and 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.

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On February 13, 2015, the SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Management Policies 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》) (No. 13 [2015] of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange), which came into effect on June 1, 2015. The notice has cancelled the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment, instead, banks shall directly examine and handle foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment, and the SAFE and its local offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reforming and Regulating the Policies for the Administration of Foreign Exchange Settlement under the Capital Account (《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》) (No. 16 [2016] of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange) issued by the SAFE 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. The tentative percentage of foreign exchange settlement for foreign currency earnings in capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjust of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.

On January 26, 2017, the SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Promoting the Reform of Foreign Exchange Administration and Improving the Examination of Authenticity and Compliance (《國家外匯管理局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》) (No. 3 [2017] of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange) 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 by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of Further Facilitating Cross-border Trade and Investment (《關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》) (No. 28 [2019] of the SAFE), 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, such as capital funds, foreign debts and overseas listing revenues for domestic payments without providing materials to the bank in advance for authenticity verification on an item by item basis, while the use of funds should be true, in compliance with applicable rules and conforming to the current capital revenue management regulations.