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## APPENDIX IV SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

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### PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

The PRC legal system is based on the Constitution of the PRC (《中華人民共和國憲法》) (the “**Constitution**”), which was adopted on September 20, 1954 and subsequently amended on January 17, 1975, March 5, 1978, December 4, 1982, April 12, 1988, March 29, 1993, March 15, 1999, March 14, 2004 and March 11, 2018 and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations, separate regulations, rules and regulations of departments of the State Council, rules and regulations of local governments, international treaties of which the PRC government is a signatory, and other regulatory documents. Court judgments may be used as judicial reference and guidance. However, they do not constitute legally binding precedents.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國立法法》) (the “**Legislation Law**”), which was adopted on March 15, 2000 and amended on March 15, 2015 and March 13, 2023, National People’s Congress (the “**NPC**”) and the Standing Committee of NPC (the “**SCNPC**”) are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing civil and criminal matters, state organs and other matters. The SCNPC is empowered to formulate and amend laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend any parts of laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided that such supplements and amendments are not in conflict with the basic principles of such laws. The State Council is the highest organ of the PRC administration and has the power to formulate administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws. The people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual requirements of their own respective administrative areas, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The people’s Congress of the National Autonomous Region has the power to formulate autonomous regulations and separate regulations in accordance with the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the local ethnic groups, and make flexible provisions on the provisions of laws and administrative regulations, but shall not violate the basic principles of laws or administrative regulations, and shall not make flexible provisions on the provisions of the constitution law and the law of regional ethnic autonomy, as well as other relevant laws and administrative regulations on ethnic autonomy.

The ministries and commissions of the State Council, PBOC, the State Audit Administration as well as the other organs endowed with administrative functions directly under the State Council may, in accordance with the laws as well as the administrative regulations, decisions and orders of the State Council and within the limits of their power, formulate rules. The people’s governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government, cities divided into districts and autonomous prefectures may enact rules, in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the local regulations of their respective provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities.

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The Constitution has supreme legal authority and no laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations or separate regulations may contravene the Constitution. The authority of laws is greater than that of administrative regulations, local regulations and rules. The authority of administrative regulations is greater than that of local regulations and rules. The authority of local regulations is greater than that of the rules of the local governments at or below the corresponding level. The authority of the rules enacted by the people's governments of the provinces or autonomous regions is greater than that of the rules enacted by the people's governments of the cities divided into districts or autonomous prefectures within the administrative areas of the provinces and the autonomous regions. The NPC has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate laws enacted by its Standing Committee, and to annul any autonomous regulations or separate regulations which have been approved by its Standing Committee, but which contravene the Constitution or the Legislation Law.

The SCNPC has the power to annul any administrative regulations that contravene the Constitution and laws, to annul any local regulations that contravene the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations, and to annul any autonomous regulations or local regulations which have been approved by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the central government, but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law. The State Council has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate ministerial rules and rules of local governments. The people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the central government have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate local regulations enacted or approved by their respective standing committees. The Standing Committees of local people's Congresses have the power to annul inappropriate rules enacted by the people's governments at the corresponding level. The people's governments of provinces and autonomous regions have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate rules enacted by the people's governments at a lower level.

According to the constitution, the power to interpret laws is invested in the SCNPC. According to the Decision of the Standing Committee of the NPC Regarding the Strengthening of Interpretation of Laws (《全國人民代表大會常務委員會關於加強法律解釋工作的決議》) implemented on June 10, 1981, if the scope prescribed by laws or decrees needs to be further defined or supplementary provisions need to be made, the SCNPC shall interpret them or make provisions by means of decrees. Issues involving the specific application of laws and decrees in the trial work of the court shall be interpreted by the Supreme People's court. Issues involving the specific application of laws and decrees in the procuratorial work of the procuratorate shall be interpreted by the Supreme People's procuratorate. If there are principled differences in the interpretation of the Supreme People's court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, they shall be submitted to the SCNPC for interpretation or decision. Issues that do not involve the specific application of laws and decrees in judicial and procuratorial work shall be interpreted by the State Council and the competent departments. If the scope of local laws and regulations needs to be further defined or supplemented, the Standing Committee of the people's Congress of each province, autonomous region and municipality directly under the central government that promulgates such laws and regulations shall interpret or enact regulations. Issues involving the specific application of local laws and regulations shall be interpreted by the competent departments of the people's governments of all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government.

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### PRC JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Under the Constitution and the Law of Organization of the People’s Courts of the PRC (2018 revision) (《中華人民共和國人民法院組織法》), which is adopted on September 21, 1954 and subsequently amended on July 5, 1979, September 2, 1983, December 2, 1986, October 31, 2006 and October 26, 2018, the PRC judicial system is made up of the Supreme People’s Court, the local people’s courts, the military courts and other special people’s courts.

The local people’s courts are comprised of the basic people’s courts, the intermediate people’s courts and the higher people’s courts. The basic people’s courts may set up civil, criminal and economic divisions, and certain people’s courts based on the facts of the region, population and cases. The intermediate people’s courts have divisions similar to those of the basic people’s courts and may set up other special divisions if needed. These two levels of people’s courts are subject to supervision by people’s courts at higher levels. The Supreme People’s Court is the highest judicial authority in the PRC. It supervises the administration of justice by the people’s courts at all levels and special people’s courts. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate is authorized to supervise the judgment and ruling of the people’s courts at all levels which have been legally effective, and the people’s procuratorate at a higher level is authorized to supervise the judgment and ruling of a people’s court at lower levels which have been legally effective.

A people’s court takes the rule of the second instance as the final rule. A party may appeal against the judgment or ruling of the first instance of a local people’s court. The people’s procuratorate may present a protest to the people’s court at the next higher level in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the laws. In the absence of any appeal by the parties and any protest by the people’s procuratorate within the stipulated period, the judgments or rulings of the people’s court are final. Judgments or rulings of the second instance of the intermediate people’s courts, the higher people’s courts and the Supreme People’s Court, and judgments or rulings of the first instance of the Supreme People’s Court are final. However, if the Supreme People’s Court finds some definite errors in a legally effective judgment, ruling or conciliation statement of the people’s court at any level, or if the people’s court at a higher level finds such errors in a legally effective judgment, ruling or conciliation statement of the people’s court at a lower level, it has the authority to review the case itself or to direct the lower-level people’s court to conduct a retrial. If the chief judge of all levels of people’s courts finds some definite errors in a legally effective judgment, ruling or conciliation statement, and considers a retrial is preferred, such case shall be submitted to the judicial committee of the people’s court at the same level for discussion and decision.

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The Civil Procedure Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民事訴訟法》), the “**PRC Civil Procedure Law**”) adopted on April 9, 1991 and amended on October 28, 2007, August 31, 2012, June 27, 2017 and December 24, 2021 prescribes the conditions for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people’s courts, the procedures for conducting a civil action, and the procedures for enforcement of a civil judgment or ruling. All parties to a civil action conducted within the PRC must abide by the PRC Civil Procedure Law. Generally, a civil case is initially heard by the court located in the defendant’s place of domicile. The court of jurisdiction in respect of a civil action may also be chosen by explicit agreement among the parties to a contract, provided that the people’s court having jurisdiction should be located at places substantially connected with the disputes, such as the plaintiff’s or the defendant’s place of domicile, the place where the contract is executed or signed or the place where the object of the action is located, provided that the provisions regarding the level of jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction shall not be violated.

