

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Income tax and capital gains tax of holders of the H shares is subject to the laws and practices of mainland China and of jurisdictions in which holders of the H shares are resident or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current laws and practices, and has not taken into account the expected change or amendment to the relevant laws and policies and does not constitute any opinion or advice. The discussion does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an [REDACTED] in the H shares, nor does it take into account the specific circumstances of any particular [REDACTED], some of which may be subject to special regulations. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of an [REDACTED] in the H shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the Latest Practicable Date, all of which are subject to change or adjustment and may have retrospective effect.

This discussion does not address any aspects of mainland China taxation other than income tax, capital gains tax and profits tax, sales tax, VAT, stamp duty and estate duty. Prospective [REDACTED] are urged to consult their financial advisors regarding mainland China and elsewhere tax consequences of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the H shares.

Taxation in Mainland China

Tax on Dividends

Individual Investors

Pursuant to the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法》), or the Individual Income Tax Law, lastly amended by the SCNPC on 31 August 2018 and effective on 1 January 2019, and the Implementation Rules 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》) lastly amended by the State Council on 18 December 2018 and effective on 1 January 2019, dividends paid by mainland China companies to individual investors are ordinarily subject to a withholding income tax levied at a flat rate of 20%. Meanwhile, according to the Notice on Issues Concerning Differentiated Individual Income Tax Policies on Dividends and Bonus of Listed Companies (《關於上市公司股息紅利差異化個人所得稅政策有關問題的通知》) jointly issued by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on 7 September 2015 and effective on 8 September 2015, where an individual holds the shares of a listed company obtained from the public offering and market transfer, if the holding period is more than one year, the dividends and bonus income shall be temporarily exempted from individual income tax. Where an individual holds shares of a listed company from the public offering and market transfer, if the holding period is within one month (inclusive), the dividend income shall be included in the taxable income in full; if the holding period is more than one month but less than one year (inclusive), the dividend income shall be included in the taxable income at the rate of 50%; the aforesaid income shall be subject to individual income tax at a uniform rate of 20%.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》), or the Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, executed on 21 August 2006, the government may impose tax on dividends paid by a company in mainland China to a Hong Kong resident (including natural person and legal entity), but such tax shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of dividends payable. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interests in a company in mainland China and the Hong Kong resident is the beneficial owner of the dividends and meets other conditions, such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total amount of dividends payable by the company in mainland China. The Fifth Protocol to the Arrangement between the Mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (《國家稅務總局關於<內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排>第五議定書》), or the Fifth Protocol, issued by the SAT and effective on 6 December 2019 provides that such provisions shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of obtaining such tax benefits.

Enterprise Investors

Pursuant to the EIT Law, lastly amended by the SCNPC and effective on 29 December 2018, and the Implementation Rules of the EIT Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》), or the Implementation Rules of the EIT Law, amended by the State Council and effective on 23 April 2019, a non-resident enterprise is subject to a 10% EIT on mainland China-sourced income, including dividends paid by a PRC resident enterprise that issues and lists shares in Hong Kong, if such non-resident enterprise does not have an establishment or place of business in the mainland China or has an establishment or place of business in the mainland China but the mainland China-sourced income is not actually connected with such establishment or place of business in the mainland China. The aforesaid income tax payable by non-resident enterprises shall be withheld at source, and the payer shall be the withholding agent, and the tax shall be withheld by the withholding agent from the payment or due payment every time it is paid or due. Such tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to an applicable treaty for the avoidance of double taxation.

Pursuant to the Notice on the Issues Concerning Withholding the EIT on the Dividends Paid by Chinese Resident Enterprises to H Share Holders Which Are Overseas Non-resident Enterprises (《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》) issued by the SAT and effective on 6 November 2008, a PRC resident enterprise is required to withhold EIT at a unified rate of 10% on dividends paid to non-PRC resident enterprise holders of H shares which are derived out of profit generated since 2008. The Reply on the Collection of EIT on Dividends Received by Non-resident Enterprises from Holding B Shares and Other Shares (《關於非居民企業取得B股等股票股息徵收企業所得稅問題的批復》), promulgated by the SAT on 24 July 2009 and effective on the same day, further provides that PRC-resident enterprises listed on mainland China and overseas stock exchanges by issuing stocks must withhold EIT at a flat rate of 10% on dividends of 2008 and onwards

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

that it distributes to non-resident enterprise shareholders. Such tax rates may be further modified pursuant to the tax treaty or agreement that the PRC government has concluded with a relevant country or region, where applicable.

According to the Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, the PRC government may impose tax on dividends paid by a mainland China company to a Hong Kong resident (including natural person and legal entity), but such tax shall not exceed 10% of the total dividends payable by the mainland China company. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of equity interest in a mainland China company and the Hong Kong resident is the beneficial owner of the dividends and meets other conditions, such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the mainland China company. The Fifth Protocol provides that such provisions shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of obtaining such tax benefits.

