

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability on 20 July 2000 under the Companies Law (2001 Revision) of the Cayman Islands (the “Companies Law”) and, therefore, operates subject to the Cayman Islands law.

## (A) CONSTITUTION OF THE COMPANY

Set out below is a summary of certain provisions of the memorandum of association (the “Memorandum”) and articles of association (the “Articles of Association”) of the Company, which comprise the constitution of the Company.

### 1. THE MEMORANDUM

The Memorandum was adopted on 28 March 2001 and states, inter alia, that the liability of members of the Company is limited, that the objects for which the Company is established are unrestricted (including acting as a holding and investment company) and the Company shall have full power and authority to carry out any object not prohibited by any law as provided by section 7(4) of the Companies Law, that the Company shall have and be capable of exercising all the functions of a natural person of full capacity irrespective of any question of corporate benefit as provided in section 27(2) of the Companies Law and (in view of the fact that the Company is an exempted company) that the Company will not trade in the Cayman Islands with any person, firm or corporation except in furtherance of the business of the Company carried on outside the Cayman Islands.

The objects of the Company are set out in full in clause 3 of the Memorandum which is available for inspection at the address specified in Appendix VI in the section headed “Documents delivered and available for inspection”.

### 2. THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Articles of Association were adopted on 28 March 2001 and include provisions to the following effect:

#### A. Classes of Shares

The share capital of the Company consists of ordinary shares.

#### B. Directors

##### (a) *Power to allot and issue Shares*

Subject to the provisions of the Companies Law and the Memorandum and the Articles of Association, the unissued shares in the Company (whether forming part of its original or any increased capital) shall be at the disposal of the Directors, who may offer, allot, grant options over or otherwise dispose of them to such persons, at such times and for such consideration, and upon such terms, as the Directors may determine.

Subject to the provisions of the Articles of Association and to any direction that may be given by the Company in general meeting and without prejudice to any special rights conferred on the holders of any Shares or attaching to any class of Shares, any Share may be issued with or have attached thereto such preferred, deferred, qualified or other special rights or restrictions, whether in regard to dividend, voting, return of capital or otherwise, and to such persons at such time and for such consideration as the Directors may determine. Subject to the Companies Law and to any special rights conferred on the holders of any Shares or attaching to any class of Shares, any Share may, with the sanction of a special resolution, be issued on terms that it is, or at the option of the Company or the holder thereof, liable to be redeemed.

***(b) Power to dispose of the assets of the Company or any subsidiary***

The management of the business of the Company shall be vested in the Directors who, in addition to the powers and authorities by the Articles of Association expressly conferred upon them, may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Company and are not by the Articles of Association or the Companies Law expressly directed or required to be exercised or done by the Company in general meeting, but subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Companies Law and of the Articles of Association and to any regulations from time to time made by the Company in general meeting not being inconsistent with such provisions or the Articles of Association, provided that no regulation so made shall invalidate any prior act of the Directors which would have been valid if such regulation had not been made.

***(c) Compensation or payment for loss of office***

Payment to any Director or past Director of any sum by way of compensation for loss of office or as consideration for or in connection with his retirement from office (not being a payment to which the Director is contractually entitled) must first be approved by the Company in general meeting.

***(d) Loans to Directors***

There are provisions in the Articles of Association prohibiting the making of loans to Directors and associates which are equivalent to the restrictions imposed by the Companies Ordinance.

***(e) Financial assistance to purchase Shares***

Subject to all applicable laws, the Company may give financial assistance to Directors and employees of the Company, its subsidiaries or any holding company or any subsidiary of such holding company in order that they may buy shares in the Company or any such subsidiary or holding company. Further, subject to all applicable laws, the Company may give financial assistance to a trustee for the acquisition of Shares in the Company or shares in any such subsidiary or holding company to be held for the benefit of employees of the Company, its subsidiaries, any holding company of the Company or any subsidiary of any such holding company (including salaried Directors).

(f) *Disclosure of interest in contracts with the Company or any of its subsidiaries*

No Director or proposed Director shall be disqualified by his office from contracting with the Company either as vendor, purchaser or otherwise nor shall any such contract or any contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the Company with any person, company or partnership of or in which any Director shall be a member or otherwise interested be capable on that account of being avoided, nor shall any Director so contracting or being any member or so interested be liable to account to the Company for any profit so realised by any such contract or arrangement by reason only of such Director holding that office or the fiduciary relationship thereby established, provided that such Director shall, if his interest in such contract or arrangement is material, declare the nature of his interest at the earliest meeting of the board of Directors (the "Board") at which it is practicable for him to do so, either specifically or by way of a general notice stating that, by reason of the facts specified in the notice, he is to be regarded as interested in any contracts of a specified description which may be made by the Company.

A Director shall not be entitled to vote on (nor shall he be counted in the quorum in relation to) any resolution of Directors in respect of any contract or arrangement or any other proposal in which he has any material interest but this prohibition shall not apply to any of the following matters, namely:

- (i) the giving to such Director of any security or indemnity in respect of money lent or obligations incurred by him at the request of or for the benefit of the Company, its holding company or any of its subsidiaries;
- (ii) the giving of any security or indemnity to a third party in respect of a debt or obligation of the Company or any of its subsidiaries for which the Director has himself guaranteed or secured in whole or in part;
- (iii) any proposal concerning an offer of shares, debentures or other securities of or by the Company or any other company which the Company may promote or be interested in for subscription or purchase where the Director is or is to be interested as a participant in the underwriting or sub-underwriting of the offer;
- (iv) any proposal concerning any other company in which he is interested only, whether directly or indirectly, as an officer, executive or shareholder or in which the Director is beneficially interested in shares of that company, provided that, he, together with any of his associates, is not beneficially interested in 5% or more of the issued shares of any class of such company (or of any third company through which his interest is derived) or of the voting rights;
- (v) any proposal or arrangement concerning the benefit of employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries including:
  - (aa) the adoption, modification or operation of any employees' share scheme or any share incentive scheme or share option scheme under which he may benefit;

- (bb) the adoption, modification or operation of a pension or provident fund or retirement, death or disability benefits scheme which relates both to Directors and employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries and does not provide in respect of any Director as such any privilege or advantage not generally accorded to the class of persons to which such scheme or fund relates; and
- (vi) any contract or arrangement in which the Director is interested in the same manner as other holders of Shares or debentures or other securities of the Company by virtue only of his interest in Shares or debentures or other securities of the Company.

