

## APPENDIX IV

## TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

### TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

The taxation of income and capital gains of holders of H Shares is subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of H Shares are residents or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current effective laws and practices, and all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect) and does not constitute legal or tax advice. The discussion has no intention to cover all possible tax consequences resulting from the investment in H Shares, nor does it take the specific circumstances of any particular investor into account, some of which may be subject to special regulations. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an investment in H Shares. No issues on PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital appreciation and profit tax, business tax/appreciation tax, stamp duty and estate duty were referred in the discussion. Prospective investors are urged to consult their financial advisors regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H Shares.

#### The PRC Taxation

##### *Taxation on Dividends*

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

Pursuant to the Circular on Issues Concerning Taxation and Administration of Individual Income Tax After the Repeal of the Document Guo Shui Fa [1993] No. 045 (《關於國稅發[1993]045號文件廢止後有關個人所得稅徵管問題的通知》) issued by the State Administration of Taxation (the “**SAT**”) on June 28, 2011, for a domestic non-foreign invested enterprise who has been issuing shares in Hong Kong, its foreign individual shareholders may enjoy the relevant preferential tax treatment according to the taxation agreement between the PRC and the country where they reside and the taxation arrangement between the PRC and Hong Kong (or Macau). Domestic non-foreign-invested enterprise that issue shares in Hong Kong generally may withhold individual income tax at the preferential rate of 10% when paying dividends to overseas resident individual shareholders. Where the individuals who receive the dividends are residents of countries where the agreed tax rate is lower than 10%, the withholding agent shall, according to regulations provisions, handle the applications for relevant preferential treatments and refund the extra tax upon the approval of competent tax authorities. Where the individuals are residents of countries where the agreed tax rate is higher than 10% but lower than 20%, the withholding agent shall withhold the individual income tax

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according to the agreed actual tax rate when paying the dividends and bonuses and no applications are needed in such cases. Where the dividend receiving individuals are residents of countries which have not established tax treaties with China or other circumstances exist, the withholding agent shall withhold the individual income tax based on the rate of 20% when paying dividends and bonuses.

In accordance with the EIT Laws, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% corporate income tax on PRC-sourced income (including dividends received from a PRC resident enterprise), if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise.

The Circular on Issues Relating to the Withholding and Remitting of Enterprise Income Tax on Dividends Distributed by PRC Resident Enterprises to Overseas Non-Resident Enterprise Shareholders of H Shares (《國家稅務總局關於中國居民企業向境外H股非居民企業股東派發股息代扣代繳企業所得稅有關問題的通知》), which was issued and implemented by the SAT on November 6, 2008, further clarified that, when PRC-resident enterprises pay dividends of 2008 and thereafter, such PRC-resident enterprise must withhold enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% in respect of dividends paid to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders which hold H Shares.

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

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### *Tax Treaties*

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

### *Taxation on Share Transfer*

According to the IIT Law, the gains realized from the disposal of equity interests in PRC resident enterprise is subject to individual income tax rate of 20%.

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

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

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### *Enterprise Income Tax*

In accordance with the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) issued by NPC on March 16, 2007 and latest amended on December 29, 2018 and the Implementation Regulations for the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) issued by the State Council on December 6, 2007, came into effect on January 1, 2008 and amended on April 23, 2019 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “EIT Laws”), resident enterprise which is established inside the PRC, or which is established under the law of a foreign country (region) but whose actual management organization is inside the PRC shall pay enterprise income tax for their income derived from both inside and outside the PRC, calculated at enterprise income tax rate of 25%.

### *Value-added Tax*

According to Notice of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on Adjusting Value-added Tax Rates (Cai Shui [2018] No. 32) (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》(財稅[2018]32號)), which was jointly promulgated by the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on April 4, 2018 and effective since May 1, 2018, the value-added tax rates, deduction rate, export rebate rate were adjusted as follow:

