#### THE PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

The PRC legal system is based on the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (《中華 人民共和國憲法》) revised and took effect on March 11, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as the "Constitution") and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations, separate regulations, rules and regulations of State Council departments, rules and regulations of local governments, laws of special administrative regions, international treaties of which the PRC government is the signatory and other regulatory documents. Court judgments do not constitute legally binding precedents, although they are used for the purposes of judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國立法法》) which was last revised and published on March 13, 2023 and took effect on March 15, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the "Legislation Law"), the NPC and its Standing Committee are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing State organs, civil, criminal and other matters. The Standing Committee of the NPC formulates and amends the laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend parts of the 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 state administration and has the power to formulate administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws. The people's congresses of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of their respective administrative areas, provided that such regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The people's congresses of cities divided into districts and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations on aspects such as urban and rural construction and management, environmental protection and historical and cultural protection based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of such cities, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of their respective provinces or autonomous regions. If the law provides otherwise on the formulation of local regulations by cities divided into districts, those provisions shall prevail. Such local regulations will become enforceable after being reported to and approved by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces or autonomous regions. The standing committees of the people's congresses of the provinces or autonomous regions shall examine the legality of local regulations submitted for approval, and such approval shall be granted within four months if they are not in conflict with the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of the relevant provinces or autonomous regions. Where, during the examination for approval of local regulations of cities divided into districts by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the provinces or autonomous regions, conflicts are identified with the rules and regulations of the people's governments of the provinces or autonomous regions, a decision should be made to resolve the issue. People's congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomous regulations and separate regulations in light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the ethnic groups in the areas concerned.

The ministries and commissions of the State Council, PBOC, the National Audit Office and the subordinate institutions with administrative functions directly under the State Council may formulate departmental rules and regulations within the permissions of their respective departments based on the laws and administrative regulations, and the decisions and orders of the State Council. Provisions of departmental rules should be the matters related to the enforcement of the laws and administrative regulations, and the decisions and orders of the State Council. The people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and cities or autonomous prefectures divided into districts may formulate rules and regulations based on the laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of such provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

The NPC has the power to amend or repeal any inappropriate laws enacted by the Standing Committee of the NPC, and to repeal any autonomous regulations and separate rules approved by the Standing Committee of the NPC that are in conflict with the Constitution and the Legislation Law. The Standing Committee of the NPC has the power to repeal any administrative regulations that are in conflict with the Constitution and the laws, and to repeal any local regulations that are in conflict with the Constitution, the laws, and the administrative regulations, and to repeal autonomous regulations and separate rules approved by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the central government as being in conflict with the Constitution and the Legislation Law. The State Council has the right to amend or repeal any inappropriate departmental and local government regulations. The people's congresses of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government have the right to amend or repeal any inappropriate local laws or regulations promulgated or approved by their respective standing committees, and the local people's congresses have the right to amend or repeal any inappropriate local laws or regulations promulgated or approved by their respective standing committees. The people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government have the right to amend or repeal any inappropriate local regulations promulgated or approved by their respective standing committees. The standing committees of local people's congresses have the right to repeal any inappropriate rules promulgated by the people's governments at the same level, and the people's governments of provinces and autonomous regions have the right to amend or repeal any inappropriate rules promulgated by the people's governments at lower levels.

Pursuant to the Resolution of the Standing Committee of the NPC Providing an Improved Interpretation of the Law (《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》) passed on June 10, 1981, in cases where the scope of provisions of laws or decrees needs to be further defined or additional stipulations need to be made, the Standing Committee of the NPC shall provide interpretations or make stipulations by means of decrees. Issues related to the application of laws and decrees in a court trial should be interpreted by the Supreme People's Court, issues related to the application of laws and decrees in a prosecution process of the procuratorate should be interpreted by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and issues related to the application of laws and decrees other than the abovementioned should be interpreted by the State Council and the competent authorities. The State Council and its ministries and commissions are also vested with the power to give interpretations of the administrative regulations and departmental rules which they have promulgated. At the regional level, the power to interpret regional regulations is vested in the regional legislative and administrative authorities which promulgate such regulations.

# THE PRC JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Under the Constitution, the Law of Organization of the People's Court of the People's Republic of China (2018 Revision) (《中華人民共和國人民法院組織法(2018修訂)》) and the Law of Organization of the People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China (2018 Revision) (《中華人民共和國人民檢察院組織法(2018修訂)》), the people's courts of the PRC are divided into the Supreme People's Court, the local people's courts at all levels and special people's courts. The local people's courts at all levels are divided into three levels, namely, the basic people's courts, the intermediate people's courts and the higher people's courts. The basic people's courts may set up certain people's tribunals based on the status of the region, population and cases. The Supreme People's Court shall be the highest judicial organ of the state. The Supreme People's Court shall supervise the administration of justice by the local people's courts at all levels and by the special people's courts. The people's courts at a higher level shall supervise the judicial work of the people's courts at lower levels. The people's procuratorates of the PRC are divided into the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the local people's procuratorates at all levels, Military Procuratorates and other special people's procuratorates. The Supreme People's Procuratorate shall be the highest procuratorial organ. The Supreme People's Procuratorate shall direct the work of the local people's procuratorates at all levels and of the special people's procuratorates; the people's procuratorates at higher levels shall direct the work of those at lower levels.

The people's courts employ a two-tier appellate system, i.e., judgments or rulings of the second instance at the people's courts are final. A party may appeal against the judgment or ruling of the first instance of a local people's courts. The people's procuratorate may present a protest to the people's courts 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 courts 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 those of the first instance of the Supreme People's Court are final. However, if the Supreme People's Court finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of a people's court at any lower level, the people's courts at the next higher level finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of the people's court at a lower level, or if the chief judge of a people's court at any level finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of such court, the case can be retried according to judicial supervision procedures.

The Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國民事訴訟法》) (hereinafter referred to as the "PRC Civil Procedure Law") adopted on April 9, 1991, latest amended on September 1, 2023 and took effect on January 1, 2024, prescribes the conditions for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people's court, 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. A civil case is generally under the jurisdiction of the court located in the defendant's place of domicile. As far as civil litigation is concerned, the parties to a contract may agree in writing to choose the jurisdiction of a people's court at the place of domicile of the defendant, the place of performance of the contract, the place of conclusion of the contract, the place of domicile of the plaintiff, the place of the subject-matter, and other places which have a real connection with the dispute, provided that any of the above does not contravene the provisions on hierarchical jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction.

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 people's court. Should a foreign court limit the litigation rights of PRC citizens or enterprises, a people's court of the PRC may apply the same limitations to the citizens or 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 people's court. In accordance with the international treaties to which the PRC 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. A people's court shall not accommodate any request made by a foreign court which will result in the violation of sovereignty, security or public interests of the PRC.