(g) ***Remuneration***

The Directors shall be entitled to receive by way of remuneration for their services such sum as shall from time to time be determined by the Board, or the Company in general meeting, as the case may be, such sum (unless otherwise directed by the resolution by which it is determined) to be divided amongst the Directors in such proportions and in such manner as they may agree, or failing agreement, equally, except that in such event any Director holding office for less than the whole of the relevant period in respect of which the remuneration is paid shall only rank in such division in proportion to the time during such period for which he has held office. Such remuneration shall be in addition to any other remuneration to which a Director who holds any salaried employment or office in the Company may be entitled by reason of such employment or office.

The Directors shall also be entitled to be paid all expenses reasonably incurred by them in or about the performance of their duties as Directors including their expenses of travelling to and from board meetings, committee meetings or general meetings or otherwise incurred whilst engaged on the business of the Company or in the discharge of their duties as Directors.

The Directors may grant special remuneration to any Director who shall perform any special or extra services at the request of the Company. Such special remuneration may be made payable to such Director in addition to or in substitution for his ordinary remuneration as a Director, and may be made payable by way of salary, commission or participation in profits or otherwise as may be agreed.

The remuneration of an executive Director or a Director appointed to any other office in the management of the Company shall from time to time be fixed by the Directors and may be by way of salary, commission or participation in profits or otherwise or by all or any of those modes and with such other benefits (including share option and/or pension and/or gratuity and/or other benefits on retirement) and allowances as the Directors may from time to time decide. Such remuneration shall be in addition to such remuneration as he may be entitled to receive as a Director.

*(h) Retirement, appointment and removal*

The Directors shall have power at any time and from time to time to appoint any person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Board. Any Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next annual general meeting of the Company and shall then be eligible for re-election by ordinary resolution.

The Company may by special resolution remove any Director and may by ordinary resolution appoint another person in his place. The Company may also by ordinary resolution elect any person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Board. Any Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting of the Company and shall then be eligible for re-election but shall not be taken into account in determining the Directors who are to retire by rotation at such meeting. No person other than a Director retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors, be eligible for election to the office of Director at any general meeting unless, not less than seven and not more than 28 clear days before the day appointed for the meeting, there has been given to the Secretary of the Company notice in writing by some member of the Company (not being the person to be proposed) entitled to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given of his intention to propose such person for election and also notice in writing signed by the person to be proposed of his willingness to be elected.

There is no shareholding qualification for Directors nor is there any specified age limit for Directors.

The office of a Director shall be vacated:

- (i) if he resigns his office by notice in writing;
- (ii) if an order is made by any competent court or official on the grounds that he is or may be suffering from mental disorder or is otherwise incapable of managing his affairs and the Board resolves that his office be vacated;
- (iii) if, without leave, he is absent from meetings of the Board (unless an alternate Director appointed by him attends) for 12 consecutive months, and the Board resolves that his office is vacated;
- (iv) if he becomes bankrupt or has a receiving order made against him or suspends payment or compounds with his creditors generally;
- (v) if he ceases to be or is prohibited from being a Director by law or by virtue of any provision in the Articles of Association;
- (vi) if he is removed from office by notice in writing served upon him signed by not less than three-fourths in number (or, if that is not a round number, the nearest lower round number) of the Directors (including himself) for the time being then in office; or

- (vii) if he shall be removed from office by a special resolution of the members of the Company under the Articles of Association.

At every annual general meeting of the Company one-third of the Directors (other than the managing Director or joint managing Director) for the time being shall retire from office by rotation. Each Director shall retain office until the close of the meeting at which he retires and shall be eligible for re-election. Subject to the provision of the Articles of Association, the Company may at each annual general meeting at which the Directors retire fill each of the vacated offices by electing a person thereto.

(i) ***Borrowing powers***

The Directors may from time to time at their discretion exercise all the powers of the Company to raise or borrow or to secure the payment of any sum or sums of money for the purposes of the Company and to mortgage or charge its undertaking, property and assets (present and future) and uncalled capital or any part thereof.

(j) ***Proceedings of the Board***

The Directors may meet in any part of the world for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have an additional or casting vote.

**C. Alteration to constitutional documents**

No alteration to the Memorandum or the Articles of Association may be made except by special resolution.

**D. Variation of rights of existing Shares or classes of shares**

If at any time the share capital of the Company is divided into different classes of Shares, all or any of the special rights attached to any class (unless otherwise provided for in the terms of issue of the shares of that class) may, subject to the provisions of the Companies Law, be varied or abrogated either with the consent in writing of the holders of not less than three-fourths in nominal value of the issued shares of that class or with the sanction of a special resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of the shares of that class. To every such separate general meeting all the provisions of the Articles of Association relating to general meetings shall *mutatis mutandis* apply, but so that the quorum for the purposes of any such separate general meeting and of any adjournment thereof shall be a person or persons together holding (or representing by proxy) at the date of the relevant meeting not less than one-third in nominal value of the issued shares of that class, and that any holder of shares of the class present in person or by proxy may demand a poll.