- (1) Where a taxpayer engages in a taxable sales activity for the value-added tax purpose or imports goods, the previous applicable tax rates of 17% and 11% are adjusted to 16% and 10% respectively;
- (2) Where a taxpayer purchases agricultural products, the previous applicable deduction rate of 11% is adjusted to 10%;
- (3) Where a taxpayer purchases agricultural products for production, sales, or consignment processing, to which the tax rate of 16% is applicable, the input tax amount shall be calculated at the deduction rate of 12%;
- (4) For the export goods to which a tax rate of 17% was originally applicable and the export rebate rate was 17%, the export rebate rate is adjusted to 16%. For the export goods and cross-border taxable activities to which a tax rate of 11% was originally applicable and the export rebate rate was 11%, the export rebate rate is adjusted to 10%;
- (5) For the goods or cross-border taxable activities specified in item (4) hereof that are exported or sold by foreign trade enterprises before July 31, 2018, if value-added tax has been levied at the rate not adjusted at the time of purchase, the export rebate rate not adjusted shall be applicable; if the value-added tax has been levied at the adjusted tax rate at the time of purchase, the adjusted export tax rebate rate shall be applicable. For the goods or cross-border taxable activities specified in item (4) hereof that are exported or sold by production enterprises before July 31, 2018, the export rebate rate not adjusted shall be applicable. The execution time to adjust the tax rebates rate of export goods and the time to export goods is made based on the date specified on export goods custom declaration, the execution time to adjust the tax rebates rate of cross-border taxable activities and the time to sell cross-border taxable activities is made based on the date specified on the export invoice.

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According to the Announcement of the Ministry of Finance, the State Taxation Administration and the General Administration of Customs on Relevant Policies for Deepening the Value-Added Tax Reform (Cai Shui Bu Shui Wu Zong Ju Hai Guan Zong Shu [2019] No. 39) (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》(財政部、稅務總局、海關總署公告2019年第39號)) promulgated by Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and General Administration of Customs on March 20, 2019 and became effective on April 1, 2019, the VAT rates of 16% and 10% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods are adjusted to 13% and 9%, respectively.

### *Income tax*

According to the IIT Law, gains on the transfer of equity interests in the PRC resident enterprises are subject to individual income tax at a rate of 20%. Pursuant to the Circular on Declaring that Individual Income Tax Continues to be Exempted over Income of Individuals from the Transfer of Shares (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》) issued by the SAT on March 20, 1998, from January 1, 1997, income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises continues to be exempted from individual income tax. The SAT has not expressly stated whether it will continue to exempt tax on income of individuals from transfer of the shares of listed enterprises in the latest amended Individual Income Tax Law.

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

In accordance with the EIT Laws, a non-PRC resident enterprise is generally subject to corporate income tax at the rate of a 10% on PRC-sourced income, including gains derived from the disposal of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. Such income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-PRC resident enterprise. Such tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to relevant tax treaties or agreements on avoidance of double taxation.



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### *Stamp Duty*

Pursuant to the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》), which was promulgated by the SCNPC on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, PRC stamp duty is applicable to the entities and individuals that conclude taxable vouchers or conduct securities trading within the territory of the PRC, and the entities and individuals outside the territory of the PRC that conclude taxable vouchers that are used inside China. Therefore, the requirements of the stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC listed companies shall not apply to the acquisition and disposal of H Shares by non-PRC investors outside of the PRC.

### *Estate Duty*

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

### *Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy*

On October 31, 2014 and November 5, 2016, the Ministry of Finance, the SAT and the CSRC jointly issued the Circular on the Relevant Taxation Policy regarding the Pilot Inter-connected Mechanism for Trading on the Shanghai Stock Market and the Hong Kong Stock Market (《關於滬港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點有關稅收政策的通知》) and the Circular on the Relevant Taxation Policy regarding the Pilot Inter-connected Mechanism for Trading on the Shenzhen Stock Market and the Hong Kong Stock Market (《關於深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點有關稅收政策的通知》), pursuant to which, the income from transfer differences and dividend and bonus income derived by PRC enterprise investors from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be included in their total income and subject to enterprise income tax in accordance with the law. In particular, the dividend and bonus income derived by PRC resident enterprises which hold H shares for at least 12 consecutive months shall be exempted from enterprise income tax according to law. The H-share companies do not need to withhold tax on the income from dividends and bonus obtained by PRC enterprise investors. The tax payable shall be declared and paid by the enterprises themselves.

For dividends and bonuses received by PRC individual investors investing in H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, H-share companies shall submit an application to China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited (the "CSDC"), which shall provide H-share companies with a register of PRC individual investors. H-share companies shall withhold individual income tax at a rate of 20%. Individual investors who have paid withholding tax outside the PRC may apply for tax credits at the competent tax authorities of the CSDC with valid tax deduction certificates. Individual income tax is levied on dividend and bonus income derived by PRC security investment funds from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in accordance with the above provisions.