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. Suspension or disruption of the time limit for applying for such enforcement shall comply with the provisions of the applicable law concerning the suspension or disruption of the time-barring of actions. 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 against such party.

Where a party requests for enforcement of an effective judgment or ruling made by a people's court, but the opposite party or his property is not within the territory of the People's Republic of China, the party may directly apply to the foreign court with jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling, or the people's court may, in accordance with the provisions of international treaties to which the PRC is a signatory or in which the PRC is a participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, request for recognition and enforcement by the foreign court. Similarly, for an effective judgment or ruling made by a foreign court that requires recognition and enforcement by a people's court of the PRC, a party may directly apply to an intermediate people's court of the PRC with jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling, or the foreign court may, in accordance with the provisions of international treaties to which its country and the PRC are signatories or in which its country is a participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, request for recognition and enforcement by the people's court, 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 would not be in social and public interest.

THE COMPANY LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE TRIAL MEASURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION ON OVERSEAS SECURITIES OFFERING AND LISTING BY DOMESTIC COMPANIES AND THE GUIDELINES ON THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF LISTED COMPANIES

The Company Law of the People's Republic of China (《中華人民共和國公司法》) (hereinafter referred to as the "PRC Company Law") was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Eighth NPC at its Fifth Session on December 29, 1993 and came into effect on July 1, 1994. It was successively amended on December 25, 1999, August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, December 28, 2013, October 26, 2018 and December 29, 2023. The latest revision of the PRC Company Law took effect on July 1, 2024.

On February 17, 2023, the CSRC promulgated the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing, which took effect on March 31, 2023. The Trial Measures for Overseas Listing apply to both direct and indirect overseas share subscription and listing of domestic enterprises, and also set out the filing and administration methods and regulatory requirements for the overseas issuance of securities and listing of domestic enterprises.

On December 15, 2023, the CSRC promulgated the newly revised Guidelines on the Articles of Association of Listed Companies (the "Articles of Association Guidelines"), which came into effect on the same date. Pursuant to the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing and its supporting Guidelines for the Application of Regulatory Rules — Overseas Issuance and Listing Category No. 1, domestic enterprises that directly issue and list overseas shall formulate articles of association and standardize corporate governance with reference to the Articles of Association Guidelines and other relevant provisions of the CSRC on corporate governance.

The key provisions of the PRC Company Law (2023 Revision), the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing and the Articles of Association Guidelines currently in force are summarized below.

#### **GENERAL**

A "joint stock limited company" (hereinafter referred to as the "company") refers to a corporate legal person incorporated in China under the PRC Company Law with independent legal person properties and entitlements to such legal person properties. The liability of the company for its own debts is limited to the total amount of all assets it owns and the liability of its shareholders for the company is limited to the extent of the shares they subscribe for.

A company must conduct its business in accordance with laws as well as public and commercial ethics. A company may invest in other limited liability companies. The liabilities of the company to such invested companies are limited to the amount invested. Unless otherwise provided by laws, a company cannot be the capital contributor who has the joint and several liabilities associated with the debts of the invested enterprises.

## **INCORPORATION**

A company may be established by promotion or subscription. A company shall have a minimum of one but no more than 200 people as its promoters, over half of which must have a domicile within the PRC. The registered capital of the company is the total share capital subscribed for by all the promoters registered with the company's registration authorities. No share offering shall be made before the shares subscribed for by promoters are fully paid up. If laws, administrative regulations and State Council decisions provide otherwise on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital, a company should follow such provisions.

For companies incorporated by way of promotion, the promoters shall subscribe for the shares required to be subscribed for by them under the articles of association. Procedures relating to the transfer of titles to non-monetary assets shall be duly completed if such assets are to be contributed as capital. If the promoters fail to pay up monies for the shares they subscribe for, or if

than the subscribed shares, the other promoters shall be jointly and severally liable with the promoter to the extent of the shortfall in capital contribution. The board of directors shall authorize representatives to apply to the company registration authority for registration of the establishment within 30 days after the conclusion of the inauguration meeting of the company.

Where companies are incorporated by subscription, not less than 35% of their total number of shares must be subscribed for by the promoters, unless otherwise provided by laws or administrative regulations. A promoter who offers shares to the public must publish a prospectus and prepare a subscription letter to be completed, signed and sealed by subscribers, specifying the number and amount of shares to be subscribed for and the subscribers' addresses. The subscribers shall pay up monies for the shares they subscribe for. Where a promoter is offering shares to the public, such offer shall be underwritten by security companies established under PRC law, and underwriting agreements shall be entered into. A promoter offering shares to the public shall also enter into agreements with banks in relation to the receipt of subscription monies. The receiving banks shall receive and keep in custody the subscription monies, issue receipts to subscribers who have paid the subscription monies and is obliged to furnish evidence of receipt of those subscription monies to relevant authorities in accordance with the agreement. After the subscription monies for the share issue have been paid in full, a capital verification institution established under PRC laws must be engaged to conduct a capital verification and furnish a certificate thereof. The promoters shall preside over and convene an inauguration meeting within 30 days from the date of the full payment of subscription money, and shall notify the subscribers of the date of such meeting or make an announcement 15 days before the inauguration meeting. The inauguration meeting shall be composed of the promoters and subscribers representing a majority of the total number of shares. The powers and functions of the inauguration meeting shall include but not limited to adopting the Articles of Association and electing the members of the board of directors and the supervisory committee. Resolutions on the foregoing matters at the inauguration meeting shall be passed by a majority of the votes held by the subscribers present at the meeting. Where the shares issued remain undersubscribed by the deadline stipulated in the prospectus, or where the promoter fails to convene an inauguration meeting within 30 days of the subscription monies for the shares issued being fully paid up, the subscribers may demand that the promoters refund the subscription monies so paid together with the interest at bank rates of a deposit for the same period. Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inauguration meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the company registration authority for registration of the establishment of the company. A company is formally established and has the capacity of a legal person after approval of registration has been given by the relevant company registration authority for industry and commerce and a business license has been issued. A joint stock limited company established by subscription shall obtain approval for a public offering from the securities regulatory authority of the State Council and submit relevant approval to the company registration authority.

A company's promoters shall be liable for: (1) the debts and expenses incurred in the establishment process jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; (2) the subscription monies paid by the subscribers together with interest at bank rates of deposit for the same period jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; and (3) the compensation of any damages suffered by the company in the course of its establishment as a result of the promoters' fault. Pursuant to the Interim Regulations on the Administration of Share Issuance and Trading (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》) promulgated by the State Council on April 22, 1993 (only applicable to the issuance and trading of shares and related activities in the PRC), if a company is established by means of subscription, the promoters of such company are required to provide signatures on the documents to ensure that they are free from any misrepresentation, serious misleading statements or material omissions, and assume joint and several liability for such documents.