A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign enterprise or a foreign organization is given the same litigation rights and obligations as a citizen, a legal person or other organizations of the PRC when initiating actions or defending against litigations at a PRC court. Should a foreign court limit the litigation rights of PRC citizens or enterprises, the PRC court may apply the same limitations to the citizens and enterprises of such foreign country. A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign enterprise or a foreign organization must engage a PRC lawyer in case he or it needs to engage a lawyer for the purpose of initiating actions or defending against litigations at a PRC court. In accordance with the international treaties to which the People’s Republic of China is a signatory or participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, a people’s court and a foreign court may request each other to serve documents, conduct investigation and collect evidence and conduct other actions on its behalf. All parties to a civil action shall perform the legally effective judgments and rulings. If any party to a civil action refuses to abide by a judgment or ruling made by a people’s court or an award made by an arbitration tribunal in the PRC, the other party may apply to the people’s court for the enforcement of the same within two years subject to application for postponed enforcement or revocation. If a party fails to satisfy within the stipulated period a judgment which the court has granted an enforcement approval, the court may, upon the application of the other party, mandatorily enforce the judgment on the party.

Where a party applies for enforcement of a judgment or ruling made by a people’s court, and the opposite party or his property is not within the territory of the PRC, the applicant may directly apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling. A foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced by the people’s court in accordance with the PRC enforcement procedures if the PRC has entered into, or acceded to, international treaties with the relevant foreign country, which provided for such recognition and enforcement, or if the judgment or ruling satisfies the court’s examination according to the principle of reciprocity, unless the people’s court considers that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling would violate the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or national security, or against the social and public interests.

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### THE PRC COMPANY LAW AND TRIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

A joint stock limited company which was incorporated in the PRC and seeking a [REDACTED] on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is mainly subject to the following laws and regulations in the PRC:

- The PRC Company Law which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on December 29, 1993, came into effect on July 1, 1994, revised on December 25, 1999, August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, December 28, 2013 and December 29, 2023 respectively and the latest revision of which was implemented on October 26, 2018;
- The Trial Administrative Measures which were promulgated by the CSRC on February 17, 2023, came into effect on March 31, 2023, applicable to the overseas share subscription and [REDACTED] of joint stock limited companies.

Set out below is a summary of the major provisions of the PRC Company Law and the Trial Administrative Measures applicable to the Company.

#### General Provisions

A joint stock limited company refers to an enterprise legal person incorporated under the PRC Company Law with its registered capital divided into shares of equal par value. The liability of its shareholders is limited to the amount of shares held by them and the company is liable to its creditors for an amount equal to the total value of its assets.

A joint stock limited company shall conduct its business in accordance with laws and administrative regulations. It may invest in other limited liability companies and joint stock limited companies and its liabilities with respect to such invested companies are limited to the amount invested. Unless otherwise provided by law, the joint stock limited company may not be a contributor that undertakes joint and several liabilities for the debts of the invested companies.

#### Incorporation

A joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or public subscription. It may be incorporated by a minimum of two but not more than 200 promoters, and at least half of the promoters must have residence within the PRC. The promoters must convene an inaugural meeting within 30 days after the issued shares have been fully paid up, and must give notice to all subscribers or make an announcement of the date of the inaugural meeting 15 days before the meeting. The inaugural meeting may be convened only with the presence of promoters or subscribers representing at least half of the shares in the company. At the inaugural meeting, matters including the adoption of articles of association and the election of members of the board of directors and members of the board of supervisors of the company will be dealt with. All resolutions of the meeting require the approval of subscribers with more than half of the voting rights present at the meeting.

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Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, the board of directors must apply to the registration authority for registration of the establishment of the joint stock limited company. A company is formally established, and has the status of a legal person, after the business license has been issued by the relevant registration authority. Joint stock limited companies established by the subscription method shall file the approval on the offering of shares issued by the securities administration department of the State Council with the company registration authority for record.

A joint stock limited company's promoters shall be liable for: (i) the payment of all expenses and debts incurred in the incorporation process jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; (ii) the refund of subscription monies to the subscribers, together with interest, at bank rates for a deposit of the same term jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; and (iii) damages suffered by the company as a result of the default of the promoters in the course of incorporation of the company. According to the Interim Provisions on the Management of the Issuing and Trading of Stocks (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》) promulgated by the State Council on April 22, 1993 (which is only applicable to the issuance and trading of shares in the PRC and their related activities), if a company is established by means of public subscription, the promoters of such company are required to sign on the document to ensure that the document does not contain any misrepresentation, serious misleading statements or material omissions, and assume joint and several responsibility for it.

### Share Capital

The promoters of a company may make capital contributions in cash, or in kind that can be valued in currency and transferable according to laws such as intellectual property rights or land-use rights based on their appraised value.

There is no limit under the PRC Company Law as to the percentage of shares held by an individual shareholder in a company. If capital contribution is made other than in cash by the promoters of the company, valuation and verification of the properties contributed must be carried out and converted into shares. A company may issue registered or bearer shares. However, shares issued to promoter(s) or legal person(s) shall be in the form of registered shares and shall be registered under the name(s) of such promoter(s) or legal person(s) and shall not be registered under a different name or the name of a representative.

### Increase of Share Capital

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, an increase in the capital of a company by means of an issue of new shares must be approved by shareholders in the shareholders' assembly in respect of the class and number of new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end dates for the issuance of new shares and the class and number of the new shares proposed to be issued to existing shareholders. The approval of the securities regulatory authority of the State Council must be obtained when a company launches a public offering of new shares. After payment in full for the new shares issued, a company must modify its registration with the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce and issue a public notice accordingly.

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### Reduction of Share Capital

A company may reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures stipulated by the PRC Company Law:

- the company shall prepare a balance sheet and a list of properties;
- the reduction of registered capital must be approved by shareholders in the shareholders' assembly;
- the company shall inform its creditors of the reduction of capital within ten days, and publish an announcement in respect of the reduction in newspapers within thirty (30) days upon passing of the resolution approving the reduction of capital;
- creditors of the company may require the company to settle its debts or provide corresponding guarantees within the statutory time limit; and
- the company must apply to the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce for registration of the reduction of registered capital.

### Repurchase of Shares

A company shall not purchase its own shares except under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) reducing the registered capital of the company;
- (2) merging with another company that holds its shares;
- (3) using shares for employee stock ownership plan or equity incentives;
- (4) a shareholder requesting the company to purchase the shares held by him since he objects to a resolution of the shareholders' general meeting on the merger or division of the company;
- (5) using shares for converting convertible corporate bonds issued by the listed company; and
- (6) it is necessary for a listed company to protect the corporate value and the rights and interests of shareholders.