The special rights conferred upon the holders of shares of any class shall not, unless otherwise expressly provided in the rights attaching to or the terms of issue of such shares, be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of further shares ranking *pari passu* therewith.

**E. Alteration of Capital**

The Company in general meeting may, from time to time, whether or not all the Shares for the time being authorised shall have been issued and whether or not all the Shares for the time being issued shall have been fully paid up, by ordinary resolution increase its share capital by the creation of new shares, such new capital to be of such amount and to be divided into shares of such respective amounts as the resolution shall prescribe.

The Company may from time to time by ordinary resolution:

- (i) consolidate and divide all or any of its share capital into shares of larger amount than its existing Shares. On any consolidation of fully paid Shares and division into shares of larger amount, the Board may settle any difficulty which may arise as it thinks expedient and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) may as between the holders of Shares to be consolidated determine which particular Shares are to be consolidated into each consolidated share, and if it shall happen that any person shall become entitled to fractions of a consolidated share or shares, such fractions may be sold by some person appointed by the Board for that purpose and the person so appointed may transfer the shares so sold to the purchaser thereof and the validity of such transfer shall not be questioned, and so that the net proceeds of such sale (after deduction of the expenses of such sale) may either be distributed among the persons who would otherwise be entitled to a fraction or fractions of a consolidated share or shares rateably in accordance with their rights and interests or may be paid to the Company for the Company's benefit;
- (ii) cancel any Shares which at the date of the passing of the resolution have not been taken or agreed to be taken by any person, and diminish the amount of its share capital by the amount of the Shares so cancelled subject to the provisions of the Companies Law; and
- (iii) sub-divide its Shares or any of them into shares of smaller amount than is fixed by the Memorandum, subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Companies Law, and so that the resolution whereby any Share is sub-divided may determine that, as between the holders of the shares resulting from such sub-division, one or more of the shares may have any such preferred or other special rights, over, or may have such deferred rights or be subject to any such restrictions as compared with the others as the Company has power to attach to unissued or new shares.

The Company may by special resolution reduce its share capital, any capital redemption reserve or any share premium account in any manner authorised and subject to any conditions prescribed by the Companies Law.

**F. Special resolution – majority required**

A "special resolution" is defined in the Articles of Association to have the meaning ascribed thereto in the Companies Law, for which purpose, the requisite majority shall be not less than three-fourths of the votes of such members of the Company as, being entitled

to do so, vote in person or, in the case of corporations, by their duly authorised representatives or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given and includes a special resolution approved in writing by all of the members of the Company entitled to vote at a general meeting of the Company in one or more instruments each signed by one or more of such members, and the effective date of the special resolution so adopted shall be the date on which the instrument or the last of such instruments (if more than one) is executed.

In contrast, an “ordinary resolution” is defined in the Articles of Association to mean a resolution passed by a simple majority of the votes of such members of the Company as, being entitled to do so, vote in person or, in the case of corporations, by their duly authorised representatives or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy at a general meeting held in accordance with the Articles of Association and includes an ordinary resolution approved in writing by all the members of the Company aforesaid.

#### **G. Voting rights (generally, on a poll and right to demand a poll)**

Subject to any special rights, privileges or restrictions as to voting for the time being attached to any class or classes of Shares, at any general meeting on a show of hands every member of the Company who is present in person (or, in the case of a member being a corporation, by its duly authorised representative) shall have one vote, and on a poll every member present in person (or, in the case of a member being a corporation, by its duly authorised representative) or by proxy shall have one vote for each Share registered in his name in the register of members of the Company.

In the case of joint holders of any share, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders, and for this purpose seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names stand in the register of members of the Company in respect of the joint holding.

A member of the Company in respect of whom an order has been made by any competent court or official on the ground that he is or may be suffering from mental disorder or is otherwise incapable of managing his affairs may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by any person authorised in such circumstances to do so and such person may vote on a poll by proxy.

No member shall, unless the Directors otherwise determine, be entitled to vote, or be reckoned in a quorum, at any general meeting in respect of any Share unless he is registered as a shareholder of the Company at the date of such meeting and all calls which have been made by the Directors, or other sums presently payable by him, in respect of such Share have been paid.

At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands or on the withdrawal of any other demand for a poll) a poll is duly demanded. A poll may be demanded by:

- (a) the chairman of the meeting; or



- (b) at least two members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote; or
- (c) any member or members present in person or by proxy and representing in the aggregate not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all members having the right to attend and vote at the meeting; or
- (d) any member or members present in person or by proxy and holding shares conferring a right to attend and vote at the meeting on which there have been paid up sums in the aggregate equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all shares conferring that right.

On a poll votes may be given either personally or by proxy and a person entitled to more than one vote on a poll need not use all his votes or cast all the votes he uses in the same way.

If a recognised clearing house (or its nominee) is a member of the Company it may authorise such person or persons as it thinks fit to act as its representatives at any meeting of the Company or at any meeting of any class of members of the Company provided that, if more than one person is so authorised, the authorisation shall specify the number and class of shares in respect of which each such person is so authorised. A person authorised pursuant to this provision shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the recognised clearing house (or its nominee) which he represents as that clearing house (or its nominee) could exercise if it were an individual shareholder of the Company.

#### **H. Annual general meetings**

The Company shall in each year hold a general meeting as its annual general meeting in addition to any other general meeting in that year and shall specify the meeting as such in the notice calling it; and not more than 15 months shall elapse between the date of one annual general meeting of the Company and that of the next.