## **SHARE CAPITAL**

The promoters may make a capital contribution in currencies, or non-monetary assets such as in kind or intellectual property rights or land use rights which can be appraised with monetary value and transferred lawfully, except for assets which are prohibited from being contributed as capital by the laws or administrative regulations. If a capital contribution is made with non-monetary assets, a valuation and verification of the asset contributed must be carried out without any overvaluation or undervaluation. Where the law or administrative regulations in place have any other provisions on valuation, such provisions shall prevail.

The issuance of shares shall be conducted in a fair and equitable manner. Each share of the same class must carry equal rights. Shares issued at the same time and within the same class must be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. The same price per share shall be paid by any share subscriber (whether an entity or an individual). The share offering price may be equal to or greater than the nominal value of the share, but may not be less than the nominal value.

Under the PRC Company Law, a company issuing registered share certificates shall maintain a shareholder registry which sets forth the following matters: (1) the name and domicile of each shareholder; (2) the number of shares held by each shareholder; (3) the serial numbers of shares held by each shareholder; and (4) the date on which each shareholder acquired the shares.

According to the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing, a domestic enterprise may raise funds and pay dividends in foreign currency or RMB when listing overseas. Under certain circumstances, such as equity incentives and the acquisition of assets through the issuance of securities, a domestic enterprise is allowed to issue securities to specific domestic targets when it directly issues and lists overseas. According to the Trial Measures, the shareholders of unlisted domestic shares of a domestic enterprise that directly issues securities and is listed overseas shall comply

with the relevant regulations promulgated by the CSRC when applying for the conversion of such shares to shares listed and traded on overseas trading venues, and shall authorize the domestic enterprise to make a filing with the CSRC on their behalf, submit the filing report, a legal opinion and other relevant materials, and provide a true, accurate, and complete information of its shareholders and other matters. The unlisted domestic shares referred to in the preceding paragraph represent shares issued by a domestic enterprise but not yet listed or traded on a domestic exchange. Unlisted domestic shares shall be centrally registered and deposited with the domestic securities depository and clearing institutions. The registration and settlement arrangements for shares listed overseas shall be implemented in accordance with the regulations of the place of overseas listing. Where a domestic enterprise is indirectly listed overseas, the issuer shall appoint a major domestic business entity to file with the CSRC on its behalf.

#### **INCREASE IN SHARE CAPITAL**

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the PRC Company Law, where a company is issuing new shares, resolutions shall be made at the shareholders' meeting in accordance with the articles of association in respect of the class and amount of the new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end dates for the issue of the new shares and the class and amount of the new shares to be issued to existing shareholders. When a company launches a public issue of new shares upon the approval by the securities regulatory authority of the State Council, a new share offering prospectus and financial accounting report must be announced and a subscription letter must be prepared. After the new shares issued by the company has been paid up, the change must be registered with the company registration authority and a public announcement must be made accordingly.

In addition, the Securities Law also requires the following conditions for a company to issue new shares to the public: (1) the company is a complete and well-operated organization; (2) the company is able to operate on a going concern; (3) the financial and accounting reports of the company for the last three years were issued with unqualified audit opinion; (4) the issuer, its controlling shareholder, and actual controller have not been involved in corruption, bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation of property, or criminal offences that disrupt the socialist market economic order in the past three years; and (5) the company is able to fulfill any other requirements as prescribed by the securities regulatory authority of the State Council as approved by the State Council. After payment in full for the new shares issued, a company must modify its registration with the relevant company registration authority and issue an announcement accordingly.

#### REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

A company shall reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures prescribed by the PRC Company Law: (1) the company shall prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets; (2) the reduction of registered capital must be approved by shareholders at the shareholders' meeting; (3) the company shall notify its creditors within 10 days and publish an announcement in newspapers or on the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days from the day on which the resolution approving the reduction was made; (4) the creditors of the company are entitled to require the company to repay its debts or provide guarantees for such debts within 30 days from receipt of the notification or within 45 days from the date of the announcement if he/she/it has not received any notification; and (5) the company must apply to the company registration authority for change in registration.

## REPURCHASE OF SHARES

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, a company may not repurchase the shares of the Company other than for any of the following purposes: (1) reducing its registered capital; (2) merging with other companies which hold the shares of the Company; (3) carrying out an employee stock ownership plan or equity incentive plan; (4) acquiring its shares at the request of its shareholders who vote in a shareholders' meeting against a resolution regarding a merger and division; (5) utilizing the shares for conversion of listed corporate bonds which are convertible into shares; and (6) where it is necessary for the listed company to safeguard the value of the company and the interests of its shareholders. The acquisition by a company of the shares of the Company on the grounds set out in item (1) to (2) above shall be approved by way of a resolution of a shareholders' meeting; the acquisition by a company of its own shares in circumstances as set out in items (3), (5) and (6) above may be approved by way of a resolution at a board meeting with more than two-thirds of the directors present in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association or the authorization of the shareholders' meeting.

Following the acquisition by a company of the shares of the Company in accordance with these requirements, such shares shall be canceled within 10 days from the date of the acquisition under the circumstance in item (1); such shares shall be transferred or canceled within six months under the circumstances in items (2) or (4); the total shares of the Company held by the company shall not exceed 10% of the total shares issued by the Company and such shares shall be transferred or canceled within three years under the circumstances in items (3), (5) or (6).

A listed company shall perform its information disclosure obligations in accordance with the provisions of the PRC Securities Law when acquiring the shares of the Company. The acquisition by a listed company of the shares of the Company in circumstances as set out in items (3), (5) and (6) of this article shall be conducted through open centralized trading.

The Company shall not accept the shares of the Company as the subject of pledge.

#### TRANSFER OF SHARES

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred legally. Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, a shareholder should effect a transfer of its 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 other manner specified by laws and administrative regulations. Following the transfer, the company shall enter the names and addresses 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' 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.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, no changes of registration in the share register due to share transfer shall be effected during a period of 20 days prior to convening a shareholders' 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.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, shares issued prior to the public offering of shares by a company shall not be transferred within one year from the date the shares of the company were listed on the stock exchange(s). Directors, supervisors and senior management of the company shall report to the company their shareholdings and changes therein and shall not transfer more than 25% per year of the total number of shares held by them during their terms of office. The shares of the company held by them shall not be transferred within one year from the date the share certificates of the company being listed and traded. The aforesaid person(s) shall not transfer the shares of the company held by them within six months commencing from the termination of their service. The articles of association may set out other restrictive provisions in respect of the transfer of shares of the Company held by its directors, supervisors and the senior management.

According to the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing, where a domestic enterprise directly issues and lists overseas, shareholders who hold unlisted shares in the domestic enterprise and apply to convert their unlisted shares in the domestic enterprise into listed shares overseas and to list and circulate them on overseas trading venues shall comply with the relevant provisions of the CSRC and entrust the domestic company to make a filing with the CSRC.

