

This Appendix sets out summaries of certain aspects of PRC laws and regulations, which are relevant to the operations and business of our Bank. Laws and regulations relating to taxation in the PRC are discussed separately in Appendix VI — “Taxation and Foreign Exchange” to this prospectus. This Appendix also contains a summary of certain Hong Kong legal and regulatory provisions, including summaries of certain material differences between the PRC Company Law and the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, certain requirements of the Hong Kong Listing Rules and additional provisions required by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for inclusion in the articles of association of PRC issuers. The principal objective of this summary is to provide potential investors with an overview of the principal laws and regulations applicable to our Bank. This summary is not intended to include all the information which may be important to the potential investors. For discussion of laws and regulations which are relevant to the business of our Bank, please see the section headed “Supervision and Regulation” in this prospectus.

## **PRC LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

### **A. The PRC Legal System**

The PRC legal system is based on the Constitution of the PRC (the “Constitution”) and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations, separate regulations, rules and regulations of State Council departments, rules and regulations of local governments, laws of special administrative regions and international treaties of which the PRC government is a signatory and other regulatory documents. Court judgments do not constitute legally binding precedents, although they are used for the purposes of judicial reference and guidance.

The National People’s Congress (the “NPC”) and its Standing Committee are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing State organs, civil, criminal and other matters. The Standing Committee of the NPC is empowered to formulate and amend laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend parts of the laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided that such supplements and amendments are not in conflict with the basic principles of such laws.

The State Council is the highest organ of state administration and has the power to formulate administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws.

The people’s congresses of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the center government and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of their respective administrative areas, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The people’s congresses of cities divided into districts and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations on aspects such as urban and rural construction and management, environmental protection and historical and cultural protection based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of such cities, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of their respective provinces or autonomous regions. If laws provide otherwise on the formulation of local regulations by cities divided into districts, such laws shall prevail. Such local regulations of cities divided into districts will become enforceable after being reported to and approved by the standing

committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces or autonomous regions. The standing committees of the people's congresses of the provinces or autonomous regions shall examine the legality of local regulations submitted for approval, and such approval should be granted within four months if they are not in conflict with the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of the provinces or autonomous regions concerned. Where, during the examination for approval of local regulations of cities divided into districts by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the provinces or autonomous regions, conflicts are identified with the rules of the people's governments of the respective provinces or autonomous regions, the standing committees of the people's congresses of provinces or autonomous regions shall resolve the issue. The ministries and commissions of the State Council, PBoC, NAO and the subordinate institutions with administrative functions directly under the State Council may formulate rules and regulations within the scope of authorization of the relevant departments in accordance with the laws and administrative regulations and the decisions and orders of the State Council. Provisions of departmental rules should be the matters related to the enforcement of the laws and administrative regulations and the decisions and orders of the State Council. Without provisions under laws or administrative regulations, decisions and orders of the State Council, the provisions of departmental rules shall not undermine the civil rights and rights of legal persons and other organizations or strengthen the regulations in respect of their obligations and shall not enhance the power or reduce the legal responsibilities of the respective departments. The people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities under the center government and cities or autonomous prefectures divided into districts may formulate rules and regulations based on the laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of such provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the center government.

According to the Constitution, the power to interpret laws is vested in the Standing Committee of the NPC. Pursuant to the Resolution of the Standing Committee of the NPC on Providing an Improved Interpretation of the Law (《全國人民代表大會常務委員會關於加強法律解釋工作的決議》) passed on June 10, 1981, issues related to the application of laws in a court trial should be interpreted by the Supreme People's Court, issues related to the application of laws in a prosecution process should be interpreted by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and the other issues related to laws other than the abovementioned should be interpreted by the State Council and the competent authorities. The State Council and its ministries and commissions are also vested with the power to give interpretations of the administrative regulations and departmental rules which they have promulgated. At the regional level, local regulations which need to be further clarified or supplemented shall be interpreted and provided by the standing committees of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the center government which formulated the respective regulations, while issues associated with specific application of local regulations shall be explained by the competent departments of the people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the center government.

## **B. The PRC Judicial System**

Under the Constitution and the Law of Organization of the People's Courts of the PRC (《中華人民共和國人民法院組織法》), the people's courts are made up of the Supreme People's Court, the local people's courts, the military courts and other special people's courts. The local people's courts are divided into three levels, namely, the basic people's courts, the intermediate people's courts and the higher people's courts. The basic people's courts are divided into civil, criminal and economic divisions, and certain people's courts may be established based on the natures of the region, population and cases. The intermediate people's courts have divisions similar to those of the basic people's courts and may set up other special divisions, such as the

intellectual property division, if needed. These two levels of people's courts are subject to supervision by people's courts at higher levels. The Supreme People's Procuratorate is authorized to supervise the judgment and ruling of the people's courts at all levels which have been legally effective, and the people's procuratorate at a higher level is authorized to supervise the judgment and ruling of a people's court at lower levels which have been legally effective. The Supreme People's Court is the highest trial authority in the PRC and supervises the court trials by the people's courts at all levels.

The judgments or rulings of the second instance at the people's court are final. A party may appeal against the judgment or ruling of the first instance of a local people's court. The people's procuratorate may present a protest to the people's court at upper level in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the laws. In the absence of any appeal by the parties and any protest by the people's procuratorate within the stipulated period, the judgments or rulings of the people's court are final. Judgments or rulings of the second instance of the intermediate people's courts, the higher people's courts and the Supreme People's Court, and judgments or rulings of the first instance of the Supreme People's Court are final. However, if the Supreme People's Court or a people's court at upper level discovers an error in a final and binding judgment or ruling by any people's court at a lower level, or the presiding judge of a people's court discovers an error in a final and binding judgment or ruling by the court over which he resides, a retrial of the case may be initiated according to the judicial supervision procedures.

The Civil Procedure Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民事訴訟法》) (the "PRC Civil Procedure Law") adopted on April 9, 1991 and amended on October 28, 2007, August 31, 2012 and June 27, 2017 prescribes the conditions for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people's courts, the procedures for conducting a civil action, and the procedures for enforcement of a civil judgment or ruling. All parties to a civil action conducted within the PRC must abide by the PRC Civil Procedure Law. A civil case is generally heard by the court located in the defendant's place of domicile. The court of jurisdiction in respect of a civil action may also be chosen by explicit agreement among the parties to a contract, provided that the people's court having jurisdiction should be located at places directly connected with the disputes, such as the plaintiff's or the defendant's place of domicile, the place where the contract is executed or signed or the place where the object of the action is located. However, such choice shall not in any circumstances contravene the regulations of differential jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction.

A foreign individual, a person without nationality or foreign enterprise or organization is generally given the same litigation rights and obligations as a citizen or legal person of the PRC. Should a foreign court limit the litigation rights of PRC citizens or enterprises, the PRC court may apply the same limitations to the citizens and enterprises of such foreign country. A foreign individual, foreign enterprise or organization must engage a PRC lawyer in case he or it needs to engage a lawyer for the purpose of initiating actions or defending against litigations at a PRC court. In accordance with the international treaties to which the PRC is a signatory or participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, a PRC court and foreign court may request each other to serve legal documents, conduct investigation and collect evidence and conduct other actions on its behalf. A PRC court shall not accommodate any request made by a foreign court which will result in the violation of sovereignty, security or public interests of the PRC.

All parties to a civil action shall perform the legally effective judgments and rulings. If any party to a civil action refuses to abide by a judgment or ruling made by a people's court or an award made by an

arbitration tribunal in the PRC, the other party may apply to the people's court for the enforcement of the same within two years subject to application for postponed enforcement or revocation. If a party fails to satisfy within the stipulated period a judgment which the court has granted an enforcement approval, the court may, upon the application of the other party, mandatorily enforce the judgment against such party.