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A company purchasing its own shares under any of the circumstances set forth in items (1) and (2) of the preceding paragraph shall be subject to a resolution of the shareholders' meeting; and a company purchasing its own shares under any of the circumstances set forth in items (3), (5) and (6) of the preceding paragraph may, pursuant to the bylaws or the authorization of the shareholders' meeting, be subject to a resolution of a meeting of the board of directors at which more than two-thirds of directors are present.

After purchasing its own shares pursuant to the provisions of the first paragraph of this article, a company shall, under the circumstance set forth in item (1), cancel them within 10 days after the purchase; while under the circumstance set forth in either item (2) or (4), transfer or cancel them within six months; and while under the circumstance set forth in item (3), (5) or (6), aggregately hold not more than 10% of the total shares that have been issued by the company, and transfer or cancel them within three years.

A listed company purchasing its own shares shall perform the obligation of information disclosure. A listed company purchasing its own shares under any of the circumstances set forth in items (3), (5) and (6) shall carry out trading in a public and centralized manner.

### **Transfer of Shares**

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred legally. Under the PRC Company Law, a shareholder should effect a transfer of his shares on a stock exchange established in accordance with laws or by any other means as required by the State Council. Registered shares may be transferred after the shareholders endorse the back of the share certificates or in any other manner specified by the laws or administrative regulations. Following the transfer, the company shall enter the names and domiciles of the transferees into its share register. No changes of registration in the share register described above shall be effected during a period of 20 days prior to convening a shareholders' general meeting or 5 days prior to the record date for the purpose of determining entitlements to dividend distributions, unless otherwise stipulated by laws on the registration of changes in the share register of listed companies. The transfer of bearer share certificates shall become effective upon the delivery of the certificates to the transferee by the shareholder.

Under the PRC Company Law, shares held by promoters may not be transferred within one year of the establishment of the company. Shares of the company issued prior to the public issuance of shares may not be transferred within one year of the date of the company's listing on a stock exchange. Directors, supervisors and the senior management of a company shall declare to the company their shareholdings in it and any changes in such shareholdings. During their terms of office, they may transfer no more than 25% of the total number of shares they hold in the company every year. They shall not transfer the shares they hold within one year of the date of the company's listing on a stock exchange, nor within six months after they leave their positions in the company. The articles of association may set out other restrictive provisions in respect of the transfer of shares in the company held by its directors, supervisors and the senior management.



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### Shareholders

Under the PRC Company Law, shareholders of a company are entitled to enjoy the return on equity, participate in important decision-making, select managers and enjoy other rights in accordance with the laws.

### Shareholders’ Assembly

The shareholders’ assembly is the organ of authority of the company, which exercises its powers in accordance with the PRC Company Law. The shareholders’ assembly exercises the following powers:

- to decide on the company’s operational policies and investment plans;
- to elect or remove the directors and supervisors who are not representatives of the employees;
- to decide on matters relevant to remuneration of directors and supervisors;
- to review and approve reports of the board of directors;
- to review and approve reports of the board of supervisors or supervisors;
- to review and approve annual financial budget and final accounts proposed by the company;
- to review and approve the company’s proposals on profit distribution and recovery of loss;
- to decide on any increase or reduction of the registered capital of the company;
- to decide on the company’s issuance of bonds;
- to decide on merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company and other matters;
- to amend the company’s articles of association; and
- other powers as specified in the articles of association.

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An annual session of the shareholders' assembly shall be held once a year. An interim shareholders' assembly session shall be held within two months after the occurrence of any of the following circumstances:

- the number of directors is less than the number stipulated by the PRC Company Law or less than two thirds of the number specified in the articles of association;
- the losses of the company which are not recovered reach one-third of the company's total paid up share capital;
- as requested by shareholders alone or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the shares of the Company;
- when deemed necessary by the board of directors;
- when proposed by the board of supervisors; or
- other circumstances as specified in the articles of associations.

A session of the shareholders' assembly shall be convened by the board of directors and presided over by the chairman of the board of directors.

The notice to convene an annual session of the shareholders' assembly and an interim meeting of the shareholders' assembly shall be given 20 days and 15 days, respectively, before the date of such meeting pursuant to the PRC Company Law. For the issuance of bearer share certificates, the time and venue of and matters to be considered at the meeting shall be announced 30 days before the meeting.

There are no specific provisions in the PRC Company Law regarding the number of shareholders constituting a quorum in a shareholders' assembly. Shareholders alone or in aggregate holding more than 3% of the shares of the company may put forth interim proposals and submit the same in writing to the board of directors 10 days before a shareholders' assembly is held. The board of directors shall notify other shareholders within 2 days after receiving such proposals, and submit the interim proposals to the meeting of the shareholders' assembly for review and approval if such proposals are within the scope of its duties and powers. The contents of the interim proposal shall be within the scope of the functions and powers of the shareholders' assembly, with clear topics and specific matters for resolutions. The shareholders' assembly shall not make any resolution on any matter not listed in a notice as stipulated in either of the preceding two notices. Where holders of bearer shares intend to attend the shareholders' assembly, they shall deposit their share certificates with the company for a period beginning from five days prior to the convening of the meeting to the end of the meeting.

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Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, shareholders present at a shareholders' assembly have one vote for each share they hold, save that shares held by the company are not entitled to any voting rights. An accumulative voting system may be adopted for the election of directors and supervisors at the shareholders' assembly pursuant to the provisions of the articles of association or a resolution of the shareholders' assembly. Under the accumulative voting system, each share shall be entitled to the number of votes equivalent to the number of directors or supervisors to be elected at the shareholders' assembly, and shareholders may consolidate their votes for one or more directors or supervisors when casting a vote.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, resolutions of the shareholders' assembly shall be adopted by more than half of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting. However, resolutions of the shareholders' assembly regarding the following matters shall be adopted by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting:

- (1) the increase or decrease of the registered capital of the Company;
- (2) the division, spin-off, merger, dissolution or transformation of the company;
- (3) any amendment of the Articles of Association.

Under the PRC Company Law, meeting minutes shall be prepared in respect of decisions on matters discussed at the shareholders' assembly. The chairman of the meeting and directors attending the meeting shall sign to endorse such minutes. The minutes shall be kept together with the shareholders' attendance register and the proxy forms.

### **Board**

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company shall have a board of directors, which shall consist of 5 to 19 members. Members of the board of directors may include representatives of the employees of the company, who shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The term of a director shall be stipulated in the articles of association, but no term of office shall last for more than three years. Directors may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. A director shall continue to perform his duties in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and articles of association until a duly re-elected director takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his term of office, or if the resignation of directors results in the number of directors being less than the quorum.

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Under the PRC Company Law, the board of directors mainly exercises the following functions and powers:

- to convene the shareholders' general meetings and report on its work to the shareholders' general meetings;
- to implement the resolutions passed in shareholders' general meetings;
- to decide on the company's business plans and investment proposals;
- to formulate the company's proposed annual financial budget and final accounts;
- to formulate the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals;
- to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of the company's registered capital and the issuance of corporate bonds;
- to prepare plans for the merger, division, dissolution or change in the form of the company;
- to decide on the establishment of the Company's internal management structure;
- to appoint or dismiss the Company's general manager; and to appoint or dismiss the vice general manager and chief financial officer pursuant to the nomination of the general manager; and to decide on the matters relating to the remuneration of the aforesaid senior management officers;
- to formulate the Company's basic management system; and
- to exercise any other power under the articles of association.