#### **SHAREHOLDERS**

Under the PRC Company Law and the Articles of Association Guidelines, the rights of shareholders include the rights: (1) to receive a return on assets, participate in significant decision-making and select management personnel; (2) to petition the people's court to revoke any resolution passed on a shareholders' meeting or a meeting of the board of directors that has been convened or whose voting has been conducted in violation of the laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association, or any resolution the contents of which is in violation of the articles of association, provided that such petition shall be submitted within 60 days of the passing of such resolution; (3) to transfer the shares of the shareholders legally; (4) to attend or appoint a proxy to attend shareholders' meetings and exercise the voting rights; (5) to inspect the articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of shareholders' meetings, board resolutions, resolutions of the supervisory committee and financial and accounting reports, and to make suggestions or inquiries in respect of the company's operations; (6) to receive dividends in respect of the number of shares held; (7) to participate in distribution of residual properties of the company in proportion to their shareholdings upon the liquidation of the company; and (8) any other shareholders' rights provided for in laws, administrative regulations, other normative documents and the articles of association.

The obligations of shareholders include the obligation to abide by the company's articles of association, to pay the subscription monies in respect of the shares subscribed for, to be liable for the company's debts and liabilities to the extent of the amount of subscription monies agreed to be paid in respect of the shares taken up by them, not to abuse shareholders' rights to impair the interests of the company or other shareholders, not to abuse the independent status of legal person or shareholders' limited liabilities to impair the interests of the creditors of the company and any other shareholder obligation specified in the articles of association.

According to the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing, a domestic enterprise that issues and lists overseas shall make a filing with the CSRC in accordance with such measures, submit a filing report, a legal opinion and other relevant materials, and provide a true, accurate and complete information of its shareholders and other matters.

## SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS

The shareholders' meetings are the organ of power of the company and shall exercise its powers according to the PRC Company Law. The shareholders' meeting may exercise its powers: (1) to elect and change the directors and supervisors and to decide on the matters relating to the remuneration of directors and supervisors; (2) to review and approve the reports of the board of directors; (3) to review and approve the reports of the supervisory committee; (4) to review and approve the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals; (5) to decide on

any increase or reduction of the company's registered capital; (6) to decide on the issue of corporate bonds; (7) to decide on merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company or change of its corporate form; (8) to amend the articles of association; and (9) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law and the Articles of Association Guidelines, a shareholders' meeting is required to be held once every year within six months after the end of the previous accounting year. An extraordinary meeting is required to be held within two months upon the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the number of directors is less than the number required by law or less than two-thirds of the number specified in the articles of association; (2) the outstanding losses of the company amounted to one-third of the company's total paid-in share capital; (3) shareholders individually or in aggregate holding more than 10% of the company's shares request to convene an extraordinary meeting; (4) the board deems necessary; (5) the supervisory committee so proposes; or (6) other circumstances as provided for in the articles of association.

A shareholders' meeting shall be convened by the board of directors and presided over by the chairman of the board of directors. In the event that the chairman is incapable of performing or is not performing his duties, the meeting shall be presided over by the vice chairman. In the event that the vice chairman is incapable of performing or is not performing his duties, a director recommended by more than half of the directors shall preside over the meeting. Where the board of directors is incapable of performing or is not performing its duties to convene a shareholders' meeting, the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over the shareholders' meeting in a timely manner. If the supervisory committee fails to convene and preside over the shareholders' meeting, shareholders individually or in aggregate holding more than 10% of the company's shares for over 90 days consecutively may unilaterally convene and preside over the shareholders' meeting.

In accordance with the PRC Company Law, a notice of the shareholders' meeting stating the date and venue of the meeting and the matters to be considered at the meeting shall be given to all shareholders 20 days prior to the meeting. A notice of extraordinary meeting shall be given to all shareholders 15 days prior to the meeting. Shareholders individually or jointly holding more than one percent of the shares of the company may submit an interim proposal in writing to the board of directors within 10 days before the shareholders' meeting. The board of directors shall notify other shareholders within two days upon receipt of the proposal, and submit the interim proposal to the shareholders' meeting for deliberation. The contents of the interim proposal shall fall within the scope of powers of the shareholders' meeting, and the proposal shall provide clear agenda and specific matters for a resolution is to be made. A shareholders' meeting shall not make any resolution in respect of any matter not set out in the notices.

Pursuant to the Official Reply of the State Council regarding Adjusting the Application of Provisions to Matters Including the Notice Period for Convention of Shareholders' Meetings by Overseas Listed Companies (《國務院關於調整適用在境外上市公司召開股東大會通知期限等事項規定的批覆》(Guo Han [2019] No. 97)), which came into effect on October 17, 2019, for those joint stock limited companies registered in the PRC but listed outside the PRC, the requirements for the notice period for convening a shareholders' meeting, shareholders' proposal right, and the procedures for convening a shareholders' meeting shall be collectively governed by the relevant provisions of the PRC Company Law.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, shareholders present at a shareholders' meeting have one vote for each share they hold, save that the Company's 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' meeting pursuant to the provisions of the articles of association or a resolution of the shareholders' meeting. 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' meeting, 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' meeting must be passed by more than half of the voting rights held by shareholders present at the meeting, with the exception of resolutions relating to merger, division or dissolution of the company, increase or reduction of registered share capital, change of corporate form or amendments to the articles of association, in each case of which must be passed by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting. A shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend the shareholders' meeting on his/her behalf. The proxy shall present the shareholders' power of attorney to the company and exercise voting rights within the scope of authorization.

Minutes shall be prepared in respect of matters considered at the shareholders' meeting and the chairperson and directors attending the meeting shall endorse such minutes by signature. The minutes shall be kept together with the shareholders' attendance register and the proxy forms.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A company shall have a board of directors, which shall consist of over three members. Members of the board of directors may include staff representatives, who shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at a staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The term of a director shall be stipulated in the articles of association, provided that no term of office shall last for more than three years. A director may serve consecutive terms if

re-elected. A director shall continue to perform his/her duties as a director in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the 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/her term of office or if the resignation of director results in the number of directors being less than the quorum.