A party seeking to enforce a judgment or ruling of a people's court against another party who is not or whose property is not within the PRC may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for recognition and enforcement of such judgment or ruling. Likewise, if the PRC has entered into either a treaty relating to judicial enforcement with the relevant foreign country or a relevant international convention, a foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced in accordance with the PRC enforcement procedures by a PRC court based on equitable principles unless the people's court considers that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling would violate the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or national security, or would not be in the public interest.

### C. The PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions

The PRC Company Law was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Eighth Session of the NPC at its fifth meeting on December 29, 1993 and came into effect on July 1, 1994. It was amended on December 25, 1999, August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, December 28, 2013 and October 26, 2018. The revised PRC Company Law came into effect on October 26, 2018.

The Special Regulations of the State Council on the Overseas Offering and the Listing of Shares by Joint Stock Limited Companies (《國務院關於股份有限公司境外募集股份及上市的特別規定》) (“the Special Regulations”) were passed at the 22nd Standing Committee Meeting of the State Council on July 4, 1994 and promulgated and implemented on August 4, 1994. The Special Regulations include provisions in respect of the overseas share offering and listing of joint stock limited companies. The Mandatory Provisions for the Articles of Association of Companies to be Listed Overseas (《到境外上市公司章程必備條款》) (“the Mandatory Provisions”) jointly promulgated by the former Securities Commission of the State Council and the former State Restructuring Commission on August 27, 1994 prescribe that the provisions should be incorporated in the articles of association of joint stock limited companies to be listed overseas stock exchanges. Accordingly, the Mandatory Provisions have been incorporated in the Articles of Association, a summary of which is set out in Appendix V — “Summary of Articles of Association” of this prospectus. References to a “company” made in this Appendix are to a joint stock limited company established under the PRC Company Law with H shares to be issued.

Set out below is a summary of the major provisions of the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions.

#### *General*

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

*Incorporation*

A company may be incorporated by promotion or subscription. A company shall be incorporated by a minimum of two but no more than 200 promoters, and at least half of the promoters must be resident within the PRC. Companies incorporated by promotion are companies of which the entire registered capital is subscribed for by the promoters registered with the registration authorities. Shares in the company shall not be offered to others unless the registered capital has been fully paid up. For companies incorporated by subscription, the registered capital is the total paid-up capital as registered with the relevant registration authorities. If laws, regulations and decisions of the State Council provide otherwise on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital, the company should follow such provisions.

For companies incorporated by way of promotion, the promoters shall subscribe in writing for the shares required to be subscribed for by them and pay up their capital contributions under the articles of association. Procedures relating to the transfer of titles to non-monetary assets shall be duly completed if such assets are to be contributed as capital. Promoters who fail to pay up their capital contributions in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall assume default liabilities in accordance with the covenants set out in the promoters' agreement. After the promoters have confirmed the capital contribution under the articles of association, a board of directors and a supervisory board shall be elected and the board of directors shall apply for registration of incorporation by filing the articles of association with the company registration authority, and other documents as required by the law or administrative regulations.

Where companies are incorporated by subscription, not less than 35% of their total number of shares must be subscribed for by the promoters, unless otherwise provided for by the laws or administrative regulations. A promoter who offers shares to the public must publish a share offering prospectus and prepare a share subscription form to be completed, signed and sealed by subscribers, specifying the number and amount of shares to be subscribed for and the subscribers' addresses. The subscribers shall pay up monies for the shares they subscribe for. Where a promoter is offering shares to the public, such offer shall be underwritten by security companies established under the PRC law, and underwriting agreements shall be entered into. A promoter offering shares to the public shall also enter into agreements with banks in relation to the receipt of subscription monies. The receiving banks shall receive and keep in custody the subscription monies, issue receipts to subscribers who have paid the subscription monies and is obliged to furnish evidence of receipt of those subscription monies to relevant authorities. After the subscription monies for the share issue have been paid in full, a capital verification institution established under the PRC law must be engaged to conduct a capital verification and furnish a report thereon. The promoters shall convene an inauguration meeting within 30 days following the full payment of subscription monies. The inauguration meeting shall be formed by the promoters and subscribers. Where the shares issued remain under subscribed by the cut-off date stipulated in the share offering prospectus, or where the promoter fails to convene an inauguration meeting within 30 days of the subscription monies for the shares issued being fully paid up, the subscribers may demand that the promoters refund the subscription monies so paid together with the interest at bank rates of a deposit for the same period. Within 30 days of the conclusion of the inauguration meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the company registration authority for registration of the establishment of the company. A company is formally established and has the status of a legal person after approval of registration has been given by the relevant market regulatory and administration bureau and a business license has been issued.

A company's promoter shall be liable for:

- (i) the debts and expenses incurred in the incorporation process jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated;
- (ii) the refund of subscription monies paid by the subscribers together with interest at bank rates of deposit for the same period jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; and
- (iii) the compensation of any damages suffered by the company as a result of the promoters' default in the course of its incorporation.

### *Share Capital*

The promoters may make a capital contribution in currencies, or non-monetary assets such as in kind or intellectual property rights or land use rights which can be appraised with monetary value and transferred lawfully, except for assets which are prohibited from being contributed as capital by the laws or administrative regulations. If a capital contribution is made in non-monetary assets, a valuation of the assets contributed must be carried out pursuant to the provisions of the laws or administrative regulations on valuation without any over-valuation or under-valuation.

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

A company must obtain the approval of CSRC to offer its shares to the overseas public. The Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that shares issued to foreign investors and listed overseas shall be in registered form, denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in foreign currency. Shares issued to foreign investors and investors from the territories of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan and listed in Hong Kong are classified as H shares, and those shares issued to investors within the PRC, except the regions above, are known as domestic shares. Under the Special Regulations, upon approval of CSRC, a company may agree, in the underwriting agreement in respect of an issue of H shares, to retain not more than 15% of the aggregate number of overseas listed foreign invested shares proposed to be issued in addition to the number of underwritten shares. The issuance of reserved shares is considered as part of the issuance.

Under the PRC Company Law, a company issuing registered share certificates shall maintain a shareholder registry which sets forth the following matters:

- (i) the name and domicile of each shareholder;
- (ii) the number of shares held by each shareholder;
- (iii) the serial numbers of shares held by each shareholder; and
- (iv) the date on which each shareholder acquired the shares.

***Increase in Share Capital***

Where a company is issuing new shares, resolutions shall be passed at general meeting in accordance with the articles of association in respect of the class and amount of the new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end dates for the issue of the new shares and the class and amount of the new shares proposed to be issued to existing shareholders.

When a company launches a public issue of new shares upon the approval by CSRC, a new share offering prospectus and financial accounting report must be published and a subscription form must be prepared. After the new share issue of the company has been paid up, the change must be registered with the relevant market regulatory and administration bureau and a public announcement must be made accordingly. Where an increase in registered capital of a company is made by means of an issue of new shares, the subscription of new shares by shareholders shall be made in accordance with the relevant provisions on the payment of subscription monies for the incorporation of a company.

***Reduction of Share Capital***

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

- (i) the company shall prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets;
- (ii) the reduction of registered capital must be approved by shareholders at general meeting;
- (iii) the company shall notify its creditors of the reduction in share capital within 10 days and publish an announcement of the reduction in newspapers within 30 days of the resolution approving the reduction being passed;
- (iv) the creditors of the company may within the statutory time limit require the company to repay its debts or provide guarantees for covering the debts; and
- (v) the company must apply to the relevant market regulatory and administration bureau for registration of the change in respect of the reduction in registered capital.

***Repurchase of Shares***

A company may not repurchase its own shares other than for one of the following purposes:

- (i) reducing its registered capital;
- (ii) merging with another company which holds its shares;
- (iii) using shares for employee stock ownership plan or equity incentives;

- (iv) acquiring its own shares at the request of its shareholders who vote in a shareholders' general meeting against a resolution regarding a merger or division;
- (v) using shares for converting convertible corporate bonds issued by a listed company; and
- (vi) protecting the corporate value and the rights and interests of shareholders by a listed company.