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### Hong Kong Taxation

#### *Tax on Dividends*

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

#### *Capital Gains and Profit Tax*

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

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

#### *Stamp Duty*

Hong Kong stamp duty, currently charged at the ad valorem rate of 0.1% on the higher of the consideration for or the market value of the H shares, will be payable by the purchaser on every purchase and by the seller on every sale of any Hong Kong securities, including H shares (in other words, a total of 0.2% is currently payable on a typical sale and purchase transaction involving H Shares). In addition, a fixed duty of HK\$5.00 is currently payable on any instrument of transfer of H Shares. Where one of the parties is a resident outside Hong Kong and does not pay the ad valorem duty due by it, the duty not paid will be assessed on the instrument of transfer (if any) and will be payable by the transferee. If no stamp duty is paid on or before the due date, a penalty of up to 10 times the duty payable may be imposed.

#### *Estate Duty*

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

### PRINCIPAL TAXATION OF OUR COMPANY IN THE PRC

Please refer to the chapter **Regulatory Overview** of the document.

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### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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

The Regulations on Foreign Exchange Control of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) (the “**Foreign Exchange Control Regulations**”), which was implemented on April 1, 1996 and latest amended on August 5, 2008, classifies all international payments and transfers into current items and capital items. Most of the current items are not subject to the approval of foreign exchange administration agencies, while capital items are subject to the approval of foreign exchange administration agencies, and pursuant to the latest amendment to the Foreign Exchange Control Regulations, the PRC will not impose any restriction on international current payments and transfers.

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

According to the Announcement on Improving the Reform of the Renminbi Exchange Rate Formation Mechanism (《關於完善人民幣匯率形成機制改革的公告》), which was issued by the PBOC and implemented on July 21, 2005, the PRC has started to implement a managed floating exchange rate system in which the exchange rate would be determined based on market supply and demand and adjusted with reference to a basket of currencies since July 21, 2005. Therefore, the Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. PBOC would publish the closing price of the exchange rate of the Renminbi against trading currencies such as the U.S. dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each working day, as the central parity of the currency against Renminbi transactions on the following working day.

According to relevant PRC laws, PRC enterprises (including foreign-invested enterprises) which need foreign exchange for transactions relating to current account items may, without the approval of SAFE, effect payment for their foreign exchange accounts at the designated foreign exchange banks with the support of valid receipts and proof. Foreign-invested enterprises which need foreign exchange for the distribution of profits to their shareholders and PRC enterprises which, in accordance with regulations, are required to pay dividends to their shareholders in foreign exchange (such as the Company) may, on the strength of resolutions of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting approving the distribution of profits, effect payment from their foreign exchange accounts or convert and pay dividends at the designated foreign exchange banks.



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

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

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), which was issued by the SAFE and came into effect on June 1, 2015 and partially repealed on December 30, 2019, the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment shall be directly examined and handled by banks. SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment via the banks.

The Administrative Provisions on Foreign Exchange in Domestic Direct Investment by Foreign Investors (《外國投資者境內直接投資外匯管理規定》) (the “**SAFE Circular No. 21**”), which was effect from 13 May 2013, amended on 10 October, 2018 and partially abolished on 30 December, 2019, specifies that the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment shall be directly examined and handled by banks. SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of the PRC on Revolutionizing and Regulating Capital Account Settlement Management Policies (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) which was promulgated by the SAFE and implemented on June 9, 2016, foreign currency earnings in capital account that relevant policies of willingness exchange settlement have been clearly implemented on (including the recalling of raised capital by overseas listing) may undertake foreign exchange settlement in the banks according to actual business needs of the domestic institutions. The tentative percentage of foreign exchange settlement for foreign currency earnings in capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjust of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.

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According to the SAFE Circular on Further Promoting Cross-border Trade and Investment Facilitation (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》) which was promulgated on 23 October 2019, foreign-invested enterprises engaged in non-investment business are permitted to settle foreign exchange capital in RMB and make domestic equity investments with such RMB funds according to law on the condition that the current Special Administrative Measures for Access of Foreign Investment (Negative List) are not violated and the relevant domestic investment projects are genuine and in compliance with laws.