Under the PRC Company Law, the board of directors may exercise its powers:

- to convene shareholders' meetings and report on its work to the shareholders' meetings; (1)
- (2) to implement the resolutions passed by the shareholders at the shareholders' meetings;
- to decide on the company's operational plans and investment proposals;
- 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 (5) and the issue of corporate bonds;
- (6) to formulate proposals for the merger, division or dissolution of the company or change of corporate form;
- (7) to decide on the setup of the company's internal management organs;
- to appoint or dismiss the company's manager and decide on his/her remuneration and, based on the manager's recommendation, to appoint or dismiss any deputy general manager and financial officer of the company and to decide on their remunerations;
- (9) to formulate the company's basic management system; and
- (10) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

Meetings of the board of directors shall be convened at least twice each year. Notices of meeting shall be given to all directors and supervisors 10 days before the meeting. Interim board meetings may be proposed to be convened by shareholders representing more than 10% of the voting rights, more than one-third of the directors or the supervisory committee. The chairman shall convene the meeting within 10 days of receiving such proposal, and preside over the meeting. The board of directors may otherwise determine the means and the period of notice for convening an interim board meeting. Meetings of the board of directors shall be held only if more than half of the directors are present. Resolutions of the board of directors shall be passed by more than half of all directors. Each director shall have one vote for a resolution to be approved by the board. Directors shall attend board meetings in person. If a director is unable to attend for any reason, he/she may appoint another director to attend the meeting on his/her behalf by a written power of attorney specifying the scope of authorization. Meanwhile, the board of directors shall keep minutes of resolutions passed at board meetings. The minutes shall be signed by the directors present at the meeting.

If a resolution of the board of directors violates the laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association or resolutions of the shareholders' meeting, and as a result of which the company sustains serious losses, the directors participating in the resolution are liable to compensate the company. However, if it can be proved that a director expressly objected to the resolution when the resolution was voted on, and that such objection was recorded in the minutes of the meeting, such director shall be relieved from that liability.

Under the PRC Company Law, the following person may not serve as a director in a company: (1) a person who is unable or has limited ability to undertake any civil liabilities; (2) a person who has been convicted of an offense of corruption, bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation of property or destruction of the socialist economic order, or who has been deprived of his political rights due to his crimes, in each case where less than five years have elapsed since the date of completion of the sentence and less than two years have elapsed since the date of the completion of the probation period if probation is announced; (3) a person who has been a former director, factory manager or manager of a company or an enterprise that has entered into insolvent liquidation and who was personally liable for the insolvency of such company or enterprise, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the completion of the bankruptcy and liquidation of the company or enterprise; (4) a person who has been a legal representative of a company or an enterprise that has had its business license revoked due to violations of the law or has been ordered to close down by law and the person was personally responsible, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of such revocation; and (5) a person who is listed as a defaulter by a people's court since he is personally liable for a substantial loan which is due for payment but remains unpaid.

Where a company elects or appoints a director to which any of the above circumstances applies, such election or appointment shall be null and void. A director to which any of the above circumstances applies during his/her term of office shall be released of his/her duties by the company.

Under the PRC Company Law, the board shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman shall be elected with approval of more than half of all the directors. The chairman shall convene and preside over board meetings and review the implementation of board resolutions. The vice chairman shall assist the chairman to perform his/her duties. Where the chairman is incapable of performing, or is not performing his/her duties, the duties shall be performed by the vice chairman. Where the vice chairman is incapable of performing, or is not performing his/her duties, a director jointly elected by more than half of the directors shall perform his/her duties.

## **SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**

A company shall have a supervisory committee composed of not less than three members. A joint stock limited company may establish an audit committee composed of directors under the board of directors in accordance with the articles of association, exercising the powers of the supervisory committee stipulated in this law, without setting up a supervisory committee or supervisors. A joint stock limited company with smaller scale or fewer shareholders may not establish a supervisory committee, but appoint one supervisor to exercise the powers of the supervisory committee under the Company Law. The supervisory committee shall consist of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the company's staff, among 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 committee shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The supervisory committee shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman of the supervisory committee shall be elected by more than half of all the supervisors. Directors and senior management members shall not act concurrently as supervisors.

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

According to the PRC Company Law, the supervisory committee shall meet at least once every six months. The supervisor may propose to hold an extraordinary meeting of the supervisory committee. The resolution of the supervisory committee shall be adopted by more than half of the members of the supervisory committee. Meanwhile, the supervisory committee shall keep minutes of resolutions passed at the meetings. The minutes shall be signed by the supervisors present at the meeting.

Each term of office of a supervisor is three years and he/she may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. 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 supervisor results in the number of supervisors being less than the quorum.

The supervisory committee 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' meetings;
- (3) when the acts of a director or a 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' meetings and to convene and preside over shareholders' meetings when the board fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over shareholders' meetings under the PRC Company Law;
- (5) to submit proposals to the shareholders' 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 committee 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.

#### MANAGER AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Under the relevant requirements of the PRC Company Law, a company shall have a manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors. The manager shall be accountable to the board of directors and shall exercise his/her functions and powers in accordance with the provisions of the articles of association or as authorized by the board of directors. The manager shall be present at board meetings.

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 manager, deputy manager, financial officer, secretary to the board of a listed company and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

# DUTIES OF DIRECTORS, SUPERVISORS, GENERAL MANAGERS AND OTHER SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Directors, supervisors and senior management are required under the PRC Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association, and shall be obliged to be faithful and diligent towards the Company. Directors, supervisors and management personnel are prohibited from abusing their authority in accepting bribes or other unlawful income and from embezzling the company's property. Furthermore, directors and senior management are prohibited from:

- (1) embezzling company's properties and misappropriating company's funds;
- depositing company funds into accounts under their own names or the names of other (2) individuals;
- bribing or accepting other illegal income using their position; (3)
- (4) accepting for their own benefit commissions from a third party for transactions conducted with the company;
- (5) unauthorized divulgence of confidential information of the company; and
- (6) other acts in violation of their duty of loyalty to the company.

Income generated by directors or senior management in violation of aforementioned shall be returned to the company.

A director, supervisor or senior management who contravenes law, administrative regulation or the articles of association in the performance of his/her duties resulting in any loss to the company shall be liable to the company for compensation.

Where a director, supervisor or senior management is required to attend a shareholders' meeting, such director, supervisor or senior management shall attend the meeting and answer the inquiries from shareholders. Directors and senior management shall furnish all true information and data to the supervisory board, without impeding the discharge of duties by the supervisory board or supervisors.

Where a director or senior management contravenes laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association in the performance of his/her duties resulting in any loss to the company, shareholder(s) holding individually or in aggregate more than 1% of the company's shares consecutively for more than 180 days may request in writing that the supervisory board institute litigation at the people's court. Where the supervisory violates the laws or administrative regulations or the articles of association in the discharge of its duties resulting in any loss to the company, such shareholder(s) may request in writing that the board of directors institute litigation at the people's court on its behalf. If the supervisory board or the board of directors refuses to institute litigation after receiving this written request from the shareholder(s), or fails to institute litigation within 30 days of the date of receiving the request, or in case of emergency where failure to institute litigation immediately will result in irrecoverable damage to the company's interests, such shareholder(s) shall have the power to institute litigation directly at the people's court in its own name for the company's benefit. For other parties who infringe the lawful interests of the company resulting in loss to the company, such shareholder(s) may institute litigation at the people's court in accordance with the procedure described above. Where a director or senior management contravenes any laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association in infringement of shareholders' interests, a shareholder may also institute litigation at the people's court.