### **Supervisory Board**

A company shall have a supervisory board composed of not less than three members. The supervisory board shall consist of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the company's staff, of which the proportion of representatives of the company's staff shall not be less than one-third, and the actual proportion shall be determined in the articles of association. Representatives of the company's staff at the supervisory board shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. Directors and senior management shall not act concurrently as supervisors.

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Each term of office of a supervisor is three years and he/she may serve consecutive terms if reelected. A supervisor shall continue to perform his/her duties as a supervisor in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association until a duly re-elected supervisor takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his/her term of office or if the resignation of supervisors results in the number of supervisors being less than the quorum.

The supervisory board may exercise its powers:

- (1) to review the company's financial position;
- (2) to supervise the directors and senior management in their performance of their duties and to propose the removal of directors and senior management who have violated laws, regulations, the articles of association or resolutions of the shareholders' general meetings;
- (3) when the acts of director or senior management personnel are detrimental to the company's interests, to require the director and senior management to correct these acts;
- (4) to propose the convening of extraordinary shareholders' general meetings and to convene and preside over shareholders' general meetings when the board fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over shareholders' general meetings under the PRC Company Law;
- (5) to submit proposals to the shareholders' general meetings;
- (6) to bring actions against directors and senior management personnel pursuant to the relevant provisions of the PRC Company Law; and
- (7) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

Supervisors may be present at board meetings and make inquiries or proposals in respect of the resolutions of the board. The supervisory board may investigate any irregularities identified in the operation of the company and, when necessary, may engage an accounting firm to assist its work at the cost of the company.

The chairman of the supervisory board shall convene and preside over supervisory board meetings. Where the chairman of the supervisory board is incapable of performing or is not performing his/her duties, the vice chairman of the supervisory board shall convene and preside over supervisory board meetings. Where the vice chairman of the supervisory board is incapable of performing or is not performing his/her duties, a supervisor recommended by more than half of the supervisors shall convene and preside over supervisory board meetings.

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### **Manager and Senior Management**

Under the PRC Company Law, a company shall have a manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors. Meanwhile, under the relevant requirements of the Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies, the manager, who reports to the board of directors, may exercise his/her powers:

- (1) to manage the production and operation and administration of the company and arrange for the implementation of the resolutions of the board of directors;
- (2) to arrange for the implementation of the company's annual operation plans and investment proposals;
- (3) to formulate proposals for the establishment of the company's internal management organs;
- (4) to formulate the fundamental management system of the company;
- (5) to formulate the company's specific rules and regulations;
- (6) to recommend the appointment or dismissal of any deputy manager and any financial officer of the company;
- (7) to appoint or dismiss management personnel (other than those required to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors); and
- (8) to exercise any other authority granted by the board of directors.

Other provisions in the articles of association on the manager's powers shall also be complied with. The manager shall be present at meetings of the board of directors. However, the manager shall have no voting rights at meetings of the board of directors unless he/she concurrently serves as a director.

According to the PRC Company Law, senior management refers to the manager, deputy manager(s), person-in-charge of financial, board secretary (in the case of a listed company) and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

### **Duties of Directors, Supervisors, General Managers and Other Senior Management**

Board directors, supervisors, general managers and other senior management of a company are required under the PRC Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the company's articles of association, carry out their duties honestly and protect the interests of the company. Each director, supervisor, general manager and senior officer of a company is also under a duty of confidentiality to the company and is prohibited from divulging secret information of the company unless permitted by the relevant laws and regulations or by the shareholders.

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Any director, supervisor, general manager and other senior management who contravenes any laws, regulations or the company's articles of association in the performance of his duties which results in any loss to the company shall be personally liable to the company.

### **Finance and Accounting**

A company shall establish its financial and accounting systems according to the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the MOF of the State Council. At the end of each financial year, a company shall prepare a financial report, which shall be audited and verified according to laws.

A company shall make available its financial statements for the inspection by the shareholders at least 20 days before the convening of the annual meeting of the shareholders' assembly. A company established by the public subscription method must publish its financial statements.

When distributing each year's after-tax profits, the company shall set aside 10% of its after-tax profits for the company's statutory common reserve (except where such reserve has reached 50% of the company's registered capital). After a company has made an allocation to its statutory common reserve from its after-tax profit, subject to a resolution of the shareholders or the shareholders' assembly, the company may make an allocation to a discretionary common reserve from the after-tax profits. If the company's statutory surplus reserve is not enough to make up for the losses of the company for the previous year, the current year's profits shall first be used for making up the losses before the statutory surplus reserve is set aside according to the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

After the losses have been made up and surplus reserves have been set aside, the remaining profits after-tax shall be distributed to shareholders in proportion to the number of shares held by shareholders as in the case of a joint stock limited company, except as otherwise provided in the articles of association. The capital common reserve of a joint stock limited company is made up of the premium over the nominal value of the shares of the company in issue, and other amounts required by the MOF of the State Council to be allocated to the capital common reserve. The company's common reserves shall be used for making up losses, expanding the production and business scale or increasing the registered capital of the company, but the capital reserve fund shall not be used for making up the company's losses. Where the statutory surplus reserve is converted into registered capital, the balance of the statutory reserve shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital prior to such conversion.

### **Appointment and Dismissal of Accounting Firms**

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, the appointment or dismissal of accounting firms responsible for the auditing of the company shall be determined by the shareholders' meeting, the shareholders' assembly or board of directors in accordance with the articles of association. The accounting firm is to be appointed for a term commencing from the conclusion of an annual meeting of the shareholders' assembly and ending at the conclusion of the next annual

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meeting of the shareholders' assembly. The accounting firm should be allowed to make representations when the shareholders' assembly conducts a vote on the dismissal of the accounting firm. The company should provide true and complete accounting evidences, books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting data to the accounting firm which it employs without any refusal, withholding and misrepresentation.

### **Profit Distribution**

According to the PRC Company Law, a company shall not distribute profits before losses are covered and the statutory common reserve fund is provided.

### **Amendments to the Articles of Association**

Pursuant to PRC Company Law, the resolution of a shareholders' general meeting regarding any amendment to a company's articles of association requires affirmative votes by at least two-thirds of the votes held by shareholders attending the meeting. According to the Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies, if the amendments to the articles of association approved by the resolution of the general meeting of shareholders are subject to approval by the competent authority, they must be reported to the competent authority for approval; if they involve company registration matters, the modification registrations shall be handled according to law. Where the amendments to the articles of association belong to information required to be disclosed by laws and regulations, such amendments shall be announced in accordance with the regulations.