Pursuant to applicable regulations, we intend to withhold tax at a rate of 10% from dividends paid to non-PRC resident enterprise holders of our H Shares (including HKSCC Nominees). Non-PRC resident enterprises that are entitled to be taxed at a reduced rate under an applicable income tax treaty will be required to apply to the tax authorities in mainland China for a refund of any amount withheld in excess of the applicable treaty rate, and payment of such refund will be subject to the mainland China tax authorities' verification.

Tax Related to Share Transfer Income

Individual Investors

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

Enterprise Investors

Under the EIT Law and its implementation rules, a non-PRC resident enterprise is subject to EIT at the rate of 10% with respect to mainland China-sourced income, including gains derived from the disposal of shares in a mainland China resident enterprise, if it does not have an establishment or place of business in the mainland China or has an establishment or place of business in the mainland China but the mainland China-sourced income is not actually connected with such establishment or place of business in the mainland China. The

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

aforementioned income tax payable by non-PRC resident enterprises is subject to source withholding, and the payer is the withholding agent. The tax shall be withheld by the withholding agent from the payment or due payment every time it is paid or due. Such tax may be reduced or exempted under the applicable tax treaties or arrangements on the avoidance of double taxation.

Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy

Pursuant to the Notice on the Tax Policies Related to the Pilot Program of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect (《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》) promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on 31 October 2014 and effective on 17 November 2014, transfer spread income derived by enterprises in mainland China from stock investment listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be included in their total income and subject to EIT according to law. For dividends and bonuses received by individual investors in mainland China from investing in H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the H-share companies shall apply to CSDCC for providing the register of individual investors in mainland China to the H-share companies and withhold individual income tax at the rate of 20% on behalf of the H-share companies.

Pursuant to the Announcement on Extending the Implementation of the Individual Income Tax Policies Concerning the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Mainland-Hong Kong Mutual Recognition of Funds (《關於延續實施滬港、深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制和內地與香港基金互認有關個人所得稅政策的公告》) which promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on 21 August 2023 and implemented on the same day, the transfer spread income derived by individual investors in mainland China from investing in shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be exempted from individual income tax from 5 December 2019 to 31 December 2027.

Pursuant to the Notice on the Tax Policies Related to the Pilot Program of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect (《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》), dividends derived by enterprise investors in mainland China from investing in shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect are included in their total income and subject to EIT according to law. Pursuant to which, dividend income obtained by resident enterprises in mainland China from holding H shares for 12 consecutive months shall be exempted from EIT according to law. H-share companies shall not withhold income tax on dividends and bonus income for enterprise investors in mainland China. The tax payable shall be declared and paid by the enterprise itself.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy

Pursuant to the Notice on the Tax Policies Related to the Pilot Program of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect (《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》) promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on 5 November 2016 and effective on 5 December 2016, transfer spread income derived by enterprise investors in mainland China from stock investment listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be included in their total income and subject to EIT according to law. For dividends and bonuses received by individual investors in mainland China from investing in H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the H-share companies shall apply to CSDCC for providing the register of individual investors in mainland China to the H-share companies and the H-share companies shall withhold individual income tax at the rate of 20% on behalf of the investors.

Pursuant to the Announcement on the Continued Implementation of the Individual Income Tax Policies on the Inter-connected Mechanisms for Trading on the Shanghai and Hong Kong Stock Markets and for Trading on the Shenzhen and Hong Kong Stock Markets and on the Mutual Recognition of Funds between the Mainland and Hong Kong (《關於繼續執行滬港、深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制和內地與香港基金互認有關個人所得稅政策的公告》) promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC on 4 December 2019 and effective on 5 December 2019, and the Announcement on Extending the Implementation of the Individual Income Tax Policies Concerning the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Mainland-Hong Kong Mutual Recognition of Funds (《關於延續實施滬港、深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制和內地與香港基金互認有關個人所得稅政策的公告》) which promulgated on 21 August 2023 and implemented on the same day, the transfer spread income derived by individual investors in mainland China from investing in shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be exempted from individual income tax from 5 December 2019 to 31 December 2027.

Pursuant to the Notice on the Tax Policies Related to the Pilot Program of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect (《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》), dividends derived by enterprise investors in mainland China from investing in shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect are included in their total income and subject to EIT according to law. In particular, dividends and bonus income obtained by resident enterprises in mainland China from holding H shares for 12 consecutive months shall be exempted from EIT according to law. H-share companies shall not withhold income tax on dividends and bonus income for enterprise investors in mainland China. The tax payable shall be declared and paid by the enterprise itself.

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 10 June 2021 and came into effect on 1 July 2022, the purchase and disposal of H shares by non-mainland China investors outside of mainland China are not subject to the requirements of the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Estate Duty

Pursuant to the laws of mainland China, no estate duty is currently levied in mainland China.

MAJOR TAXATION OF OUR COMPANY IN MAINLAND CHINA

EIT

According to the EIT Law, enterprises and other income-generating organizations (hereinafter collectively referred to as “enterprises”) within the territory of the mainland China are the taxpayers of EIT and shall pay EIT in accordance with the provisions of the EIT Law. The EIT rate is 25%.