The Trial Measures for Overseas Listing stipulates that the filing materials for overseas issuance and listing of domestic enterprises shall be true, accurate and complete, and shall not contain false records, misleading statements or material omissions. Domestic enterprises, their controlling shareholders, de facto controllers, directors, supervisors and senior management shall fulfill their information disclosure obligations in accordance with the laws, be honest, trustworthy and diligent, and ensure that the filing materials are true, accurate and complete.

## FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Under the PRC Company Law, a company shall establish its own financial and accounting systems according to the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial departments under the State Council. At the end of each accounting year, a company shall prepare its financial and accounting reports which shall be audited by an accounting firm in accordance with laws. The financial and accounting reports shall be prepared in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial departments under the State Council. The company's financial and accounting reports shall be made available for shareholders' inspection at the company within 20 days before the convening of an annual meeting. A joint stock limited company that makes public stock offerings shall announce its financial and accounting reports.

When distributing each year's profits after taxation, the company shall set aside 10% of its profits after taxation for the company's statutory common reserve fund until the fund has reached more than 50% of the company's registered capital. When the company's statutory common reserve fund is not sufficient to make up for the company's losses for the previous years, the current year's profits shall first be used to make good the losses before any allocation is set aside for the statutory common reserve fund. After the company has made allocations to the statutory common reserve fund from its profits after taxation, it may, upon passing a resolution at a shareholders' meeting, make further allocations from its profits after taxation to the discretionary common reserve fund. After the company has made good its losses and made allocations to its discretionary common reserve fund, the remaining profits after taxation shall be distributed in proportion to the number of shares held by the shareholders, except for those which are not distributed in a proportionate manner as provided by the articles of association.

Shares held by the company shall not be entitled to any distribution of profits.

The premium over the nominal value of the shares of a joint stock limited company from the issue of shares, the amount of proceeds from issuing non-par-value shares not included in registered capital and other incomes required by the financial department of the State Council to be treated as the capital reserve fund shall be accounted for as the capital reserve fund of the company.

Profits distributed to shareholders by a resolution of a shareholders' meeting or the board of directors before losses have been made good and allocations have been made to the statutory common reserve fund in violation of the requirements described above must be returned to the company. The company shall not be entitled to any distribution of profits in respect of its own shares held by it.

The premium over the nominal value per share of the company on issue, the amount of proceeds from issuing non-par-value shares not included in registered capital and other income as required by relevant governmental department to be treated as the capital reserve fund shall be accounted for as the capital reserve fund. The common reserve fund of a company shall be applied to make good the company's losses, expand its business operations or increase its capital. Where the reserve funds are used to make up losses, the discretionary reserve funds and statutory reserve funds shall be used in priority; if not sufficient, the capital reserve funds may be used according to regulations. Upon the transfer of the statutory common reserve fund into capital, the balance of the fund shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital of the company before such transfer.

The company shall have no accounting books other than the statutory books. The company's assets shall not be deposited in any account opened under the name of an individual.

#### APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL OF AUDITORS

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, the engagement or dismissal of an accounting firm responsible for the company's auditing shall be determined by a shareholders' meeting, the board of directors or the supervisory committee in accordance with the articles of association. The accounting firm should be allowed to make representations when the shareholders' meeting, the board of directors or the supervisory committee conducts a vote on the dismissal of the accounting firm. The company should provide true and complete accounting evidence, accounting books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting information to the engaged accounting firm without any refusal or withholding or falsification of data.

The Guidelines for Articles of Association provides that the company shall guarantee to provide true and complete accounting evidence, accounting books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting data to the engaged accounting firm without any refusal or withholding or falsification of data. The audit fees of the accounting firm shall be decided by a shareholders' meeting.

#### 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. Also, the Overseas Listing Trial Measures provides that domestic enterprises that are listed overseas may raise funds and distribute dividends in foreign currencies or Renminbi.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, the resolution of a shareholders' meeting regarding any amendment to a company's articles of association requires affirmative votes by more than two-thirds of the votes held by shareholders attending the meeting.

## 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 have resolved at a shareholders' meeting to dissolve the company;

- - (3) the company shall be dissolved by reason of its merger or division;
  - the business license of the company is revoked or the company is ordered to close down (4) or to be dissolved in accordance with the laws; or
  - (5) the company is dissolved by the 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' interests.

In the event of paragraph (1) and (2) above, and has yet to distribute its property to its shareholders, the company may continue to exist by amending the articles of association or by a shareholders' meeting resolution. The amendments to the articles of association in accordance with the provisions described above or the approval of the shareholders' meeting resolution shall require the approval of more than two-thirds of voting rights of shareholders attending a shareholders' 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, unless the articles of association provide otherwise or the shareholders' meeting resolved to elect another person. If a liquidation committee is not established within the stipulated period, the company's creditors can apply to the people's court for setting up a liquidation committee with designated relevant personnel to conduct 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 may exercise following powers during the liquidation:

- (1) to sort out the company's assets and to prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets;
- to notify the company's creditors or publish announcements; (2)
- (3) to deal with any outstanding business related to the liquidation;
- to pay any overdue tax together with any tax arising during the liquidation process; (4)
- (5) to settle the company's claims and liabilities;

- (6) to handle the company's remaining assets after its debts have been paid off; and
- (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 or on the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System 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 balance sheet and inventory of assets, the liquidation committee shall draw up a liquidation plan and submit this plan to a shareholders' 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 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 balance sheet 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 receiver appointed by the people's court.

Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation committee shall prepare a liquidation report and submit it to the shareholders' meeting or the people's court for verification, and to the company registration authority for the cancellation of company registration, and an announcement of its termination shall be published. Members of the liquidation committee shall be faithful in the discharge of their duties and shall perform their liquidation duties 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 who have caused the company or its creditors to suffer from any loss due to intentional fault or gross negligence, should be liable for making compensations to the company or its creditors. In addition, liquidation of a company declared bankrupt according to laws shall be processed in accordance with the laws on corporate bankruptcy.

#### **OVERSEAS LISTING**

Pursuant to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, "securities" refers to the stocks, depositary receipts, corporate bonds convertible into stocks or other equity securities that are directly or indirectly offered and listed overseas by domestic enterprises. Direct overseas offering and listing by a domestic enterprise refers to overseas offering and listing by a joint stock limited company registered and formed in China. Indirect overseas offering and listing by a domestic enterprise refers to overseas offering and listing by an enterprise in the name of an overseas registered company, whereas the enterprise's main business activities are in China and such offering and listing is based on the equity, assets, earnings or other similar rights and interests of a domestic enterprise.