#### **I. Accounts and audit**

The Directors shall cause to be kept accounting records sufficient to give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs and to show and explain its transactions and otherwise in accordance with the Companies Law.

The Directors shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the accounts and books of the Company or any of them shall be open to the inspection of members of the Company (other than officers of the Company) and no such member shall have any right of inspecting any account or book or document of the Company except as conferred by the Companies Law or as authorised by the Directors or by the Company in general meeting.

The Directors shall from time to time commencing with the first annual general meeting cause to be prepared and to be laid before the members of the Company at every annual general meeting profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and the Directors' and the auditors' reports thereon. Copies of these documents which are to be laid before the members of the Company at an annual general meeting shall not less than 21 days before the date of

the meeting, be sent to every member of the Company and every holder of debentures of the Company provided that the Company shall not be required to send printed copies of those documents to any person of whose address the Company is not aware or to more than one of the joint holders of any Shares or debentures.

The Company shall at any annual general meeting appoint an auditor or auditors of the Company who shall hold office until the next annual general meeting and shall fix his or their remuneration provided that in respect of any particular year the Company in general meeting may delegate the fixing of such remuneration to the Directors.

**J. Notice of meetings and business to be conducted thereat**

An annual general meeting and any extraordinary general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by not less than 21 days' notice in writing and any other extraordinary general meeting shall be called by not less than 14 days' notice in writing. The notice shall be exclusive of the day on which it is served or deemed to be served and of the day for which it is given, and shall specify the time, place and agenda of the meeting, particulars of the resolutions to be considered at the meeting and, in the case of special business, the general nature of that business. The notice convening an annual general meeting shall specify the meeting as such, and the notice convening a meeting to pass a special resolution shall specify the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution. Notice of every general meeting shall be given to all members of the Company (other than those who, under the provisions of the Articles of Association or the terms of issue of the Shares they hold, are not entitled to receive such notices from the Company).

Notwithstanding that a meeting of the Company is called by shorter notice than that mentioned above, it shall be deemed to have been duly called if it is so agreed:

- (a) in the case of a meeting called as an annual general meeting, by all members of the Company entitled to attend and vote thereat or their proxies; and
- (b) in the case of any other meeting, by a majority in number of the members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority together holding not less than 95% in nominal value of the Shares giving that right.

All business shall be deemed special that is transacted at an extraordinary general meeting and also all business shall be deemed special that is transacted at an annual general meeting with the exception of the following, which shall be deemed ordinary business:

- (a) the declaration and sanctioning of dividends;
- (b) the consideration and adoption of the accounts and balance sheets and the reports of the Directors and the auditors;
- (c) the election of Directors in place of those retiring;
- (d) the appointment of auditors;
- (e) the fixing of, or the determining of the method of fixing, the remuneration of the Directors and of the auditors;

- (f) the granting of any mandate or authority to the Directors to offer, allot, grant options over or otherwise dispose of the unissued shares in the capital of the Company representing not more than 20% (or such other percentage as may from time to time be specified in the Listing Rules) in nominal value of its existing issued share capital and the number of any securities repurchased pursuant to sub-paragraph (g) below; and
- (g) the granting of any mandate or authority to the Directors to repurchase securities of the Company.

#### **K. Transfer of Shares**

All transfers of shares may be effected by an instrument of transfer in the usual common form or in any other form which the Directors may approve.

The instrument of transfer of a Share shall be signed by or on behalf of the transferor and, unless the Directors otherwise determine, the transferee, and the transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the Share until the name of the transferee is entered in the register of members of the Company in respect thereof. All instruments of transfer, when registered, shall be retained by the Company.

The Directors may decline to register any transfer of any Share which is not fully paid up or on which the Company has a lien. The Directors may also decline to register any transfer of any other Shares unless:

- (a) the instrument of transfer is lodged at such place or places where the Board from time to time determines to keep a branch register of Shareholders and where (except where the Board otherwise determines) transfers of documents of title for Shares are to be lodged for registration and are to be registered, with the Company accompanied by the certificate for the Shares to which it relates (which shall upon the registration of the transfer be cancelled) and such other evidence as the Directors may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer;
- (b) the instrument of transfer is in respect of only one class of Share;
- (c) the instrument of transfer is properly stamped (in circumstances where stamping is required);
- (d) in the case of a transfer to joint holders, the number of joint holders to whom the Share is to be transferred does not exceed four;
- (e) the Shares concerned are free of any lien in favour of the Company; and
- (f) a fee of such maximum as the Stock Exchange may from time to time determine (or such lesser sum as the Directors may from time to time require) is paid to the Company.

If the Directors refuse to register a transfer they shall, within two months after the date on which the instrument of transfer was lodged with the Company, send to each of the transferor and the transferee notice of such refusal.

The registration of transfers may, on 14 days' notice being given by advertisement in such one or more newspapers as the Directors may determine be suspended at such times and for such periods as the Directors may from time to time determine either generally or in respect of any class of Shares, provided that the registration of transfers shall not be suspended or the register closed for more than 30 days in any year (or such longer period as the members may by ordinary resolution determine provided that such period shall not be extended beyond 60 days in any year).

**L. Power of the Company to purchase its own Shares**

The Company is empowered by the Companies Law and the Articles of Association to purchase its own Shares subject to certain restrictions and the Directors may only exercise this power on behalf of the Company subject to the authority of its members in general meeting as to the manner in which they do so and to any applicable requirements imposed from time to time by the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong or by any other recognised stock exchange.

**M. Power of any subsidiary of the Company to own Shares**

There are no provisions in the Articles of Association relating to the ownership of Shares by a subsidiary.