### **Dissolution and Liquidation**

Under the PRC Company Law, a company shall be dissolved for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the term of its operation set out in the articles of association has expired or other events of dissolution specified in the articles of association have occurred;
- (2) the shareholders' general meeting has resolved to dissolve the company;
- (3) the company is dissolved by reason of its merger or division;
- (4) the business license of the company is revoked or the company is ordered to close down or to be dissolved in accordance with the laws;
- (5) the company is dissolved by a people's court in response to the request of shareholders holding shares that represent more than 10% of the voting rights of all shareholders of the company, on the grounds that the operation and management of the company has suffered serious difficulties that cannot be resolved through other means, rendering ongoing existence of the company a cause for significant losses to the shareholders.



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In the event of paragraph 1 above, the company may carry on its existence by amending its articles of association. The amendments to the articles of association in accordance with the provisions described above shall require the approval of more than two-thirds of voting rights of shareholders attending a shareholders' general meeting.

Where the company is dissolved under the circumstances set forth in paragraph 1, 2, 4 or 5 above, it should establish a liquidation committee within 15 days of the date on which the dissolution matter occurs. The liquidation committee shall be composed of directors or any other person determined by a shareholders' general meeting. If a liquidation committee is not established within the prescribed period, the company's creditors may file an application with a people's court to appoint relevant personnel to form a liquidation committee to administer the liquidation. The people's court should accept such application and form a liquidation committee to conduct liquidation in a timely manner. The liquidation committee shall exercise the following functions and powers during the liquidation period:

- (1) to sort out the company's assets and to prepare a statement of financial position and an inventory of assets, respectively;
- (2) to notify creditors by notice or public notices;
- (3) to deal with any outstanding business related to the liquidation;
- (4) to pay outstanding tax together with any tax arising during the liquidation process;
- (5) to settle claims and liabilities;
- (6) to handle the company's remaining assets after its debts have been paid off;
- (7) to represent the company in any civil procedures.

The liquidation committee shall notify the company's creditors within 10 days of its establishment, and publish an announcement in newspapers within 60 days.

A creditor shall lodge his claim with the liquidation committee within 30 days of receipt of the notification or within 45 days of the date of the announcement if he has not received any notification. A creditor shall report all matters relevant to his claimed creditor's rights and furnish relevant evidence. The liquidation committee shall register such creditor's rights. The liquidation committee shall not make any settlement to creditors during the period of the claim.

Upon disposal of the company's property and preparation of the required statement of financial position and inventory of assets, the liquidation committee shall draw up a liquidation plan and submit this plan to a shareholders' general meeting or a people's court for endorsement. The remaining part of the company's assets, after payment of liquidation expenses, employee wages, social insurance expenses and statutory compensation, outstanding taxes and the company's debts, shall be distributed to shareholders in proportion to shares held

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by them. The company shall continue to exist during the liquidation period, although it cannot conduct operating activities that are not related to the liquidation. The company’s property shall not be distributed to shareholders before repayments are made in accordance with the requirements described above.

Upon liquidation of the company’s property and preparation of the required statement of financial position and inventory of assets, if the liquidation committee becomes aware that the company does not have sufficient assets to meet its liabilities, it must apply to a people’s court for a declaration of bankruptcy in accordance with the laws. Following such declaration by the people’s court, the liquidation committee shall hand over the administration of the liquidation to the people’s court.

Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation committee shall prepare a liquidation report and submit it to the shareholders’ general meeting or a people’s court for confirmation of its completion. Following such confirmation, the report shall be submitted to the company registration authority to cancel the company’s registration, and an announcement of its termination shall be published. Members of the liquidation committee are required to discharge their duties in good faith and perform their obligation in compliance with laws. Members of the liquidation committee shall be prohibited from abusing their authority in accepting bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating the company’s properties. Members of the liquidation committee are liable to indemnify the company and its creditors in respect of any loss arising from their willful or material default.

Liquidation of a company declared bankrupt according to laws shall be processed in accordance with the laws on corporate bankruptcy.

### **Overseas Listing**

On February 17, 2023, upon the approval of the State Council, the CSRC promulgated the Trial Administrative Measures and five relevant guidelines, which became effect on March 31, 2023.

According to the Trial Administrative Measures, (i) where the PRC domestic enterprises directly or indirectly issue securities overseas or list their securities overseas shall file with the CSRC and submit relevant materials; if such PRC domestic enterprises fail to perform the filing procedures, or conceals important facts or fabricate any material content in the filing documents, they may be subject to administrative penalties such as being ordered to make corrections, given warnings and fines, and their controlling shareholders, actual controllers, directly responsible persons in charge and other directly responsible persons may also be subject to administrative penalties such as warnings and fines; (ii) the direct offering and listing overseas of a domestic enterprise refers to the overseas offering and listing by a joint stock limited company registered and established in the PRC; and (iii) any domestic joint stock limited company shall file with the CSRC within three working days after submitting an

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application for overseas listing. A PRC domestic enterprise that fails to complete the filing in accordance with the Trial Administrative Measures may be ordered by the CSRC to correct, given a warning, and imposed a fine not less than RMB1 million and not more than RMB10 million.

### “Full Circulation” of H Shares

Shareholders of domestic unlisted shares may determine by themselves through consultation the amount and proportion of shares, for which an [REDACTED] will be filed for circulation, provided that the requirements laid down in the relevant laws and regulations and set out in the policies for state-owned asset administration, foreign investment and industry regulation are met, and the corresponding H-share listed company may be entrusted to file the said [REDACTED] for “full circulation”.

An H-share listed company may apply for “Full Circulation” separately or when applying for refinancing abroad. An unlisted domestic joint stock company may apply for “full circulation” when applying for an overseas [REDACTED].

### Merger and Division

A merger agreement shall be signed by merging companies and the involved companies shall prepare respective statements of financial position and inventory of assets. The companies shall within 10 days of the date of passing the resolution approving the merger notify their respective creditors and publicly announce the merger in newspapers within 30 days. A creditor may, within 30 days of receipt of the notification, or within 45 days of the date of the announcement if he has not received the notification, request the company to settle any outstanding debts or provide relevant guarantees. In case of a merger, the credits and debts of the merging parties shall be assumed by the surviving or the new company.

In case of a division, the company’s assets shall be divided and a statement of financial position and an inventory of assets shall be prepared. When a resolution regarding the company’s division is approved, the company should notify all its creditors within 10 days of the date of passing such resolution and publicly announce the division in newspapers within 30 days. Unless an agreement in writing is reached with creditors before the company’s division in respect of the settlement of debts, the liabilities of the company which have accrued prior to the division shall be jointly borne by the divided companies.

Changes in the business registration of the companies as a result of the merger or division shall be registered with the relevant administration authority for industry and commerce.

In accordance with the laws, cancelation of a company shall be registered when a company is dissolved and incorporation of a company shall be registered when a new company is incorporated.

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### SECURITIES LAW AND OTHER RELEVANT REGULATIONS

The PRC has promulgated a number of regulations that relate to the issue and trading of shares and disclosure of information. In October 1992, the State Council established the Securities Committee and the CSRC. The Securities Committee is responsible for coordinating the drafting of securities regulations, formulating securities-related policies, planning the development of securities markets, directing, coordinating and supervising all securities-related institutions in the PRC and administering the CSRC.