The Overseas Listing Trial Measures also provides for the conditions for overseas offering and listing. No overseas offering and listing shall be conducted under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) financing through listing is expressly prohibited by laws, administrative regulations or relevant rules of the state;
- (2) the overseas offering and listing may endanger national security as determined by the relevant competent department under the State Council after examination according to the law;
- (3) a domestic enterprise or its controlling shareholder or actual controller has committed a criminal crime of corruption, bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation of property or disrupting the economic order of the socialist market in the last three years;
- (4) a domestic enterprise is under formal investigation according to the law for being suspected of any crime or major violation of laws and regulations, but no clear conclusions have been made;
- (5) there is a major dispute over ownership of the equity held by the controlling shareholder or a shareholder controlled by the controlling shareholder or the actual controller.

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

In addition, pursuant to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, a Chinese domestic enterprise submitting an IPO application to an overseas competent regulatory authority or an overseas stock exchange shall file with the CSRC within 3 working days after submission of the application documents. Upon offering and listing overseas, such issuer who offers securities in the same overseas market shall file with the CSRC within 3 working days upon completion of the offering. Where an issuer, upon offering and listing overseas, offers its shares in other overseas markets, such issuer shall file in accordance with provision 1 of this article. In addition, upon receipt of all compliant filing materials, the CSRC shall complete the filing procedures within 20 working days from the date of receipt of such filing data, and make public the filing information on its website. If the filing materials so submitted were identified as incomplete or non-compliant, the CSRC shall make a request to the issuer for supplementary information within 5 working days from the date of receipt of such filing information. The issuer shall submit such supplementary information within 30 working days.

Upon the occurrence of the following major events subsequent to the overseas listing of a Chinese domestic enterprise, it shall report the specific situation to the CSRC within 3 working days from the date of occurrence and announcement of the relevant matters:

- a change of control; (1)
- any investigation or punishment initiated by overseas securities regulatory authorities or (2) relevant competent departments;
- (3) a change of listing status or listing venue;
- voluntary or involuntary delisting of shares. (4)

On August 10, 2023, the CSRC revised the Guidelines for the Application of "Full Circulation" of Domestic Unlisted Shares of H-share Companies (SFC Announcement No. [2023]50) (《H股公司境內未上市股份申請"全流通"業務指引》(證監會公告[2023]50號)) (the "Full Circulation Guidelines"), effective from the same date. Such provisions aim to regulate the circulation of domestic unlisted shares of domestic joint stock limited companies (including the unlisted domestic shares held by domestic shareholders before overseas listing, the unlisted domestic shares issued domestically after overseas listing and the unlisted shares held by foreign shareholders) listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (hereinafter referred to as the "H-share Companies") on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (hereinafter referred to as the "Full Circulation").

Pursuant to the Full Circulation Guidelines, upon compliance with relevant laws and regulations, state-owned assets management, foreign investment and industry-specific supervision and other policy requirements, holders of domestic unlisted shares may independently negotiate to determine the number and proportion of shares applied for circulation, and entrust the H-share Companies to file with the CSRC on Full Circulation. A domestic joint stock limited company that has not yet been listed may file with the CSRC on Full Circulation when applying for an overseas initial public offering and listing.

According to the Notice for the Administration of Filing of the Overseas Offering and Listing of Domestic Enterprises (《關於境內企業境外發行上市備案管理安排的通知》) issued by the CSRC on February 17, 2023 and effective from the same day, domestic enterprises that have offered its shares and listed overseas prior to March 31, 2023 are stock enterprises ("Stock Enterprises"). Stock Enterprises are not required to file immediately, and shall file subsequently as required for other purposes for which filing is required such as refinancing. Domestic enterprises that have obtained approval from the CSRC on overseas public offering of shares and listing (including placement) in respect of joint stock limited companies may continue to proceed with overseas offering and listing within the effective period of such approval. Where such overseas offering and listing were not completed before the expiration of the effective period, the entity shall file as required.

In accordance with the Provisions on Strengthening the Confidentiality and Archives Administration Concerning the Overseas Securities Offering and Listing by Domestic Enterprises (《關於加強境內企業境外發行證券和上市相關保密和檔案管理工作的規定》) promulgated by the CSRC, the Ministry of Finance, the National Administration of State Secrets Protection and the National Archives Administration on February 24, 2023 and effective from March 31, 2023, where a domestic enterprise provides or publicly discloses, either directly or through its overseas listed entities, documents and data involving state secrets and working secrets of state organs to relevant securities companies, securities service agencies, and overseas regulatory agencies, it shall obtain approval from the competent authorities according to laws and file with the confidentiality administrative department at the same level for record. Where a domestic enterprise provides accounting archives or copies of accounting archives to relevant securities companies, securities service agencies, overseas regulatory agencies and other bodies and individuals, it shall perform corresponding procedures in accordance with relevant state regulations.

## LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

A shareholder may, in accordance with the public notice procedures set out in the PRC Civil Procedure Law, apply to a people's court if his share certificate(s) in registered form is either stolen, lost or destroyed, for a declaration that such certificate(s) will no longer be valid. After the people's court declares that such certificate(s) will no longer be valid, the shareholder may apply to the company for the issue of a replacement certificate(s).

## SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF LISTING

The Company Law has deleted provisions governing suspension and termination of listing. The Securities Law (as revised on December 28, 2019) has also deleted provisions regarding suspension of listing. Where listed securities fall under the delisting circumstances stipulated by the stock exchange, the stock exchange shall terminate its listing and trading in accordance with the business rules.

According to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, in case of active or compulsory termination of listing, the issuer shall report the specific situation to the CSRC within 3 working days from the date of occurrence and announcement of the relevant matters.

#### MERGER AND DIVISION

Under the PRC Company Law, a merger agreement shall be signed by merging companies and the involved companies shall prepare respective balance sheets 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 or on the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 30 days. A creditor may, within 30 days from the date of reception of the notification, or within 45 days from the date of the announcement if he has not received such notification, request the company to settle any outstanding debts or provide corresponding 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 balance sheet 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 or on the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System 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 registration as a result of the merger or division shall be registered with the company registration authority in accordance with the laws.

# THE PRC SECURITIES LAWS, REGULATIONS AND REGULATORY REGIMES

The PRC has promulgated a series of regulations that relate to the issue and trading of the 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 governing securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating public offerings 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 April 1998, the State Council consolidated the Securities Committee and the CSRC and reformed the CSRC.

On April 22, 1993, the State Council promulgated the Provisional Regulations Concerning the Issue and Trading of Shares (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》), which regulates the application and approval procedures for public offerings of shares, issuing of and trading of shares, the acquisition of listed companies, deposit, clearing and transfer of shares, the disclosure of information, investigation, penalties and dispute resolutions with respect to a listed company.

On December 25, 1995, the State Council promulgated 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 principally regulate the issue, subscription, trading and declaration of dividends and other distributions of domestic listed foreign shares and disclosure of information of joint stock limited companies having domestic listed foreign shares.