Where the company is required to purchase its own shares under any of the circumstances as mentioned in items (i) and (ii) above, it shall be subject to a resolution of the general meeting. Where the company is required to purchase its own shares under any of the circumstances as mentioned in items (iii), (v) and (vi) above, it shall be made as prescribed by the articles of association or under the authorization by the general meeting and approved by way of a resolution at the board meeting attended by more than two thirds of the directors of the company.

After the company purchases its own shares pursuant to the above provisions, it shall, under the circumstance as mentioned in item (i), cancel such purchased shares within ten days after the purchase; while under either circumstance as mentioned in items (ii) or (iv), transfer them or write them off within six months; while under any of the circumstances as mentioned in items (iii), (v) or (vi), the aggregate number of shares of the company held by itself shall not exceed 10% of its total shares in issue and the company shall transfer them or write them off within three years.

If a listed company repurchases its own shares, it shall perform its information disclosure obligation as required under the Securities Law of the People's Republic of China. If a listed company repurchases its own shares under the circumstances specified in items (iii), (v) or (vi) of the first paragraph above, the repurchase shall be conducted through an open and centralized trading method.

#### ***Transfer of Shares***

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. A shareholder should effect a transfer of his shares on a stock exchange established in accordance with laws or by any other means as required by the State Council. Registered shares may be transferred after the shareholders endorse the back of the share certificates or in any other manner specified by the laws or administrative regulations. Following the transfer, the company shall enter the names and addresses of the transferees into its share register. No changes of registration in the share register described above shall be effected during a period of 20 days prior to convening a shareholders' general meeting or 5 days prior to the record date for the purpose of determining entitlements to dividend distributions, subject to any legal provisions on the registration of changes in the share register of listed companies stipulated otherwise. The transfer of bearer share certificates shall become effective upon the delivery of the certificates to the transferee by the shareholder. The Mandatory Provisions provide that changes due to share transfer should not be made to shareholder registry within 30 days prior to convening a shareholders' general meeting or within 5 days prior to the record date for the purpose of determining entitlements to dividend distributions.

Shares held by promoters may not be transferred within one year of the establishment of the company. Shares of the company issued prior to the public issue of shares may not be transferred within one year of the

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

### *Shareholders*

Under the PRC Company Law, the rights of shareholders include the rights:

- (i) to receive a return on assets, participate in significant decision-making and select management personnel;
- (ii) to petition the people's court to revoke any resolution passed at a shareholders' general meeting or a meeting of board of directors that has not been convened in compliance with the laws or the articles of association or whose voting has been conducted in an invalid manner, or any resolution the contents of which is in violation of the articles of association, provided that such petition shall be submitted within 60 days of the passing of such resolution;
- (iii) to transfer the shares of the shareholders according to the applicable laws and regulations and the articles of association;
- (iv) to attend or appoint a proxy to attend shareholders' general meetings and exercise the voting rights;
- (v) to inspect the articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of shareholders' general meetings, board resolutions, resolutions of the supervisory board and financial and accounting reports and to make suggestions or inquiries in respect of the company's operations;
- (vi) to receive dividends in respect of the number of shares held;
- (vii) to receive residual properties of the company in proportion to their shareholdings upon the liquidation of the company; and
- (viii) any other shareholders' rights provided for in the laws, administrative regulations, other normative documents and the articles of association.

The obligations of shareholders include the obligation to abide by the company's articles of association, to pay the subscription monies in respect of the shares subscribed for, to be liable for the company's debts and liabilities to the extent of the amount of subscription monies agreed to be paid in respect of the shares taken up by them and any other shareholder obligation specified in the articles of association.

*Shareholders' General Meetings*

The general meeting is the organ of authority of the company, which exercises its powers in accordance with the PRC Company Law. The general meeting may exercise its powers:

- (i) to decide on the company's operational objectives and investment plans;
- (ii) to elect and remove the directors and supervisors (not being representative(s) of employees) and to decide on the matters relating to the remuneration of directors and supervisors;
- (iii) to review and approve the reports of the board of directors;
- (iv) to review and approve the reports of the supervisory board or supervisors;
- (v) to review and approve the company's annual financial budgets and final accounts;
- (vi) to review and approve the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals;
- (vii) to decide on any increase or reduction of the company's registered capital;
- (viii) to decide on the issue of corporate bonds;
- (ix) to decide on merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company or change of its corporate form;
- (x) to amend the company's articles of association; and
- (xi) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

A shareholders' general meeting is required to be held once every year. An extraordinary general meeting is required to be held within two months of the occurrence of any of the following:

- (i) the number of directors is less than the number stipulated by the laws or less than two-thirds of the number specified in the articles of association;
- (ii) the outstanding losses of the company amounted to one-third of the company's total paid-in share capital;
- (iii) shareholders individually or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the company's shares request that an extraordinary general meeting is convened;
- (iv) the board deems necessary;
- (v) the supervisory board so requests; or
- (vi) any other circumstances as provided for in the articles of association.

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

In accordance with the PRC Company Law, a notice of the general meeting stating the date and venue of the meeting and the matters to be considered at the meeting shall be given to all shareholders 20 days before the meeting. A notice of extraordinary general meeting shall be given to all shareholders 15 days prior to the meeting. For the issuance of bearer share certificates, the time and venue of and matters to be considered at the meeting shall be announced 30 days before the meeting.

Under the PRC Company Law, a single shareholder who holds, or several shareholders who jointly hold, three percent or more of the shares of the company may submit an interim proposal in writing to the board of directors ten days before the general meeting is held. The board of directors shall, within two days upon receipt of the proposal, notify the other shareholders, and submit the said interim proposal to the general meeting for deliberation. The contents of the interim proposal shall fall within the scope of powers of the general meeting, and the proposal shall have a clear agenda and specific matters on which resolutions are to be made.

The general meeting shall not make resolutions on matters that are not clearly listed in the notices given to the shareholders.

If holders of bearer share certificates attend a general meeting, they shall have their stocks kept at the company from five days before the meeting is held till the conclusion of the meeting.

Shareholders present at a shareholders' general meeting have one vote for each share they hold, save that shares held by the company are not entitled to any voting rights. Resolutions of the general meeting must be passed by more than half of the voting rights held by shareholders present at the meeting, with the exception of matters relating to merger, division or dissolution of the company, increase or reduction of registered share capital, change of corporate form or amendments to the articles of association, which in each case must be passed by at least two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting. Where the PRC Company Law and the articles of association provide that the transfer or acquisition of significant assets or the provision of external guarantees by the company must be approved by way of resolution of the general meeting, the directors shall convene a shareholders' general meeting promptly to vote on such matters. A shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend a shareholders' general meeting. The proxy shall submit a power of attorney issued by the shareholder to the company and shall exercise his voting rights within the authorization scope. An accumulative voting system may be adopted for the election of directors and supervisors at the general meeting pursuant to the provisions of the articles of association or a resolution of the general meeting. Under the accumulative voting system, each share shall be entitled to the number of votes equivalent to the number of directors or supervisors to be elected at the general meeting, and shareholders may consolidate their votes for one or more directors or supervisors when casting a vote.

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

According to the Mandatory Provisions, the increase or reduction of share capital, the issuance of shares of any class, warrants or other similar securities and bonds, the division, merger, dissolution and liquidation of the company, the amendments to the articles of association and any other matters, which, as resolved by way of an ordinary resolution of the general meeting, may have a material impact on the company and require adoption by way of a special resolution, must be approved through special resolutions by no less than two-thirds of the voting rights held by shareholders (including proxies) present at the meeting.