The CSRC is the regulatory arm of the Securities Committee and is responsible for the drafting of regulatory provisions of securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating public offers of securities by PRC companies in the PRC or overseas, regulating the trading of securities, compiling securities related statistics and undertaking relevant research and analysis. In 1998, the State Council consolidated the two departments and the CSRC has since taken over the original functions of the Securities Commission.

On December 25, 1995, the State Council promulgated and implemented the Regulations of the State Council Concerning Domestic Listed Foreign Shares of Joint Stock Limited Companies (《國務院關於股份有限公司境內上市外資股的規定》). These regulations deal mainly with the issue, subscription, trading and declaration of dividends and other distributions of domestic listed and foreign invested shares and disclosure of information of joint stock limited companies having domestic listed and foreign invested shares.

The Securities Law came into force on July 1, 1999, and was revised for the first time on August 28, 2004, for the second time on October 27, 2005, for the third time on June 29, 2013, for the fourth time on August 31, 2014 and for the fifth time on December 28, 2019. This law is the first national securities law in China, which is divided into 14 chapters and 226 articles, regulating (including) the issuance and trading of securities, the acquisition of listed companies, stock exchanges, securities companies and the duties and responsibilities of the securities regulatory authority under the State Council. The Securities Law comprehensively regulates the activities of China’s securities market. Article 224 of the Securities Law stipulates that a domestic enterprise shall comply with the relevant provisions of the State Council in issuing securities or listing its securities abroad directly or indirectly. Article 225 of the Securities Law stipulates that the specific measures for subscription and trading of shares of domestic companies in foreign currencies shall be separately formulated by the State Council. At present, the shares (including H shares) issued and traded abroad are still subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

### ARBITRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ARBITRAL AWARDS

The Arbitration Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國仲裁法》) (the “**Arbitration Law**”) was passed by the Standing Committee of the NPC on August 31, 1994, became effective on September 1, 1995 and was amended on August 27, 2009 and September 1, 2017. Under the Arbitration Law, an arbitration committee may, before the promulgation by the PRC Arbitration Association of arbitration regulations, formulate interim arbitration rules in accordance with

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the Arbitration Law and the Civil Procedure Law. Where the parties have by agreement provided arbitration as the method for dispute resolution, the people’s court will refuse to handle the case except when the arbitration agreement is declared invalid.

Under the Arbitration Law and the Civil Procedure Law, an arbitral award is final and binding on the parties. If a party fails to comply with an award, the other party to the award may apply to the people’s court for enforcement. A people’s court may refuse to enforce an arbitral award made by an arbitration commission if there is any irregularity on the procedures or composition of arbitrators specified by law or the award exceeds the scope of the arbitration agreement or is outside the jurisdiction of the arbitration commission.

A party seeking to enforce an arbitral award of PRC arbitration panel against a party who, or whose property, is not within the PRC, may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for enforcement. Similarly, an arbitral award made by a foreign arbitration body may be recognized and enforced by the PRC courts in accordance with the principles of reciprocity or any international treaty concluded or acceded to by the PRC. The PRC acceded to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the “**New York Convention**”) adopted on June 10, 1958 pursuant to a resolution of the Standing Committee of the NPC passed on December 2, 1986. The New York Convention provides that all arbitral awards made in a state which is a party to the New York Convention shall be recognized and enforced by all other parties to the New York Convention, subject to their right to refuse enforcement under certain circumstances, including where the enforcement of the arbitral award is against the public policy of the state to which the application for enforcement is made. It was declared by the Standing Committee of the NPC simultaneously with the accession of the PRC that (i) the PRC will only recognize and enforce foreign arbitral awards on the principle of reciprocity and (ii) the PRC will only apply the New York Convention in disputes considered under PRC laws to arise from contractual and non-contractual mercantile legal relations.

An arrangement was reached between Hong Kong and the Supreme People’s Court for the mutual enforcement of arbitral awards. On June 18, 1999, the Supreme People’s Court adopted the Arrangements of the Supreme People’s Court on the Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的安排》), which became effective on February 1, 2000, and Supplemental Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court for the Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的補充安排》), which promulgated on December 26, 2020. In accordance with these arrangement, awards made by PRC arbitral authorities under the Arbitration Law can be enforced in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong arbitration awards are also enforceable in the PRC.

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### Judicial judgment and its enforcement

According to the Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court between the Mainland and the HKSAR on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of the Decisions of Civil and Commercial Cases under Consensual Jurisdiction (《最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區法院相互認可和執行當事人協議管轄的民商事案件判決的安排》) promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on July 3, 2008 and implemented on August 1, 2008, in the case of final judgment, defined with payment amount and enforcement power, made between the court of China and the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in a civil and commercial case with written jurisdiction agreement, any party concerned may apply to the People’s Court of China or the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for recognition and enforcement based on this arrangement. “Choice of court agreement in written” refers to a written agreement defining the exclusive jurisdiction of either the People’s Court of China or the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in order to resolve dispute with particular legal relation occurred or likely to occur by the party concerned. Therefore, the party concerned may apply to the Court of China or the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to recognize and enforce the final judgment made in China or Hong Kong that meet certain conditions of the aforementioned regulations.

### Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect

On April 10, 2014, CSRC and Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (hereinafter referred to as “HKSFC”) issued the Joint Announcement of China Securities Regulatory Commission and Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission – Principles that Should be Followed when the Pilot Program that Links the Stock Markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong is Expected to be Implemented and approved in principle the launch of the pilot program that links the stock markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong (hereinafter referred to as “Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect”) by the Shanghai Stock Exchange (hereinafter referred to as “SSE”), the Stock Exchange, China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited (hereinafter referred to as “CSDCC”) and HKSCC. Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect comprises the two portions of Northbound Trading Link and Southbound Trading Link. Southbound Trading Link refers to the entrustment of China securities houses by China investors to trade stocks listed on the Stock Exchange within a stipulated range via filing by the securities trading service company established by the SSE with the Stock Exchange. During the initial period of the pilot program, the stocks of Southbound Trading Link consist of constituent stocks of the Stock Exchange Hang Seng Composite Large Cap Index and the Hang Seng Composite MidCap Index as well as stocks of A+H stock companies concurrently listed on the Stock Exchange and the SSE. The total limit of Southbound Trading Link is RMB250 billion and the daily limit is RMB10.5 billion. During the initial period of the pilot program, it is required by HKSFC that China investors participating in Southbound Trading Link are only limited to institutional investors and individual investors with a securities account and capital account balance of not less than RMB500,000.

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On November 10, 2014, CSRC and HKSFC issued a Joint Announcement, approving the official launch of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect by SSE, the Stock Exchange, CSDCC and HKSCC. Pursuant to the Joint Announcement, trading of stocks under Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect will commence on November 17, 2014.

On September 30, 2016, CSRC issued the Filing Provision on the Placement of Shares by Hong Kong Listed Companies with Domestic Original Shareholders under Southbound Trading Link which came into effect on the same day. The act of the placement of shares by Hong Kong listed companies with domestic original shareholders under Southbound Trading Link shall be filed with CSRC. Hong Kong listed companies shall file the application materials and approved documents with CSRC after obtaining approval from the Stock Exchange for their share placement applications. CSRC will carry out supervision based on the approved opinion and conclusion of the Hong Kong side.