Enterprises are classified into resident enterprises and non-resident enterprises. A non-resident enterprise that does not have an establishment or place of business in the mainland China, or has an establishment or place of business in the mainland China but the income has no actual connection to such establishment or place of business, shall pay EIT on its income within the mainland China and withhold at source, where the payer is the withholding agent. The tax shall be withheld by the withholding agent from the payment or due payment every time it is paid or due. Meanwhile, any gains realized on the transfer of shares by such investors are subject to EIT and shall be withheld at source if such gains are regarded as income derived from the transfer of property within the mainland China.

VAT

Pursuant to the Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) lastly amended by the State Council on 19 November 2017 and effective on the same day and the Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) lastly amended by the MOF on 28 October 2011 and effective on 1 November 2011, all entities and individuals in mainland China engaging in the sale of goods, the provision of processing, repairs and replacement services, and the importation of goods are required to pay VAT. For taxpayers selling or importing goods, the general tax rate shall be 17% unless otherwise specified in the aforesaid regulations.

Pursuant to the Notice on the Adjustment to VAT Rates (《關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》) (Cai Shui [2018] No. 32), promulgated by the MOF and the SAT on 4 April 2018, and became effective as of 1 May 2018, the VAT rates of 17% and 11% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods are adjusted to 16% and 10%, respectively.

Pursuant to the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening VAT Reform (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》) (2019 No. 39 of MOF, SAT and General Administration of Customs), promulgated by the MOF, the SAT and the General Administration of Customs on 20 March 2019 and became effective on 1 April 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.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

FOREIGN EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION

The lawful currency of mainland China is the Renminbi. The SAFE, authorized by the PBOC, is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange regulations.

Pursuant to the Regulations of the PRC on Foreign Exchange Control (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) lately amended by the State Council on 5 August 2008 and effective on the same day, all international payments and transfers are classified into current account items and capital account items. Mainland China does not impose restrictions on international payments and transfers under current account items. Foreign exchange income from the current account of enterprises in mainland China may be retained or sold to financial institutions engaged in the settlement and sale of foreign exchange in accordance with relevant provisions of the State. The retention or sale of foreign exchange receipts under capital accounts to financial institutions engaging in settlement and sale of foreign exchange shall be subject to the approval of foreign exchange administrative authorities, unless otherwise stipulated by the State.

Pursuant to the Regulations for the Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (《結匯、售匯及付匯管理規定》) promulgated by the PBOC on 20 June 1996 and became effective on 1 July 1996, the remaining restrictions on convertibility of foreign exchange in respect of current account items are abolished while the existing restrictions on foreign exchange transactions in respect of capital account items are retained.

Pursuant to relevant laws and regulations of the mainland China, mainland China enterprises (including foreign-invested enterprises) which require foreign exchange for transactions relating to current account items, may, without the approval of SAFE, effect payment from their foreign exchange accounts at the designated foreign exchange banks, on the strength of valid receipts and proof of transactions. Foreign-invested enterprise that need to distribute profits to their shareholders in foreign exchange and Chinese enterprise that need to pay fixed dividends in foreign exchange in accordance with the requirements shall pay from its foreign exchange account or pay at the designated foreign exchange bank by a resolution of the board of directors on the distribution of profits.

Pursuant to the Decision of the State Council on Canceling and Adjusting a Group of Administrative Approval Items and Other Matters (《國務院關於取消和調整一批行政審批項目等事項的決定》) promulgated by the State Council and effective on 23 October 2014, the administrative approval of the SAFE and its branches on matters concerning the repatriation and settlement of foreign exchange of overseas-raised funds through overseas listing has been canceled.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Pursuant to the Circular of the SAFE on Relevant 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》) promulgated by the SAFE on 26 December 2014 and effective on the same day, the relevant provisions on foreign exchange administration of domestic joint stock companies (hereinafter referred to as “domestic companies”) listed overseas are as follows:

- (i) The SAFE and its branches and the Foreign Exchange Management Department, or the Foreign Exchange Bureau, supervise, manage and inspect the business registration, account opening and use, cross-border income and expenditure, and capital exchange involved in the overseas listing of domestic companies.
- (ii) A domestic company shall, within 15 working days after the completion of the overseas listing and issuance, register the overseas listing with the Foreign Exchange Bureau at the place where it is registered with relevant material.
- (iii) A domestic company (other than banking financial institutions) shall, by virtue of its registration certificate for overseas listing business, open a “special foreign exchange account for overseas listing of domestic companies” with a domestic bank for its initial offering (or additional offering) and repurchase business to handle the remittance and transfer of funds for the relevant business.

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》) issued on 13 February 2015 and effective on 1 June 2015, the SAFE has cancelled the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment, instead, banks shall directly examine and handle foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment, and the SAFE and its 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 Revolutionize and Regulate 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》) issued by the SAFE on 9 June 2016 and effective on the same day, 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 adjustment by the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.