There is no specific provision in the PRC Company Law regarding the number of shareholders constituting a quorum in a shareholders' general meeting.

The Mandatory Provisions require a special resolution to be passed at the general meeting and the approval of the affected class shareholders at a class meeting to be held in the event of a variation or derogation of the class rights of a shareholder class. For this purpose, holders of domestic shares and H shares are deemed to be shareholders of different classes.

#### ***Board***

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

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

- (i) to convene shareholders' general meetings and report on its work to the shareholders' general meetings;
- (ii) to implement the resolutions passed by the shareholders at the shareholders' general meetings;
- (iii) to decide on the company's operational plans and investment proposals;
- (iv) to formulate proposal for the company's annual financial budgets and final accounts;
- (v) to formulate the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals;
- (vi) to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of the company's registered capital and the issue of corporate bonds;

- (vii) to formulate proposals for the merger, division or dissolution of the company or change of corporate form;
- (viii) to decide on the setup of the company's internal management organs;
- (ix) to appoint or dismiss the company's general manager and decide on his/her remuneration and, based on the general manager's recommendation, to appoint or dismiss any deputy general manager and financial officer of the company and to decide on their remunerations;
- (x) to formulate the company's basic management system; and
- (xi) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

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

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

Under the PRC Company Law, the following person may not serve as a director in a company:

- (i) a person who is unable or has limited ability to undertake any civil liabilities;
- (ii) a person who has been convicted of an offense of corruption, bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation of property or destruction of the socialist economic order, or who has been deprived of his political rights due to his/her crimes, in each case where less than five years have elapsed since the date of completion of the sentence;
- (iii) a person who has been a former director, factory manager or manager of a company or an enterprise that has entered into solvent liquidation and who was personally liable for the insolvency of such company or enterprise, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the completion of the bankruptcy and liquidation of the company or enterprise;

- (iv) a person who has been a legal representative of a company or an enterprise that has had its business license revoked due to violations of the law or has been ordered to close down by law and the person was personally responsible, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of such revocation; and
- (v) a person who is liable for a relatively large amount of debts that are overdue.

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

Other circumstances under which a person is disqualified from acting as a director of a company are set out in the Mandatory Provisions.

The board shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman.

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

#### ***Supervisory Board***

Under the PRC Company Law, a company shall have a supervisory board composed of not less than three members. The supervisory board consists of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the company's staff. The actual proportion shall be determined in the articles of association, provided that the proportion of representatives of the company's staff shall not be less than one-third. Representatives of the company's staff at the supervisory board shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The supervisory board shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman of the supervisory board shall be elected by more than half of the supervisors.

According to the Reply of the Overseas Listing Department of CSRC and the Production System Department of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System on Opinions Concerning the Supplement and Amendment to Articles of Association by Companies to be Listed in Hong Kong (《中國證監會海外上市部、國家體改委生產體制司關於到香港上市公司對公司章程作補充修改的意見的函》), the chairman of the supervisory board shall be appointed by more than two-thirds of the supervisors.

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

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

The supervisory board may exercise its powers:

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

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

#### ***Manager and Senior Management***

A company shall have a general manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors. The general manager, who reports to the board of directors, may exercise his/her powers:

- (i) to manage the production, operation and administration of the company and arrange for the implementation of the resolutions of the board of directors;
- (ii) to arrange for the implementation of the company's annual business plans and investment proposals;
- (iii) to formulate proposals for the establishment of the company's internal management organs;

- (iv) to formulate the fundamental management system of the company;
- (v) to formulate the company's specific rules and regulations;
- (vi) to recommend the appointment or dismissal of any deputy manager and any financial officer of the company;
- (vii) to appoint or dismiss management personnel (other than those required to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors); and
- (viii) to exercise any other authority granted by the board of directors.

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

According to the PRC Company Law, senior management refers to the general manager, deputy manager, financial officer, secretary to the board of a listed company and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

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

Directors, supervisors and senior management are required under the PRC Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the articles of association, and carry out their duties in good faith.

Directors, supervisors and senior management are prohibited from accepting bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating the company's property. Directors and senior management are prohibited from:

- (i) misappropriating company funds;
- (ii) depositing company funds into accounts under their own names or the names of other individuals;
- (iii) loaning company funds to others or providing guarantees in favor of others supported by company's property in violation of the articles of association or without approval of the general meeting or the board of directors;
- (iv) entering into contracts or transactions with the company in violation of the articles of association or without approval of the general meeting or the board of directors;
- (v) using their position to procure business opportunities for themselves or others that should have otherwise been available to the company or operating businesses similar to that of the company for their own benefits or on behalf of others without approval of the general meeting;

- (vi) misappropriating the commissions paid by a third party for transactions conducted with the company;
- (vii) unauthorized divulgence of confidential information of the company; and
- (viii) other acts in violation of their duty of loyalty to the company.

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

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

Where a director, supervisor or senior management is required to attend a shareholders' general meeting, such director, supervisor or senior management shall attend the meeting and answer the inquiries from shareholders. Directors and senior management shall furnish all true information and materials to the supervisory board, or if a limited liability company has no supervisory board, supervisors, without impeding the discharge of duties by the supervisory board or supervisors.

Where a director or senior management contravenes any law, regulation or the company's articles of association in the performance of his/her duties resulting in any loss to the company, shareholder(s) holding individually or in aggregate no less than 1% of the company's shares consecutively for at least 180 days may request in writing that the supervisory board institute litigation at a people's court on its behalf. Where the supervisory board violates the laws or administrative regulations or the articles of association in the discharge of its duties resulting in any loss to the company, such shareholder(s) may request in writing that the board of directors institutes litigation at a people's court on its behalf. If the supervisory board or the board of directors refuses to institute litigation after receiving this written request from the shareholder(s), or fails to institute litigation within 30 days of the date of receiving the request, or in case of emergency where failure to institute litigation immediately will result in irrecoverable damage to the company's interests, such shareholder(s) shall have the power to institute litigation directly at a people's court in its own name for the company's benefit. For other parties who infringe the lawful interests of the company resulting in loss to the company, such shareholder(s) may institute litigation at a people's court in accordance with the procedure described above. Where a director or senior management contravenes any laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association in infringement of shareholders' interests, a shareholder may also institute litigation at a people's court.

The Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that a company's directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior management shall have duty of loyalty to the company. They are required to faithfully perform their duties, to protect the interests of the company and not to use their positions in the company for their own benefits. The Mandatory Provisions contain detailed stipulations on these duties.

#### ***Finance and Accounting***

A company shall establish its own financial and accounting systems according to the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the competent financial departments of the State Council. At

the end of each financial year, a company shall prepare a financial report which shall be audited by an accounting firm in accordance with the laws. The financial and accounting reports shall be prepared in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial departments of the State Council.

The company's financial reports shall be made available for shareholders' inspection at the company 20 days before the convening of an annual general meeting. A joint stock limited company that makes public stock offerings shall publish its financial reports.

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

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

The premium over the nominal value of the shares of the company in issue and other income as required by competent governmental department to be treated as the capital reserve fund shall be accounted for as the capital reserve fund. The common reserve fund of a company shall be applied to make good the company's losses, expand its business operations or increase its capital. The capital reserve fund, however, shall not be used to make good the company's losses. Upon the transfer of the statutory common reserve fund into capital, the balance of the fund shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital of the company before such transfer.

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

#### ***Appointment and Retirement of Auditors***

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

The Special Regulations require a company to engage an independent qualified accounting firm to audit the company's annual reports and to review and check other financial reports of the company. The accounting firm's term of office shall commence from the end of the shareholders' annual general meeting to the end of the next shareholders' annual general meeting.