### **SUMMARY OF MATERIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND PRC COMPANY LAW**

The Hong Kong law applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong is based on the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and the Companies Ordinance and is supplemented by common law and the rules of equity that are applicable to Hong Kong. As a joint stock limited company established in the PRC that is seeking a [REDACTED] of shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, we are governed by the PRC Company Law and all other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the PRC Company Law.

Set out below is a summary of certain material differences between Hong Kong company law applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong and the PRC Company Law applicable to a joint stock limited company incorporated and existing under the PRC Company Law. This summary is, however, not intended to be an exhaustive comparison.

#### **Corporate Existence**

Under Hong Kong company law, a company with share capital is incorporated by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong, which issues a certificate of incorporation to the Company upon its incorporation, and the company will acquire an independent corporate existence henceforth. A company may be incorporated as a public company or a private company. Pursuant to the Companies Ordinance, the articles of association of a private company incorporated in Hong Kong shall contain certain pre-emptive provisions. A public company’s articles of association do not contain such pre-emptive provisions.

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or public subscription.

Hong Kong law does not prescribe any minimum capital requirement for a Hong Kong company.

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### Share Capital

Under the Companies Ordinance, the concept of the nominal value (also known as par value) of shares of a Hong Kong company has been abolished, and the companies have increased flexibility to alter its share capital by (i) increasing its share capital; (ii) capitalizing its profits; (iii) allotting and issuing bonus shares with or without increasing its share capital; (iv) converting its shares into larger or smaller number of shares; and (v) cancelling its shares. The concept of authorized capital no longer applies to a Hong Kong company formed on or after March 3, 2014 as well. Hence, the directors of a Hong Kong company may, with the prior approval of the shareholders if required, issue new shares of the company. The PRC Company Law has no provisions on minimum registered capital of joint stock companies, except that laws, administrative regulations and State Council decisions have separate provisions on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital of joint stock companies, in which case the company should follow such provisions. The Company’s registered capital is the amount of its issued share capital. Any increase in the Company’s registered capital must be approved at the general meeting and shall be approved by/filed with the relevant PRC governmental and regulatory authorities (if applicable).

The Companies Ordinance does not prescribe any minimum capital requirement for companies incorporated in Hong Kong.

Under the PRC Company Law, the shares may be subscribed for in the form of money or non-monetary assets (other than assets not entitled to be used as capital contributions under relevant laws or administrative regulations). For non-monetary assets to be used as capital contributions, appraisals must be carried out to ensure there is no over-valuation or under-valuation of the assets. There is no such restriction on a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

### Restrictions on Shareholding and Transfer of Shares

Generally, domestic shares, which are denominated and subscribed for in Renminbi, can be subscribed for and traded by PRC investors, qualified overseas institutional investors or qualified overseas strategic investors.

Overseas listed shares, which are denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in a currency other than Renminbi, may only be subscribed for, and traded by, investors from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan or any country and territory outside the PRC, or qualified domestic institutional investors. If the H shares are eligible securities under the Southbound Trading Link, they are also subscribed for and traded by PRC investors in accordance with the rules and limits of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect. When the [REDACTED] for “full circulation” has been approved by the CSRC, the domestic unlisted shares of the H-share listed company might be listed and circulated on the Stock Exchange.



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Under the PRC Company Law, a promoter of a joint stock limited company is not allowed to transfer the shares it holds for a period of one year after the date of establishment of the company. Shares in issue prior to a public offering of the company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares on a stock exchange. Shares in a joint stock limited liability company held by its directors, supervisors and senior management and transferred each year during their term of office shall not exceed 25% of the total shares they held in a company, and the shares they held in a company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares, and also cannot be transferred within half a year after the said personnel has left office. The articles of association may set other restrictive requirements on the transfer of a company's shares held by its directors, supervisors and senior management. There are no such restrictions on shareholdings and transfers of shares under Hong Kong law apart from the six-month lockup on the company's issue of shares and the 12-month lockup on controlling shareholders' disposal of shares, as illustrated by the undertakings given by the Company and our controlling shareholder to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

### **Financial Assistance for Acquisition of Shares**

The PRC Company Law does not prohibit or restrict a joint stock limited company or its subsidiaries from providing financial assistance for the purpose of an acquisition of its own or its holding company's shares.

### **Notice of Shareholders' General Meetings**

Under the PRC Company Law, notices of an annual session of the shareholders' assembly and an interim meeting of the shareholders' assembly must be given to shareholders 20 days and 15 days before the meeting, respectively. For a limited liability company incorporated in Hong Kong, the minimum period of notice is 14 days in case of other shareholders' meetings other than an annual general meeting and 21 days in the case of an annual general meeting.

### **Quorum for Shareholders' General Meetings**

Under Hong Kong company law, the quorum for a shareholders' general meeting must be two members unless the articles of association of the company otherwise provide. For companies with only one member, the quorum must be one member. The PRC Company Law does not specify any quorum requirement for a shareholders' assembly.

### **Voting at Shareholders' General Meeting**

Under the PRC Company Law, the passing of any resolution of a shareholders' assembly requires affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than half of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the assembly except in cases of resolutions on amendments to a company's articles of association, increase or decrease of registered capital, merger, division or dissolution, or change of corporation form, which require affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the assembly.

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Under Hong Kong law, (i) an ordinary resolution may be passed by a simple majority of affirmative votes of the shareholders who attend the shareholders' general meeting in person or by proxy, and (ii) a special resolution may be passed by no less than three fourths of affirmative votes of the shareholders who attend the shareholders' general meeting in person or by proxy.

### **Variation of Class Rights**

The PRC Company Law makes no specific provision relating to variation of class rights. However, the PRC Company Law states that the State Council can promulgate requirements relating to other kinds of shares.

Under the Companies Ordinance, no rights attached to any class of shares can be varied except (i) with the passing of a special resolution by the shareholders of the relevant class at a separate meeting sanctioning the variation, (ii) with the written consent of shareholders representing at least three-fourths of the total voting rights of shareholders of the relevant class, or (iii) if there are provisions in the articles of association relating to the variation of those rights, then in accordance with those provisions.

### **Derivative Action by Minority Shareholders**

Under Hong Kong company law, a shareholder may, with the leave of the Court, start a derivative action on behalf of a company for any misconduct committed by its directors against the company. For example, leave may be granted where the directors control a majority of votes at a general meeting, and could thereby prevent the company from suing the directors in its own name.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, in the event where the directors and senior management of a joint stock limited company violate laws, administrative regulations or its articles of association, resulting in losses to the company, the shareholders individually or jointly holding 1% or more of the shares in the company for more than one hundred and eighty (180) consecutive days may request in writing the board of supervisors to initiate proceedings in the people's court. In the event that the board of supervisors violates as such, the above said shareholders may send written request to the board of directors to initiate proceedings in the people's court. Upon receipt of such written request from the shareholders, if the board of supervisors or the board of directors refuses to initiate such proceedings, or has not initiated proceedings within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the request, or if under urgent situations, failure of initiating immediate proceeding may cause irremediable damages to the company, the above said shareholders shall, for the benefit of the company's interests, have the right to initiate proceedings directly to the court in their own name.