The PRC Securities Law took effect on July 1, 1999 and was revised on August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, June 29, 2013, August 31, 2014 and December 28, 2019, respectively. The latest Securities Law was implemented on March 1, 2020. It was the first national securities law in the PRC, and is divided into 14 chapters and 226 articles comprehensively regulating activities in the PRC securities market, including the issue and trading of securities, takeovers by listed companies and the duties and responsibilities of the stock exchanges, securities companies, securities clearing institutions and securities regulatory authorities. Article 224 of the Securities Law provides that domestic enterprises shall satisfy the relevant requirements of the State Council when it issues shares or lists shares outside the PRC directly or indirectly. Currently, the issue and trading of foreign issued securities (including shares) are principally governed by the regulations and rules promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

## ARBITRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ARBITRAL AWARDS

The Arbitration Law of the PRC (2017 Amendment) (《中華人民共和國仲裁法(2017修正)》) (the "PRC Arbitration Law") was enacted by the Standing Committee of the NPC on August 31, 1994, which became effective on September 1, 1995 and was amended on August 27, 2009 and September 1, 2017. It is applicable to, among other matters, economic disputes involving foreign parties where all parties have entered into a written agreement to resolve disputes by arbitration before an arbitration committee constituted in accordance with the PRC Arbitration Law. The PRC Arbitration Law provides that an arbitration committee may, before the promulgation of arbitration regulations by the PRC Arbitration Association, formulate interim arbitration provisions in accordance with the PRC Arbitration Law and the PRC Civil Procedure Law. Where the involved parties have agreed to settle disputes by means of arbitration, a people's court will refuse to handle a legal proceeding initiated by one of the parties at such people's court, unless the arbitration agreement has lapsed.

Under the PRC Arbitration Law and PRC Civil Procedure Law, an arbitral award shall be final and binding on the parties involved in the arbitration. If one party fails to comply with the arbitral award, the other party to the award may apply to a people's court for its enforcement. However, the people's court may refuse to enforce an arbitral award made by an arbitration commission if there is any procedural irregularity (including but not limited to irregularity in the composition of the arbitration tribunal, or the making of an award on matters beyond the scope of the arbitration agreement or outside the jurisdiction of the arbitration commission).

Any party seeking to enforce a legally effective arbitration award of a foreign affairs arbitration organ against a party who or whose property is not located within the PRC may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the relevant matters for recognition and enforcement of the award. Likewise, a people's court may also request a foreign court to recognize and enforce an arbitral award made by an overseas arbitration institution in accordance with the principle of reciprocity or any international treaties concluded or acceded to by the PRC.

The PRC acceded to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (《承認及執行外國仲裁裁決公約》) (the "New York Convention") passed on June 10, 1958 pursuant to a resolution passed by the Standing Committee of the NPC 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 other parties thereto subject to their rights to refuse enforcement under certain circumstances, including where the enforcement of the arbitral award is against the public policy of that state. At the time of the PRC's accession to the Convention, the Standing Committee of the NPC declared that (1) the PRC will only apply the New York Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territories of other parties based on the principle of reciprocity; and (2) the New York Convention will only apply to disputes deemed under PRC laws to be arising from contractual or non-contractual mercantile legal relations.

An arrangement for mutual enforcement of arbitral awards between Hong Kong and the Supreme People's Court of China was reached. The Supreme People's Court of China adopted the Arrangements 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》) on June 18, 1999, which went into effect on February 1, 2000, which was amended by the 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 (《最高人民法院 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》) implemented in November 27, 2020 and the 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 (2021) (《最高人民法院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(2021年)》) implemented in May 19, 2021. The arrangements reflects the spirit of the New York Convention. Under the arrangements, the awards by the Mainland arbitral bodies recognized by Hong Kong may be enforced in Hong Kong and the awards by the Hong Kong arbitral bodies may also be enforced in the Mainland China. If the Mainland court finds that the enforcement of awards made by the Hong Kong arbitral bodies in the Mainland will be against public interests of the Mainland, the awards may not be enforced.

## JUDICIAL JUDGMENT AND ITS ENFORCEMENT

Under the Supreme People's Court's Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Pursuant to Choice of Court Agreements between Parties Concerned (《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 effective on August 1, 2008 and was abolished on January 29, 2024, as for an enforceable final judgment made by a court in Mainland China or Hong Kong court concerning a civil and commercial case under a written agreement on jurisdiction, in which payment must be made, the party concerned may, under the Arrangement, apply to a court in Mainland China or a Hong Kong court for recognition and enforcement. The term "written agreement on jurisdiction" refers to agreements clearly stipulated in written form by parties concerned that a court in Mainland China or Hong Kong court has sole jurisdiction as to the effectiveness of the Arrangement, so as to settle disputes relevant to a certain legal relationship that has either arisen or might arise. Therefore, the party concerned may apply to the court in Mainland China or the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to recognize and enforce the final judgment made in Mainland China or Hong Kong that meet certain conditions of the aforementioned regulations.

On January 25, 2024, the Supreme People's Court promulgated the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgements in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《關於內地與香港特別行政區法院相互認可和執行民商事案件判決的安排》), which takes into effect on January 29, 2024 and seeks to establish a mechanism with further clarification on and certainty for recognition and enforcement of judgements in a wider range of civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the China. The New Arrangement discontinued the requirements for a choice of court agreement for bilateral recognition and enforcement.

#### SHANGHAI-HONG KONG STOCK CONNECT

On April 10, 2014, the CSRC and the Hong Kong SFC issued the Joint Announcement of China Securities Regulatory Commission and Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission — Principles that Should be Followed when the Pilot Programme that Links the Stock Markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong is Expected to be Implemented (《中國證券監督管理委員會香港證券及期貨事務監察委員會聯合公告-預期實行滬港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點時將需遵循的原則》) and approved in principle the launch of the pilot programme that links the stock markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong (hereinafter referred to as the "Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect") by the Shanghai Stock Exchange (hereinafter referred to as the "SSE"), the Stock Exchange, the CSDC and the HKSCC. Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect comprises the two portions of Northbound Trading Link and 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 programme, 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 programme, it is required by SFC 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.

On November 10, 2014, the CSRC and the SFC issued a Joint Announcement, approving the official launch of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect by SSE, the Stock Exchange, the CSDCC and the 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, the CSRC issued the Filing Provision on the Placement of Shares by Hong Kong Listed Companies with Domestic Original Shareholders under Southbound Trading Link (《關於港股通下香港上市公司向境內原股東配售股份的備案規定》) 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 the CSRC. Hong Kong listed companies shall file the application materials and approved documents with the CSRC after obtaining approval from the Stock Exchange for their share placement applications. The CSRC will carry out supervision based on the approved opinion and conclusion of the Hong Kong side.