#### *Profit Distribution*

According to the PRC Company Law, a company shall not distribute profits before losses are covered and the statutory common reserve fund is provided. The Special Regulations require that any dividend and other distribution to H shareholders shall be declared and calculated in RMB and paid in foreign currency. Under the Mandatory Provisions, a company shall make foreign currency payments to shareholders through receiving agents.

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

Pursuant to PRC Company Law, the resolution of a shareholders' general meeting regarding any amendment to a company's articles of association requires affirmative votes by at least two-thirds of the votes held by shareholders attending the meeting. Pursuant to the Mandatory Provisions, the company may amend its articles of association according to the laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association. The amendment to articles of association involving content of the Mandatory Provisions will only be effective upon approval of the department in charge of company examination and approval and the securities regulatory department authorized by the State Council, while the amendment to articles of association involving matters of company registration shall be registered with the relevant authority in accordance with applicable laws.

#### *Dissolution and Liquidation*

A company shall be dissolved for any of the following reasons:

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

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

Where the company is dissolved under the circumstances set forth in paragraph (i), (ii), (iv) or (v) above, it should establish a liquidation committee within 15 days of the date on which the dissolution matter occurs. The liquidation committee shall be composed of directors or any other person determined by a shareholders' general meeting. If a liquidation committee is not established within the prescribed period, the company's creditors may file an application with a people's court, requesting that the court appoint relevant personnel to form a liquidation committee to conduct the liquidation. The people's court should accept such application and form a liquidation committee to conduct liquidation in a timely manner.

The liquidation committee may exercise following powers during the liquidation:

- (i) to dispose of the company's assets and to prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets;
- (ii) to notify the company's creditors or publish a relevant announcements;
- (iii) to deal with any outstanding business related to the liquidation;
- (iv) to pay any outstanding tax together with any tax arising during the liquidation process;
- (v) to settle the company's financial claims and liabilities;
- (vi) to handle the company's remaining assets after its debts have been paid off; and
- (vii) to represent the company in any civil procedures.

The liquidation committee shall notify the company's creditors within 10 days of its establishment, and publish an announcement in newspapers within 60 days. A creditor shall lodge his claim with the liquidation committee within 30 days of receipt of the notification or within 45 days of the date of the announcement if he has not received any notification. A creditor shall, in making his claim, state all matters relevant to his creditor's rights and furnish relevant evidence. The liquidation committee shall register such creditor's rights. The liquidation committee shall not make any settlement to creditors during the period of the claim.

Upon disposal of the company's property and preparation of the required balance sheet and inventory of assets, the liquidation committee shall draw up a liquidation plan and submit this plan to a shareholders' general meeting or a people's court for endorsement. The remaining assets of the company, after payment of liquidation expenses, employee wages, social insurance expenses and statutory compensation, outstanding taxes and the company's debts, shall be distributed to shareholders in proportion to shares held by them. The company shall continue to exist during the liquidation period, although it cannot engage in operating activities that are not related to the liquidation. The company's property shall not be distributed to shareholders before settlements are made in accordance with the requirements described above.

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

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

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

#### ***Overseas Listing***

The shares of a company shall only be listed overseas after obtaining approval from CSRC, and the listing must be arranged in accordance with procedures specified by the State Council. Pursuant to the Special Regulations, a company may issue shares to overseas investors and list its shares overseas upon approval from CSRC. Subject to approval by CSRC of the company's plans to issue overseas-listed foreign invested shares and domestic shares, the board of directors of the company may make arrangement to implement such plans for such two kinds of shares to be issued respectively, within fifteen (15) months from the date of approval by CSRC.

#### ***Loss of Share Certificates***

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

A separate procedure regarding the loss of share certificates and H share certificates of the overseas listed foreign invested shareholders of the PRC is provided for in the Mandatory Provisions, details of which are set out in the articles of association.

#### ***Merger and Division***

A merger agreement shall be signed by merging companies and the involved companies shall prepare their respective balance sheets and inventory of assets. The companies shall within 10 days of the date of passing the resolution approving the merger notify their respective creditors and publicly announce the merger

within 30 days. A creditor may, within 30 days of receipt of the notification, or within 45 days of the date of the announcement if he has not received the notification, request the company to settle any outstanding debts or provide relevant guarantees. In case of a merger, the credits and debts of the merging parties shall be assumed by the surviving or the new company.

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

Changes in the registration of the companies as a result of the merger or division shall be registered with the relevant market regulatory and administration authority.

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

#### **D. The PRC Securities Laws, Regulations and Regulatory Regimes**

The PRC has promulgated a number of regulations that relate to the issuance and trading of our shares and disclosure of information. In October 1992, the State Council established the Securities Commission and CSRC. The Securities Commission is responsible for coordinating the drafting of securities regulations, formulating securities-related policies, planning the development of securities markets, directing, coordinating and supervising all securities-related institutions in the PRC and administering CSRC. CSRC is the regulatory arm of the Securities Commission and is responsible for the drafting of regulatory provisions governing securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating public offerings of securities by PRC companies in the PRC or overseas, regulating the trading of securities, compiling securities-related statistics and undertaking relevant research and analysis. In April 1998, the State Council consolidated the aforementioned two departments and reformed CSRC.

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

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

The PRC Securities Law took effect on July 1, 1999 and was revised as of August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, June 29, 2013, August 31, 2014 and December 28, 2019, respectively. It was the first national securities

law in the PRC, and is divided into 14 chapters and 226 articles, regulating the issuance and trading of securities, takeovers of listed companies, securities exchanges, securities companies and the duties and responsibilities of the State Council's securities regulatory authorities. The PRC Securities Law comprehensively regulates activities in the PRC securities market. Article 224 of the PRC Securities Law provides that the overseas listing of shares of domestic enterprises must comply with the applicable requirements of the State Council. Currently, the issuance and trading of foreign issued securities (including shares) are principally governed by the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Council and CSRC.

#### **E. Arbitration and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards**

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

The Listing Rules and the Mandatory Provisions require an arbitration clause to be included in the articles of association of a company listed in Hong Kong and, required by the Listing Rules, also in contracts between the company and each director or supervisor. Pursuant to such provision, whenever a dispute or claim arises from any right or obligation concerning the affairs of the company provided in the articles of association, the PRC Company Law or other relevant laws and administrative regulations among (i) the holders of overseas listed foreign shares and the company; (ii) the holders of overseas listed foreign shares and holders of domestic shares; or (iii) the holders of overseas listed foreign shares and the company's directors, supervisors or other management personnel, such parties shall be required to refer such dispute or claim to arbitration at either the CIETAC or the HKIAC. Disputes in respect of the definition of shareholder and disputes in relation to the company's shareholder registry need not be resolved by arbitration. If the party seeking arbitration elects to arbitrate the dispute or claim at the HKIAC, then either party may apply to have such arbitration conducted in Shenzhen in accordance with the securities arbitration rules of the HKIAC.

Under the PRC Arbitration Law, an arbitral award shall be final and binding on the parties involved in the arbitration. If any party fails to comply with the award, the other party to the award may apply to a people's court for its enforcement. A people's court may refuse to enforce an arbitral award made by an arbitration committee if there is any procedural irregularity (including, but not limiting to, irregularity in the composition of the arbitration committee, or the making of an award on matters beyond the scope of the arbitration or the arbitration committee having no jurisdiction).

Any party seeking to enforce an arbitral award of a foreign affairs arbitration organ of the PRC against a party who or whose property is not located within the PRC may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for enforcement of the award. Likewise, an arbitral award made by a foreign arbitration body may be

recognized and enforced by a PRC court in accordance with the principle of reciprocity or any international convention concluded or acceded to by the PRC.