**N. Dividends and other methods of distributions**

Subject to the Companies Law and Articles of Association, the Company in general meeting may declare dividends in any currency but no such dividends shall exceed the amount recommended by the Directors. No dividend may be declared or paid other than out of profits and reserves of the Company lawfully available for distribution, including share premium.

Except in so far as the rights attaching to, or the terms of issue of, any Share otherwise provides:

- (a) all dividends shall be declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the Shares in respect of which the dividend is paid, but no amount paid up on a share in advance of calls shall be treated for this purpose as paid up on the Share; and
- (b) all dividends shall be apportioned and paid pro rata according to the amounts paid upon the Shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid.

The Directors may also pay any dividend which is payable on any Shares half-yearly or on any other dates, whenever the position of the Company, in the opinion of the Directors, justifies such payment.

The Directors may retain any dividends or other moneys payable on or in respect of a Share upon which the Company has a lien, and may apply the same in or towards satisfaction of the debts, liabilities or engagements in respect of which the lien exists. The Directors may also deduct from any dividend or bonus payable to any member all sums of money (if any) presently payable by him to the Company on account of calls, instalments or otherwise.

No dividend or other monies payable by the Company on or in respect of any Share shall bear interest against the Company.

In respect of any dividend proposed to be paid or declared on the share capital of the Company, the Directors may resolve: (a) that such dividend be satisfied wholly or in part in the form of an allotment of Shares credited as fully paid up on the basis that the Shares so allotted are to be of the same class or classes as the class or classes already held by the allottee, provided that the members of the Company entitled thereto will be entitled to elect to receive such dividend (or part thereof) in cash in lieu of such allotment; or (b) that the members entitled to such dividend will be entitled to elect to receive an allotment of Shares credited as fully paid up in lieu of the whole or such part of the dividend as the Directors may think fit on the basis that the Shares so allotted are to be of the same class or classes as the class or classes already held by the allottee. The Directors may also, with the sanction of the members of the Company in general meeting, resolve and direct in respect of any particular dividend of the Company that notwithstanding the foregoing a dividend may be satisfied wholly in the form of an allotment of Shares credited as fully paid up without offering any right of members to elect to receive such dividend in cash in lieu of such allotment.

Any dividend or bonus may be paid by cheque or warrant sent through the post addressed to the holder at his registered address, or in the case of joint holders, addressed to the holder whose name stands first in the register of the Company in respect of the Shares at his address as appearing in the register or addressed to such person and to such addresses as the holder or joint holders may in writing direct. Every such cheque or warrant shall, unless the holder or joint holders otherwise direct, be made payable to the order of the holder or, in the case of joint holders, to the order of the holder whose name stands first on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Shares, and shall be sent at his or their risk and payment of the cheque or warrant by the bank on which it is drawn shall constitute good discharge by the Company. Any one of two or more joint holders may give effectual receipts for any dividends or other moneys payable or property distributable in respect of the Shares held by such joint holders.

Any dividend unclaimed after a period of six years from the date of declaration of such dividend shall be forfeited and shall revert to the Company.

The Directors may, with the sanction of the members of the Company in general meeting, direct payment or satisfaction of any dividend wholly or in part by the distribution of specific assets, and in particular of paid up shares, debentures or warrants to subscribe securities of any other company, and where any difficulty arises in regard to such distribution the Directors may settle it as they think expedient, and in particular may issue fractional certificates, disregard fractional entitlements, round the same up or down or provide that the same shall accrue to the benefit of the Company, and may fix the value for distribution of such specific assets and may determine that cash payments shall be made to any members of

the Company upon the footing of the value so fixed in order to adjust the rights of all parties, and may vest any such specific assets in trustees as may seem expedient to the Directors.

#### **O. Proxies**

Any member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Company shall be entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to attend and vote instead of him and a proxy so appointed shall have the same right as the member to speak at the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

Instruments of proxy shall be in any common form or in such other form as the Directors may approve. The instrument of proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll and to vote on any amendment of a resolution put to the meeting for which it is given as the proxy thinks fit. The instrument of proxy shall, unless the contrary is stated therein, be valid as well for any adjournment of the meeting as for the meeting to which it relates.

The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointor or his attorney authorised in writing or if the appointor is a corporation either under its seal or under the hand of an officer, attorney or other person authorised to sign the same.

The instrument appointing a proxy and (if required by the Directors) the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of such power or authority, shall be delivered at the registered office of the Company (or at such other place as may be specified in the notice convening the meeting or in any notice of any adjournment or, in either case, in any document sent therewith) not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote or, in the case of a poll taken subsequently to the date of a meeting or adjourned meeting, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll and in default the instrument of proxy shall not be treated as valid. No instrument appointing a proxy shall be valid after the expiration of 12 months from the date named in it as the date of its execution. Delivery of any instrument appointing a proxy shall not preclude a member of the Company from attending and voting in person at the meeting or poll concerned and, in such event, the instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to be revoked.

#### **P. Calls on Shares and forfeiture of Shares**

The Directors may from time to time make calls upon the members of the Company in respect of any moneys unpaid on their Shares (whether on account of the nominal amount of the Shares or by way of premium) and not by the conditions of allotment thereof made payable at fixed times and each member shall (subject to the Company serving upon him at least 14 days' notice specifying the time and place of payment) pay to the Company at the time and place so specified the amount called on his Shares. A call may be revoked or postponed as the Directors may determine. A person upon whom a call is made shall remain liable on such call notwithstanding the subsequent transfer of the Shares in respect of which the call was made.

A call may be made payable either in one sum or by instalments and shall be deemed to have been made at the time when the resolution of the Directors authorising the call was passed. The joint holders of a Share shall be jointly and severally liable to pay all calls and instalments due in respect of such share or other moneys due in respect thereof.