The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies also provide other remedies against the directors, supervisors and senior management who breach their duties to the company. In addition, as a condition to the listing of shares on the Stock Exchange, each

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director and supervisor of a joint stock limited company is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company acting as agent for the shareholders. This allows minority shareholders to take action against directors and supervisors of the company in default.

### **Minority Shareholder Protection**

Under the Companies Ordinance, a shareholder who alleges that the affairs of a company are conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to his interests may petition to the Court to make an appropriate order to give relief to the unfairly prejudicial conduct. Alternatively, pursuant to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, a shareholder may seek to wind up the company on the just and equitable ground. In addition, on the application of a specified number of members, the Financial Secretary may appoint inspectors who are given extensive statutory powers to investigate the affairs of a company incorporated or registered in Hong Kong. The PRC Company Law provides that any shareholders holding 10% or above of voting rights of all issued shares of a company may request a People’s Court to dissolve the company to the extent that the operation or management of the company experiences any serious difficulties and its continuous existence would cause serious losses to them, and no other alternatives can resolve such difficulties.

The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies also provide other remedies against the directors, supervisors and senior management who breach their duties to the company. In addition, as a condition to the listing of shares on the Stock Exchange, each director and supervisor of a joint stock limited company is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company acting as agent for the shareholders. This allows minority shareholders to take action against directors and supervisors of the company in default.

### **Directors**

The PRC Company Law, unlike Hong Kong law, does not contain any requirements relating to the declaration of directors’ interests in material contracts, restrictions on directors’ rights to carry out major disposals or companies providing certain benefits, or prohibitions against compensation for loss of office without shareholders’ approval. The PRC Company Law restricts the directors of a listed company who have interests or associations in the enterprises involved in the resolution of the board meetings from voting on the said resolution. All the above provisions have been incorporated in the articles of association, which are summarized in Appendix V.

### **Supervisors**

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company’s directors and senior management are subject to the supervision of a board of supervisors. There is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of a board of supervisors for a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

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## **APPENDIX IV SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

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Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company's directors and members of the senior management are subject to the supervision of board of supervisors. There is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of board of supervisors for a company incorporated in Hong Kong. The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies stipulate that supervisors shall abide by the laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association of the company, owe the company a duty of loyalty and diligence, and shall not use their authority to accept bribes or other illegal income or misappropriate the property of the company.

### **Fiduciary Duties**

In Hong Kong, directors owe fiduciary duties to the company, including the duty not to act in conflict with the company's interests. Furthermore, the Companies Ordinance has codified the directors' statutory duty of care. Under the PRC Company Law, directors, supervisors and senior management shall assume the duty of loyalty and diligence.

### **Financial Disclosure**

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to make available at the company for inspection by shareholders its financial report twenty (20) days before its annual general meeting. In addition, a joint stock limited company of which the shares are publicly offered must publish its financial report. The Companies Ordinance requires a company incorporated in Hong Kong to send to every shareholder a copy of its financial statements, auditors' report and directors' report, which are to be presented before the company in its annual general meeting, not less than twenty one (21) days before such meeting. According to the PRC laws, a company shall prepare its financial accounting reports as at the end of each accounting year, and submit the same to accounting firms for auditing as required by law.

### **Information on Directors and Shareholders**

The Company Law gives shareholders the right to inspect the company's articles of association, minutes of the general meetings and financial and accounting reports. Under the articles of association, shareholders have the right to inspect and copy (at reasonable charges) certain information on shareholders and on directors which is similar to the rights of shareholders of Hong Kong companies under the Companies Ordinance.

### **Receiving Agent**

Under the Hong Kong law, dividends once declared by the board of directors will become debts payable to shareholders. The limitation period for debt recovery action under Hong Kong law is six years, while under the PRC law this limitation period is three years.

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### **Corporate Reorganization**

Corporate reorganization involving a company incorporated in Hong Kong may be effected in a number of ways, such as a transfer of the whole or part of the business or property of the company in the course of voluntary winding up to another company pursuant to Section 237 of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance or a compromise or arrangement between the company and its creditors or between the company and its members pursuant to Section 673 and Division 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Ordinance, which requires the sanction of the court. In addition, subject to the shareholders' approval, an intra-group wholly-owned subsidiary company may also be amalgamated horizontally or vertically under the Companies Ordinance. Under PRC law, merger, division, dissolution or change to the status of a joint stock limited liability company has to be approved by shareholders in general meeting.

### **Mandatory Deductions**

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited liability company is required to make transfers equivalent to certain prescribed percentages of its after-tax profit to the statutory common reserve fund. There are no corresponding provisions under Hong Kong law.

### **Arbitration of Disputes**

In Hong Kong, disputes between shareholders and a company or its directors, managers and other senior management may be resolved through the courts. The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies provide that shareholders may sue directors, supervisors, managers and other senior management of the company, and shareholders may sue the company, and the company may sue its shareholders, directors, supervisors, managers and other senior management personnel.

The Securities Arbitration Rules of the HKIAC contain provisions allowing, upon application by any party, an arbitral tribunal to conduct a hearing in Shenzhen for cases involving the affairs of companies incorporated in the PRC and listed on the Stock Exchange so that PRC parties and witnesses may attend. Where any party applies for a hearing to take place in Shenzhen, the tribunal shall, where satisfied that such application is based on bona fide grounds, order the hearing to take place in Shenzhen conditional upon all parties, including witnesses and arbitrators, being permitted to enter Shenzhen for the purpose of the hearing. Where a party, other than a PRC party or any of its witnesses or any arbitrator, is not permitted to enter Shenzhen, then the tribunal shall order that the hearing be conducted in any practicable manner, including the use of electronic media. For the purpose of the Securities Arbitration Rules of the HKIAC, a PRC party means a party domiciled in the PRC other than the territories of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

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### **Remedies of a Company**

Under the Company Law, if a director, supervisor or manager in carrying out his duties infringes any law, administrative regulation or the articles of association of a company, which results in damage to the company, that director, supervisor or manager should be responsible to the company for such damages. In addition, the Hong Kong Listing Rules require listed companies' articles to provide for remedies of the company similar to those available under Hong Kong law (including rescission of the relevant contract and recovery of profits from a director, supervisor or senior management).

### **Dividends**

The company has the power in certain circumstances to withhold, and pay to the relevant tax authorities, any tax payable under PRC law on any dividends or other distributions payable to a shareholder. Under Hong Kong law, the limitation period for an action to recover a debt (including the recovery of declared dividends) is six years, whereas under PRC laws, the relevant limitation period is three years. The company must not exercise its powers to forfeit any unclaimed dividend in respect of shares until after the expiry of the applicable limitation period.

### **Closure of Register of Shareholders**

The Companies Ordinance requires that the register of shareholders of a company must not be closed for the registration of transfers of shares for more than thirty (30) days (extendable to sixty (60) days in certain circumstances) in a year. Unless otherwise stipulated by laws, share transfers shall not be registered within twenty (20) days prior to convening a shareholders' general meeting or five (5) days before the base date of distribution of dividends.