The PRC acceded to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the “New York Convention”) adopted on June 10, 1958 pursuant to a resolution of the Standing Committee of the NPC passed on December 2, 1986. The New York Convention provides that all arbitral awards made in a state which is a party to the New York Convention shall be recognized and enforced by other parties thereto subject to their rights to refuse enforcement under certain circumstances, including where the enforcement of the arbitral award is against the public policy of that state. At the time of the PRC’s accession to the Convention, the Standing Committee of the NPC declared that (i) the PRC will only apply such convention on a mutual basis that the arbitral award made within the land of another allied country is being recognized and enforced; and (ii) the New York Convention will only be applied to disputes deemed under PRC law to be arising from contractual or non-contractual mercantile legal relations.

On June 18, 1999, the judicial committee of the Supreme People’s Court considered and approved the Arrangement for Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the PRC and the HKSAR (《關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的安排》), which became effective on February 1, 2000. The arrangement allows awards made by PRC arbitral authorities to be enforced in Hong Kong and awards by Hong Kong arbitral authorities to be enforced in the PRC. If the court of the PRC or HKSAR is of the view that the enforcement of the arbitral awards will prejudice to social interests in the PRC or public policies of HKSAR following to, the abovementioned courts may refuse to enforce such arbitral awards.

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

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

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

##### **Corporate Existence**

Under Hong Kong company law, a company with share capital, shall be incorporated by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong and the company will acquire an independent corporate existence upon its incorporation. A company may be incorporated as a public company or a private company. Pursuant to the Companies Ordinance, the articles of association of a private company incorporated in Hong Kong shall contain provisions that restrict a member’s right to transfer shares. A public company’s articles of association do not contain such provisions.

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or subscription. The amended PRC Company Law which came into effect on October 26, 2018 has no provision on the minimum registered capital of a joint stock company, except that laws, administrative regulations and State Council's decisions have separate provisions on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital, in which case the company should follow such provisions.

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

### **Share Capital**

Under Hong Kong law, the directors of a Hong Kong company may, with the prior approval of the shareholders if required, issue new shares of the company. The PRC Company Law provides that any increase in the registered capital of a company must be approved by the shareholders' general meeting and the relevant PRC governmental and regulatory authorities.

Under the PRC Securities Law, a company which is approved by the relevant securities regulatory authority to list its shares on a stock exchange must have a total share capital of not less than RMB30 million. There is no such restriction on companies incorporated in Hong Kong under Hong Kong law.

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

### **Restrictions on Shareholding and Transfer of Shares**

Under PRC law, our Domestic Shares, which are denominated and subscribed for in Renminbi, may only be subscribed for and traded by the government or authorized government departments, PRC legal persons, natural persons, qualified foreign institutional investors, or eligible foreign strategic investors. Overseas listed shares, which are denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in a currency other than Renminbi, may only be subscribed for, and traded by, investors from Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan or any country and territory outside the PRC, or qualified domestic institutional investors. However, qualified institutional investors and individual investors may trade southbound trading and SH northbound trading (or SZ northbound trading) shares via Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect.

Under the PRC Company Law, a promoter of a joint stock limited company is not allowed to transfer the shares it holds for a period of one year after the date of establishment of the company. Shares in issue prior to the public offering cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares on a stock exchange. Shares in a joint stock limited liability company held by its directors, supervisors and senior management transferred each year during their term of office shall not exceed 25% of the total shares they held in the company, and the shares they held in the company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares, and also cannot be transferred within half a year after such person has left office. The articles of association may set other restrictive requirements on the transfer of the company's shares held by its directors,

supervisors and senior management. There are no such restrictions on shareholdings and transfers of shares under Hong Kong law apart from six-month lockup on the company's issuance of shares and the 12-month lockup on controlling shareholders' disposal of shares.

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

The PRC Company Law does not prohibit or restrict a joint stock limited company or its subsidiaries from providing financial assistance for the purpose of an acquisition of its own or its holding company's shares. However, the Mandatory Provisions contain certain restrictions on a company and its subsidiaries on providing such financial assistance similar to those under the Hong Kong Company Law.

#### **Variation of Class Rights**

The PRC Company Law has no special provision relating to variation of class rights. However, the PRC Company Law states that the State Council can promulgate separate regulations relating to other kinds of shares. The Mandatory Provisions contain elaborate provisions relating to the circumstances which are deemed to be variations of class rights and the following approval procedure required in respect thereof. These provisions have been incorporated in the Articles of Association, which are summarized in Appendix V — "Summary of Articles of Association" to this prospectus.

Under the Companies Ordinance, no rights attached to any class of shares can be varied except (i) with the approval of a special resolution of the holders of the relevant class at a separate meeting, (ii) with the consent in writing of the holders representing at least 75% of the total voting rights of holders of shares in the class in question, or (iii) if there are provisions in the articles of association relating to the variation of those rights, then in accordance with those provisions.

#### **Directors, Senior Management and Supervisors**

The PRC Company Law, unlike Hong Kong Company Law, does not contain any requirements relating to the declaration of directors' interests in material contracts, restrictions on companies providing certain benefits to directors and guarantees in respect of directors' liability and prohibitions against compensation for loss of office without shareholders' approval. The Mandatory Provisions, however, contain certain restrictions on interested contracts and specify the circumstances under which a director may receive compensation for loss of office.

#### **Supervisory Board**

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company's directors and members of the senior management are subject to the supervision of supervisory board. There is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of supervisory board for a company incorporated in Hong Kong. The Mandatory Provisions provide that each supervisor owes a duty, in the exercise of his powers, to acting in good faith and honestly in what he considers to be in the best interests of the company and to exercising the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

**Derivative Action by Minority Shareholders**

Hong Kong law permits minority shareholders to initiate a derivative action on behalf of all shareholders against directors who have committed a breach of their fiduciary duties to the company if the directors control a majority of votes at a general meeting, thereby effectively preventing a company from suing the directors in breach of their duties in its own name. The PRC Company Law provides shareholders of a joint stock limited company with the right so that in the event where the directors and senior management violate their obligations and cause damages to a company, the shareholders individually or jointly holding more than 1% of the shares in the company for more than 180 consecutive days may request in writing the supervisory board to initiate proceedings in the people's court. In the event that the supervisory board violates their obligations and cause damages to company, the above said shareholders may send written request to the board of directors to initiate proceedings in the people's court. Upon receipt of such written request from the shareholders, if the supervisory board or the board of directors refuses to initiate such proceedings, or has not initiated proceedings within 30 days upon receipt of the request, or if under urgent situations, failure of initiating immediate proceeding may cause irremediable damages to the company, the above said shareholders shall, for the benefit of the company's interests, have the right to initiate proceedings directly to the people's court in their own name.

The Mandatory Provisions provide further remedies against the directors, supervisors and senior management who breach their duties to the company. In addition, as a condition to the listing of shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, each director and supervisor (acting as agent for the shareholders) of a joint stock limited company is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company to allow minority shareholders to take action against directors and supervisors in default.

**Protection of Minorities**

Under Hong Kong law, a shareholder who complains that the affairs of a company incorporated in Hong Kong are conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to his interests may petition to the court to either appoint a receiver or manager over the property or business of the company or make an appropriate order regulating the affairs of the company. In addition, on the application of a specified number of members, the Financial Secretary of Hong Kong may appoint inspectors who are given extensive statutory powers to investigate the affairs of a company incorporated in Hong Kong. According to the PRC Company Law, in the event that the company encounters substantial difficulties in its operation and management and its continuance shall cause a significant loss in the interest of its shareholders, and where this cannot be resolved through other means, the shareholders who hold more than 10% of the total shareholders' voting rights of the company may present a petition to the People's Court for the dissolution of the company. The Mandatory Provisions, however, contain provisions that a controlling shareholder may not exercise its voting rights in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the entire or part of shareholders of a company to relieve a director or supervisor of his duty to act honestly in the best interests of the company or to approve the expropriation by a director or supervisor of the company's assets or the individual rights of other shareholders.