If a sum called in respect of a Share shall not be paid before or on the day appointed for payment thereof, the person from whom the sum is due shall pay interest on the sum from the day appointed for payment thereof to the time of actual payment at such rate, not exceeding 15% per annum, as the Directors may determine, but the Directors shall be at liberty to waive payment of such interest wholly or in part.

If any call or instalment of a call remains unpaid on any Share after the day appointed for payment thereof, the Directors may at any time serve a notice on the holder of such Shares requiring payment of so much of the call or instalment as is unpaid together with any interest which may be accrued and which may still accrue up to the date of actual payment.

The notice shall name a further day (not being less than 14 days from the date of the notice) on or before which, and the place where, the payment required by the notice is to be made, and shall state that in the event of non-payment on or before the day and at the place appointed, the Shares in respect of which such call was made or instalment is unpaid will be liable to be forfeited.

If the requirements of such notice are not complied with, any Share in respect of which such notice has been given may at any time thereafter, before payment of all calls or instalments and interest due in respect thereof has been made, be forfeited by a resolution of the Directors to that effect. Such forfeiture shall include all dividends and bonuses declared in respect of the forfeited Shares and not actually paid before the forfeiture. A forfeited Share shall be deemed to be the property of the Company and may be sold, re-allotted, cancelled or otherwise disposed of.

A person whose Shares have been forfeited shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Company in respect of the forfeited Shares but shall, notwithstanding the forfeiture, remain liable to pay to the Company all moneys which at the date of forfeiture were payable by him to the Company in respect of the Shares, together with interest thereon at such rate not exceeding 15% per annum (or such lower rate as the Directors may determine) from the date of forfeiture until payment, and the Directors may enforce payment without being under any obligation to make any allowance for the value of the Shares forfeited, at the date of forfeiture.

#### **Q. Inspection of register of members**

The register of members of the Company shall be kept in such manner as to show at all times the members of the Company for the time being and the Shares respectively held by them. The register may, on notice being given by advertisement in such one or more newspapers as the Directors may determine, be closed at such times and for such periods as the Directors may from time to time determine either generally or in respect of any class of Shares, provided that the register shall not be closed for more than 30 days in any year (or such longer period as the members may by ordinary resolution determine provided that such period shall not be extended beyond 60 days in any year).

Any register of members kept in Hong Kong shall during normal business hours (subject to such reasonable restrictions as the Directors may impose) be open to inspection by any member of the Company without charge and by any other person on payment of such fee not exceeding \$2.50 (or such higher amount as may from time to time be permitted under the Listing Rules) as the Directors may determine for each inspection.

**R. Quorum for meetings and separate class meetings**

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business, but the absence of a quorum shall not preclude the appointment, choice or election of a chairman which shall not be treated as part of the business of the meeting.

Save as otherwise provided by the Articles of Association two members of the Company present in person or by proxy shall be a quorum provided always that if the Company has only one shareholder of record the quorum shall be that one member present in person or by proxy.

A corporation being a member shall be deemed for the purpose of the Articles of Association to be present in person if represented by its duly authorised representative being the person appointed by resolution of the directors or other governing body of such corporation or by power of attorney to act as its representative at the relevant general meeting of the Company or at any relevant general meeting of any class of members of the Company.

The quorum for a separate general meeting of the holders of a separate class of Shares of the Company is described in sub-paragraph D above.

**S. Rights of minorities in relation to fraud or oppression**

There are no provisions in the Articles of Association concerning the rights of minority shareholders in relation to fraud or oppression.

**T. Procedure on liquidation**

Subject to any special rights, privileges or restrictions as to the distribution of available surplus assets on liquidation for the time being attached to any class or classes of Shares (i) if the Company shall be wound up and the assets available for distribution amongst the members of the Company shall be more than sufficient to repay the whole of the capital paid up at the commencement of the winding up, the excess shall be distributed *pari passu* amongst such members in proportion to the amount paid up on the Shares held by them respectively and (ii) if the Company shall be wound up and the assets available for distribution amongst the members as such shall be insufficient to repay the whole of the paid-up capital, such assets shall be distributed so that, as nearly as may be, the losses shall be borne by the members in proportion to the capital paid up, or which ought to have been paid up, at the commencement of the winding up on the Shares held by them respectively.

If the Company shall be wound up, the liquidator may with the sanction of a special resolution of the Company, divide amongst the members of the Company in specie or kind



the whole or any part of the assets of the Company (whether they shall consist of property of the same kind or not) and may, for such purpose, set such value as he deems fair upon any property to be divided as aforesaid and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between the members or different classes of members. The liquidator may, with the like sanction, vest the whole or any part of such assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of the contributories as the liquidator, with the like sanction, shall think fit, but so that no member shall be compelled to accept any assets, shares or other securities in respect of which there is a liability.

#### **U. Untraceable members**

The Company shall be entitled to sell any Shares of a member or the Shares to which a person is entitled by virtue of transmission on death or bankruptcy or operation of law if: (i) all cheques or warrants, not being less than three in number, for any sums payable in cash to the holder of such Shares have remained uncashed for a period of 12 years; (ii) the Company has not during that time or before the expiry of the three month period referred to in (iv) below received any indication of the whereabouts or existence of the member; (iii) during the 12 year period, at least three dividends in respect of the Shares in question have become payable and no dividend during that period has been claimed by the member; and (iv) upon expiry of the 12 year period, the Company has caused an advertisement to be published in the newspaper, giving notice of its intention to sell such Shares and a period of three months has elapsed since such advertisement and the recognised Stock Exchange has been notified of such intention. The net proceeds of any such sale shall belong to the Company and upon receipt by the Company of such net proceeds it shall become indebted to the former member for an amount equal to such net proceeds.