**Notice of Shareholders' General Meetings**

Under the PRC Company Law, notice of a shareholders' annual general meeting and an extraordinary shareholders meeting must be given to shareholders no less than 20 days and 15 days before the meeting,

respectively. For a company incorporated in Hong Kong, the minimum period of notice is 21 days in the case of an annual general meeting and 14 days in other cases.

**Quorum for Shareholders' General Meetings**

Under the Companies Ordinance, the quorum for a general meeting must be at least two members unless the articles of association of the company otherwise provide. For companies with only one member, the quorum must be one member. The PRC Company Law does not specify any quorum requirement for a shareholders' general meeting. Nonetheless, under the Listing Rules, a class meeting proposed to be convened to consider any change or abolish of any right of class shareholders shall be attended by one-third or above of such class shareholders unless such class meeting is an adjourned class meeting.

**Voting**

Under the Companies Ordinance, an ordinary resolution is passed at the general meeting by more than half of the votes and a special resolution is passed at the general meeting by no less than 75% of such votes. Under the PRC Company Law, the passing of any resolution requires affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than half of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the general meeting except in cases of resolutions regarding amendments to a company's articles of association, increase or decrease of registered capital, merger, division or dissolution, or change of corporation form, which require affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the general meeting.

**Financial Disclosure**

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to make available at the company for inspection by shareholders its financial report 20 days before its shareholders' annual general meeting. In addition, a joint stock limited company of which the shares are publicly offered must publish its financial report. The Companies Ordinance requires a company incorporated in Hong Kong to send to every shareholder a copy of its financial statements, auditors' report and directors' report, which are to be presented before the company in its annual general meeting, not less than 21 days before such meeting. A joint stock limited liability company is required under the PRC law to prepare its financial statements in accordance with the PRC GAAP. The Mandatory Provisions require that a company must, in addition to preparing financial statements according to the PRC GAAP, have its financial statements prepared and audited in accordance with international accounting standards or the accounting standards of the place where the shares are listed and its financial statements must also contain a statement of the financial effect of the material differences (if any) from the financial statements prepared in accordance with the PRC GAAP. The lower of the after-tax profits of a specific fiscal year stated in the statements prepared based on the above-mentioned principles shall prevail in the allocation of such profits. The company shall publish its financial reports twice in each accounting year. An interim financial report shall be published within 60 days after the end of the first six months of each accounting year, while an annual financial report shall be published within 120 days after the end of each accounting year.

The Special Regulations require that there should not be any contradiction between the information disclosed within and outside the PRC and that, to the extent that there are differences in the information

disclosed in accordance with the relevant PRC and overseas laws, regulations and requirements of the relevant stock exchanges, such differences should also be disclosed simultaneously.

**Information on Directors and Shareholders**

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

**Receiving Agent**

Under the PRC Company Law and Hong Kong law, dividends once declared are debts payable to shareholders. The limitation period for debt recovery action under Hong Kong law is six years, while under the PRC law this limitation period is three years. The Mandatory Provisions require the relevant company to appoint a trust company registered under the Hong Kong Trustee Ordinance (Chapter 29 of the Laws of Hong Kong) as a receiving agent to receive on behalf of holders of shares dividends declared and all other monies owed by the company in respect of its shares.

**Corporate Reorganization**

Corporate reorganization involving a company incorporated in Hong Kong may be effected in a number of ways, such as a transfer of the whole or part of the business or property of the company in the course of voluntary winding up to another company pursuant to Section 237 of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance or a compromise or arrangement between the company and its creditors or between the company and its shareholders under Division 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Ordinance, which requires the sanction of the court. Under PRC law, merger, division, dissolution or change the form of a joint stock limited liability company has to be approved by shareholders in general meeting.

**Dispute Arbitration**

In Hong Kong, disputes between shareholders on the one hand, and a company incorporated in Hong Kong or its directors on the other hand, may be resolved through legal proceedings in the courts. The Mandatory Provisions provide that such disputes should be submitted to arbitration at either the HKIAC or the CIETAC, at the claimant's choice.

**Deductions for Statutory Common Reserve Fund**

Under the PRC Company Law, when distributing the profit after tax of the year, a joint stock limited liability company is required to set aside certain prescribed percentages of its after tax profits for the statutory common reserve fund. There are no corresponding provisions under Hong Kong law.

**Remedies of the Company**

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

**Dividends**

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

**Fiduciary Duties**

In Hong Kong, there is the common law concept of the fiduciary duty of directors. Under the PRC Company Law, directors, supervisors and senior management should be loyal and diligent. Under the Mandatory Provisions, directors, supervisors and senior management are not permitted, without the knowledge and approval of the shareholders' general meeting, to engage in any activities which compete with or damage the interests of their company.

**Closure of Register of Shareholders**

The Companies Ordinance requires that the register of shareholders of a company must not generally be closed for the registration of transfers of shares for more than 30 days (extendable to 60 days under certain circumstances) in a year, whereas, as required by the PRC Company Law and the Mandatory Provisions, share transfers shall not be registered within 30 days before the date of a shareholders' general meeting or within five days before the base date set for the purpose of distribution of dividends.

**HONG KONG LISTING RULES**

The Listing Rules provide additional requirements which apply to us as an issuer incorporated in the PRC as a joint stock limited company and seeking a primary listing or whose primary listing is on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Set out below is a summary of the principal provisions containing the additional requirements which apply to us.

**Compliance Advisor**

A company seeking listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is required to appoint a compliance advisor acceptable to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for the period from its listing date up to the date of the

publication of its financial results for the first full financial year commencing after the listing date. The compliance advisor should provide professional advice on continuous compliance with the Listing Rules and all other applicable laws and regulations, and to act at all times, in addition to its two authorized representatives, as the principal channel of communication with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The appointment of the compliance advisor may not be terminated until a replacement acceptable to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has been appointed.

If the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is not satisfied that the compliance advisor is fulfilling its responsibilities adequately, it may require the company to terminate the compliance advisor's appointment and appoint a replacement.

The compliance advisor must keep the company informed on a timely basis of changes in the Listing Rules and any new or amended law, regulation or code in Hong Kong applicable to the company. It must act as the company's principal channel of communication with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange if the authorized representatives of the company are expected to be frequently outside Hong Kong.

#### **Accountant's Report**

The accountant's report must normally be drawn up in conformity with: (a) HKFRS; or (b) IFRS; or (c) China Accounting Standards for Business Enterprises ("CASBE") in the case of a PRC issuer that has adopted CASBE for the preparation of its annual financial statements.

#### **Process Agent**

A listed company is required to appoint and maintain a person authorized to accept service of process and notices on its behalf in Hong Kong throughout the period during which its securities are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and must notify the Hong Kong Stock Exchange of his, her or its appointment, the termination of his, her or its appointment and his, her or its contact particulars.

#### **Public Shareholding**

If at any time there are existing issued securities of a PRC issuer other than foreign shares which are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the Listing Rules require that the aggregate amount of H shares and other securities held by the public must constitute not less than 25% of the PRC issuer's issued share capital and that the class of securities for which listing is sought must not be less than 15% of the issuer's total issued share capital, having an expected market capitalization at the time of listing of not less than HK\$125 million. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange may, at its discretion, accept a lower percentage of between 15% and 25% if the issuer is expected to have a market capitalization at the time of listing of more than HK\$10 billion.

#### **Independent Non-Executive Directors and Supervisors**

Independent non-executive directors of a PRC issuer are required to demonstrate an acceptable standard of competence and adequate commercial or professional expertise to ensure that the interests of the overall shareholders of the listed company will be adequately represented. Supervisors must have the character, expertise and integrity and be able to demonstrate the standard of competence commensurate with their position as supervisors.

**Restrictions on Repurchase of Securities**

Subject to governmental approvals and the articles of association of the company, a listed company may repurchase its own shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in accordance with the provisions of the Listing Rules. Approval by way of a special resolution of the holders of class shares at separate class meetings conducted in accordance with the articles of association is required for share repurchases. In seeking approvals, a listed company is required to provide information on any proposed or actual purchases of all or any of its equity securities, whether or not listed or traded on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The director must also state the consequences (if any) of any purchases which will arise under either or both of the Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Buy-backs promulgated by the SFC and /or any similar PRC law to the best of directors' knowledge. Any general mandate given to directors to repurchase shares must not exceed 10% of the total number of its issued shares.

**Redeemable Shares**

A listed company must not issue any redeemable shares unless the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is satisfied that the relative rights of its shareholders are adequately protected.

**Pre-emptive Rights**

Except in the circumstances mentioned below, directors are required to obtain approval by way of a special resolution of shareholders at general meeting, and the approvals by way of special resolutions of the holders of class shares (each being otherwise entitled to vote at general meetings) at separate class meetings conducted in accordance with and as required by the articles of association, prior to authorizing, allotting, issuing or granting shares or securities convertible into shares, options, warrants or similar rights to subscribe for any shares or convertible securities.

No such approval will be required under the Listing Rules to the extent that (i) the existing shareholders have by special resolution in general meeting given a mandate to the board of directors, either unconditionally or subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified in the resolution, to authorize, allot or issue, either separately or concurrently once every 12 months, not more than 20% of each of the existing issued domestic shares and H shares as of the date of the passing of the relevant special resolution, or (ii) such shares are issued as part of the Company's plan at the time of its establishment to issue domestic shares and H shares and such plan is implemented within 15 months from the date of approval by the securities regulatory authority of the State Council.

**Supervisors**

A company listed or seeking a listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is required to adopt rules governing dealings by the supervisors in securities of our Bank in terms no less exacting than those of the Model Code (set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules) issued by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

A PRC issuer is required to obtain the approval of its shareholders at a general meeting (at which the relevant supervisor and his associates must abstain from voting on the matter) prior to the company or any of its

subsidiaries entering into a service contract of the following nature with a supervisor or proposed supervisor of the listed company or any of its subsidiaries: (i) the contract with the term exceeding three years; or (ii) the contract expressly requiring the company (or its subsidiaries) to give more than one year's notice or to pay compensation or make other payments equivalent to the remuneration of more than one year in order for it to terminate the contract.

The nomination and remuneration committee of the listed company or an independent board committee must form a view in respect of service contracts that require shareholders' approval and advise shareholders (other than shareholders with a material interest in the service contracts and their associates) as to whether the terms are fair and reasonable, advise whether such contracts are in the interests of the listed company and its shareholders as a whole and advise shareholders on how to vote.

#### **Amendment to Articles of Association**

A PRC issuer may not permit or cause any amendment to be made to its articles of association which would contravene the PRC Company Law, the Mandatory Provisions and the Listing Rules.

#### **Documents for Inspection**

A PRC issuer is required to make available at a place in Hong Kong for inspection by the public and shareholders free of charge, and for copying by its shareholders at reasonable charges of the following:

- a complete duplicate register of shareholders;
- a report showing the state of its issued share capital;
- its latest audited financial statements and the reports of the directors, auditors and supervisors, if any, thereon;
- special resolutions;
- reports showing the number and nominal value of securities repurchased by it since the end of the last financial year, the aggregate amount paid for such securities and the maximum and minimum prices paid in respect of each class of securities repurchased (with a breakdown divided by class shares);
- copy of the latest annual return filed with the SAMR or other competent PRC authority; and
- for shareholders only, copies of minutes of shareholders' general meetings.

#### **Receiving Agents**

Under Hong Kong law, a PRC issuer is required to appoint one or more receiving agents in Hong Kong and pay to such agent(s) dividends declared and other monies owed in respect of the H shares. Such monies will be held, pending payment, in trust for the holders of such H shares.

**Statements in Share Certificates**

A PRC issuer is required to ensure that all of its listing documents and share certificates include the statements stipulated below and to instruct and cause each of its share registrars not to register the subscription, purchase or transfer of any of its shares in the name of any particular holder unless and until such holder delivers to the share registrar a signed form in respect of such shares bearing statements to the following effect, that the acquirer of shares:

- agrees with the company and each shareholder, and the Company agrees with each shareholder, to observe and comply with the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations and its articles of association;
- agrees with the company, each shareholder, director, supervisor, manager and other senior management and the Company (acting both for the company and for each director, supervisor, manager and other senior management) agrees with each shareholder to refer all differences and claims arising from any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by the articles of association, the PRC Company Law or other relevant laws and administrative regulations concerning its affairs to arbitration in accordance with the articles of association. Any reference to arbitration shall be deemed to authorize the arbitration tribunal to conduct hearings in open session and to publish its award, and such arbitration shall be final and conclusive;
- agrees with the company and each shareholder that shares are freely transferable by the holder thereof; and
- authorizes the company to enter into a contract on his behalf with each director and senior management whereby such directors and senior management undertake to observe and fulfill their obligations to shareholders as stipulated in the articles of association.

**Legal Compliance**

A PRC issuer is required to observe and comply with the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations and its articles of association.

**Contract between the PRC Issuer and Directors, Senior Management and Supervisors**

A PRC issuer is required to enter into a contract in writing with every director and senior management containing at least the following provisions:

- an undertaking by the director or senior management to the Company to observe and comply with the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations, its articles of association, the Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Buy-backs and an agreement that it must have the remedies provided in its articles of association, and neither the contract nor his office is capable of assignment;
- an undertaking to the Company by the director or senior management acting as agent for each shareholder to observe and comply with his obligations to the shareholders as stipulated in the articles of association; and

- an arbitration clause which provides that whenever any differences or claims arise from any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by the contract, the articles of association, or the PRC Company Law or other relevant law and administrative regulations concerning affairs among us and the directors or senior management and among a holder of H shares and the directors or senior management, such differences or claims will be referred to arbitration at either the CIETAC in accordance with its rules or the HKIAC in accordance with its Securities Arbitration Rules, at the election of the claimant and that once a claimant refers a dispute or claim to arbitration, the other party shall submit to the arbitration institution elected by the claimant. Such arbitration will be final and conclusive. If the party seeking arbitration elects to arbitrate the dispute or claim at HKIAC, then either party may apply to have such arbitration conducted in Shenzhen, according to the Securities Arbitration Rules of the HKIAC. PRC laws shall govern the arbitration of disputes or claims referred to above, unless otherwise provided by laws or administrative regulations. The award of the arbitration institution is final and shall be binding on the parties thereto. Disputes over qualification of shareholder and over the share register do not have to be resolved through arbitration.

A PRC issuer is also required to enter into a contract in writing with every supervisor containing statements in substantially the same terms.

#### **Subsequent Listing**

A PRC issuer must not apply for the listing of its H shares on a PRC stock exchange unless the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is satisfied that the relative rights of the holders of its H shares are adequately protected.

#### **English Translation**

All notices or other documents required under the Listing Rules to be sent by a PRC issuer to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange or to holders of the H shares are required to be in English, or accompanied by a certified English translation.

#### **General**

If any change in the PRC laws or market practices materially alters the validity or accuracy of any basis upon which the additional requirements have been prepared, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange may impose additional requirements or make listing of H shares by a PRC issuer subject to special conditions as the Hong Kong Stock Exchange may consider appropriate. Whether or not any such changes in the PRC laws or market practices occur, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange retains its general power under the Listing Rules to impose additional requirements and make special conditions in respect of any company's listing.

#### **OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

Upon the listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the provisions of the SFO, the Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Buy-backs and such other relevant ordinances and regulations will apply to a PRC issuer.

**SECURITIES ARBITRATION RULES**

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

Any person wishing to have detailed advice on PRC laws or the laws of any jurisdiction is recommended to seek independent legal advice.