### **(B) SUMMARY OF CAYMAN ISLANDS COMPANIES LAW AND TAXATION**

Set out below is a summary of certain provisions of the Cayman Islands law, although it does not purport to contain all applicable qualifications and exceptions or to be a complete review of all matters of the Cayman Islands law and taxation, which may differ from equivalent provisions in jurisdictions with which interested parties may be more familiar.

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The Companies Law is derived, to a large extent, from the older Companies Law of England, although there are significant differences between the Companies Law and the current Companies Law of England. Set out below is a summary of certain provisions of the Companies Law, although this does not purport to contain all applicable qualifications and exceptions or to be a complete review of all matters of corporate law and taxation which may differ from equivalent provisions in jurisdictions with which interested parties may be more familiar.

#### **B. INCORPORATION**

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability on 20 July 2000 under the Companies Law. As such, its operations must be conducted mainly outside the Cayman Islands. The Company is required to file an annual return each year with the Registrar of Companies of the Cayman Islands and pay a fee which is based on the size of its authorised share capital.

**C. SHARE CAPITAL**

The Companies Law permits a company to issue ordinary shares, preference shares, redeemable shares or any combination thereof.

The Companies Law provides that where a company issues shares at a premium, whether for cash or otherwise, a sum equal to the aggregate amount of the value of the premia on those shares shall be transferred to an account called the “share premium account”. At the option of a company, these provisions may not apply to premia on shares of that company allotted pursuant to any arrangement in consideration of the acquisition or cancellation of shares in any other company and issued at a premium. The Companies Law provides that the share premium account may be applied by a company, subject to the provisions, if any, of its memorandum and articles of association, in such manner as the company may from time to time determine including, but without limitation:

- (a) paying distributions or dividends to members;
- (b) paying up unissued shares of the company to be issued to members as fully paid bonus shares;
- (c) in the redemption and repurchase of shares (subject to the provisions of section 37 of the Companies Law);
- (d) writing-off the preliminary expenses of the company;
- (e) writing-off the expenses of, or the commission paid or discount allowed on, any issue of shares or debentures of the company; and
- (f) providing for the premium payable on redemption or purchase of any shares or debentures of the company.

No distribution or dividend may be paid to members out of the share premium account unless immediately following the date on which the distribution or dividend is proposed to be paid the company will be able to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business.

The Companies Law provides that, subject to confirmation by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, a company limited by shares or a company limited by guarantee and having a share capital may, if so authorised by its articles of association, by special resolution reduce its share capital in any way.

Subject to the detailed provisions of the Companies Law, a company limited by shares or a company limited by guarantee and having a share capital may, if so authorised by its articles of association, issue shares which are to be redeemed or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the company or a shareholder. In addition, such a company may, if authorised to do so by its articles of association, purchase its own shares, including any redeemable shares. However, if the articles of association do not authorise the manner of purchase, a company cannot purchase any of its own shares unless the manner of purchase has first been authorised by an ordinary resolution of the company. At no time may a company redeem or purchase its shares unless they are fully paid. A company may not redeem or purchase any of its shares if, as a result of the redemption or purchase, there would no longer be any member of the company holding shares. A payment out of

capital by a company for the redemption or purchase of its own shares is not lawful unless immediately following the date on which the payment is proposed to be made, the company shall be able to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business.

There is no statutory restriction in the Cayman Islands on the provision of financial assistance by a company for the purchase of, or subscription for, its own or its holding company's shares. Accordingly, a company may provide financial assistance if the directors of the company consider, in discharging their duties of care and to act in good faith, for a proper purpose and in the interests of the company, that such assistance can properly be given. Such assistance should be on an arm's-length basis.

#### **D. DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

With the exception of section 34 of the Companies Law, there are no statutory provisions relating to the payment of dividends. Based upon English case law which is likely to be persuasive in the Cayman Islands in this area, dividends may be paid only out of profits. In addition, section 34 of the Companies Law permits, subject to a solvency test and the provisions, if any, of the company's memorandum and articles of association, the payment of dividends and distributions out of the share premium account (see C above for further details).

#### **E. SHAREHOLDERS' SUITS**

The Cayman Islands courts can be expected to follow English case law precedents. The rule in *Foss v. Harbottle* (and the exceptions thereto which permit a minority shareholder to commence a class action against or derivative actions in the name of the company to challenge (a) an act which is ultra vires the company or illegal, (b) an act which constitutes a fraud against the minority where the wrongdoers are themselves in control of the company, and (c) an action which requires a resolution with a qualified (or special) majority which has not been obtained has been applied and followed by the courts in the Cayman Islands.

#### **F. PROTECTION OF MINORITIES**

In the case of a company (not being a bank) having a share capital divided into shares, the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands may, on the application of members holding not less than one fifth of the shares of the company in issue, appoint an inspector to examine into the affairs of the company and to report thereon in such manner as the Grand Court shall direct.

Any shareholder of a company may petition the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands which may make a winding up order if the court is of the opinion that it is just and equitable that the company should be wound up.

Claims against a company by its shareholders must, as a general rule, be based on the general laws of contract or tort applicable in the Cayman Islands or their individual rights as shareholders as established by the company's memorandum and articles of association.

The English common law rule that the majority will not be permitted to commit a fraud on the minority has been applied and followed by the courts of the Cayman Islands.

**G. DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

The Companies Law contains no specific restrictions on the powers of directors to dispose of assets of a company. As a matter of general law, in the exercise of those powers, the directors must discharge their duties of care and to act in good faith, for a proper purpose and in the interests of the company.

**H. ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING REQUIREMENTS**

The Companies Law requires that a company shall cause to be kept proper books of account with respect to:

- (a) all sums of money received and expended by the company and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure takes place;
- (b) all sales and purchases of goods by the company; and
- (c) the assets and liabilities of the company.

Proper books of account shall not be deemed to be kept if there are not kept such books as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs and to explain its transactions.

**I. REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

An exempted company may, subject to the provisions of its articles of association, maintain its principal register of members and any branch registers at such locations, whether within or without the Cayman Islands, as its directors may, from time to time, think fit. There is no requirement under the Companies Law for an exempted company to make any returns of members to the Registrar of Companies in the Cayman Islands. The names and addresses of the members are, accordingly, not a matter of public record and are not available for public inspection.

**J. INSPECTION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS**

Members of a company will have no general right under the Companies Law to inspect or obtain copies of the register of members or corporate records of the company. They will, however, have such rights as may be set out in the company's articles of association.

**K. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

The Companies Law provides that a resolution is a special resolution when it has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds (or such greater number as may be specified in the articles of association of the company) of such members as, being entitled to do so, vote in person or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given. Written resolutions signed by all the members entitled to vote for the time being of the company may take effect as special resolutions if this is authorised by the articles of association of the company.

**L. SUBSIDIARY OWNING SHARES IN PARENT**

The Companies Law does not prohibit a Cayman Islands company acquiring and holding shares in its parent company provided its objects so permit. The directors of any subsidiary making such acquisition must discharge their duties of care and to act in good faith, for a proper purpose and in the interests of the subsidiary.

**M. RECONSTRUCTIONS**

There are statutory provisions which facilitate reconstructions and amalgamations approved by a majority in number representing 75% in value of shareholders or creditors, depending on the circumstances, as are present at a meeting called for such purpose and thereafter sanctioned by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands. Whilst a dissenting shareholder would have the right to express to the Grand Court his view that the transaction for which approval is sought would not provide the shareholders with a fair value for their shares, the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands is unlikely to disapprove the transaction on that ground alone in the absence of evidence of fraud or bad faith on behalf of management and if the transaction were approved and consummated the dissenting shareholder would have no rights comparable to the appraisal rights (i.e. the right to receive payment in cash for the judicially determined value of his shares) ordinarily available, for example, to dissenting shareholders of United States corporations.

**N. TAKE-OVERS**

Where an offer is made by a company for the shares of another company and, within four months of the offer, the holders of not less than 90% of the shares which are the subject of the offer accept, the offeror may at any time within two months after the expiration of the said four months, by notice require the dissenting shareholders to transfer their shares on the terms of the offer. A dissenting shareholder may apply to the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands within one month of the notice objecting to the transfer. The burden is on the dissenting shareholder to show that the Grand Court should exercise its discretion, which it will be unlikely to do unless there is evidence of fraud or bad faith or collusion as between the offeror and the holders of the shares who have accepted the offer as a means of unfairly forcing out minority shareholders.

**O. INDEMNIFICATION**

Cayman Islands law does not limit the extent to which a company's articles of association may provide for indemnification of officers and directors, except to the extent any such provision may be held by the Cayman Islands courts to be contrary to public policy (e.g. for purporting to provide indemnification against the consequences of committing a crime).

**P. LIQUIDATION**

A company is placed in liquidation either by an order of the court or by a special resolution (or, in certain circumstances, an ordinary resolution) of its members. A liquidator is appointed whose duties are to collect the assets of the company (including the amount (if any) due from the contributories (shareholders)), settle the list of creditors and discharge the company's liability to them, rateably if insufficient assets exist to discharge the liabilities in full, and to settle the list of contributories and divide the surplus assets (if any) amongst them in accordance with the rights attaching to the shares.

**Q. STAMP DUTY ON TRANSFERS**

No stamp duty is payable in the Cayman Islands on transfers of shares of Cayman Islands companies except those which hold interests in land in the Cayman Islands.

**R. TAXATION**

Pursuant to section 6 of the Tax Concessions Law (1999 Revision) of the Cayman Islands, the Company has obtained an undertaking from the Governor-in-Council:

- (1) that no law which is enacted in the Cayman Islands imposing any tax to be levied on profits or income or gains or appreciation shall apply to the Company or its operations; and
- (2) in addition, that no tax to be levied on profits, income gains or appreciations or which is in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax shall be payable by the Company:
  - (i) on or in respect of the shares, debentures or other obligations of the Company; or
  - (ii) by way of withholding in whole or in part of any relevant payment as defined in Section 6(3) of the Tax Concessions Law (1999 Revision).

The undertaking is for a period of twenty years from 29 August 2000.

The Cayman Islands currently levy no taxes on individuals or corporations based upon profits, income, gains or appreciations and there is no taxation in the nature of inheritance tax or estate duty. There are no other taxes likely to be material to the Company levied by the Government of the Cayman Islands save certain stamp duties which may be applicable, from time to time, on certain instruments executed in or brought within the jurisdiction of the Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands are not party to any double tax treaties.

**S. EXCHANGE CONTROL**

There are no exchange control regulations or currency restrictions in the Cayman Islands.

**T. GENERAL**

Maples and Calder Asia, the Company's legal advisers on Cayman Islands law, have sent to the Company a letter of advice summarising aspects of Cayman Islands company law. This letter, together with a copy of the Companies Law, is available for inspection as referred to in the section headed "Documents delivered and available for inspection" in Appendix VI to this prospectus. Any person wishing to have a detailed summary of Cayman Islands company law or advice on the differences between it and the laws of any jurisdiction with which he/she is more familiar is recommended to seek independent legal advice.