

THE PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

The PRC legal system is based on the PRC Constitution (中華人民共和國憲法) and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomy regulations, separate regulations, rules and regulations of State Council departments, rules and regulations of local governments and international treaties of which the PRC government is a signatory. Decided court cases do not constitute binding precedents, although they may be used for the purposes of judicial reference and guidance.

The National Peoples' Congress of the PRC ("NPC") and the Standing Committee of the NPC 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 and criminal matters 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 any parts of laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided such supplements and amendments are not in conflict with the basic principles of such laws. The Standing Committee of the NPC is empowered to interpret, enact and amend other laws not required to be enacted by the NPC.

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

The people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual requirements of their own respective administrative areas, subject to the constitution, laws and administrative regulations. The people's congresses of larger cities and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual requirements of such cities and take the same effect after submitting to the standing committee of the people's congresses of provinces or autonomous regions for approval. The standing committee of the people's congresses of 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 province or autonomous region concerned. Where conflicts with the rules and regulations of the People's Government of the province or autonomous region concerned are identified in the examination of local regulations of larger cities by the standing committee of the people's congresses of provinces or autonomous regions, a decision should be made to deal with the matter. "Larger cities" refer to cities where the people's governments of provinces or autonomous regions are located, cities where special economic zones are located and larger cities as approved by the State Council.

People's congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomy regulations and separate regulations in the light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality (nationalities) in the areas concerned. The autonomy regulations and separate regulations of autonomous regions shall be submitted to the Standing Committee of the NPC for approval before taking effect. The autonomous regulations and

separate regulations of the autonomous prefectures or counties shall be submitted to the standing committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities. Based on the characteristics of the local nationality (nationalities), adaptations to the provisions of laws and administrative regulations may be introduced to the autonomy regulations and separate regulations so long as they do not contravene the basic principles of the laws or administrative regulations, provided that no adaptations shall be made to specific provisions on national autonomous areas contained in the constitution, autonomy law of national areas and other relevant laws and administrative regulations.

The ministries, commissions, PBOC, National Audit Office of the State Council and institutions with administrative functions directly under the State Council may formulate department rules within the jurisdiction of their respective departments based on the laws and the administrative regulations, decisions and rulings of the State Council. Matters governed by the departmental rules and regulations should be those for the enforcement of the laws and administrative regulations, decisions and rulings of the State Council. The people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and larger cities may formulate rules based on the laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of such provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

According to the PRC Constitution, the power to interpret laws is vested in the Standing Committee of the NPC. According to the Decision of the Standing Committee of the NPC Regarding the Strengthening of Interpretation of Laws passed on June 10, 1981, the Supreme People's Court has the power to give general interpretation on questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in court trials. The State Council and its ministries and commissions are also vested with the power to give interpretation of the administrative regulations and department rules which they have promulgated. At the regional level, the power to give interpretations of the local laws and regulations as well as administrative rules is vested in the regional legislative and administrative organs which promulgate such laws, regulations and rules.

THE PRC JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Under the PRC Constitution and the Law of Organization of the People's Courts of the PRC (中華人民共和國法院組織法), the PRC judicial system is made up of the Supreme People's Court, the local people's courts, military courts and other special people's courts. The local people's courts are divided into three levels, namely, the primary people's courts, the intermediate people's courts and the high people's courts. The primary people's courts may set up civil, criminal, economic and administrative divisions. The intermediate people's courts have divisions similar to those of the primary people's courts and other special divisions (such as the intellectual property division). These two levels of people's courts are subject to supervision of the high people's courts. The people's procuratorates also have the right to exercise legal supervision over the civil proceedings of people's courts of the same level and lower levels. The Supreme People's Court is the highest trial organ of the PRC. It supervises the administration of justice by the people's courts at all levels.

The people's court shall apply the system whereby the second instance is final, i.e., the judgment or ruling of the second instance at a people's court is final. A party to the case concerned may appeal to the people's court at the next higher level against the judgment or ruling of the first instance. The people's procuratorate may appeal to the people's court at the next higher level in accordance with procedures stipulated by the laws. In the absence of any appeal by any parties to the case and any appeal by the people's procuratorate within the stipulated period, the judgment or ruling of the people's court shall be the final judgment or rulings. Judgments or rulings of the second instance of the intermediate people's courts, the higher people's courts and the Supreme People's Court are final. Judgments or rulings of the first instance of the Supreme People's Court are also final. If, however, the Supreme People's Court or a people's court at a higher level finds an error in a final and binding judgment which has taken effect in any people's court at a lower level, or the president of a people's court finds an error in a final and binding judgment which has taken effect in the court over which he presides, a retrial of the case may be conducted according to the adjudication supervision procedures.

The Civil Procedure Law of the PRC (the "**Civil Procedure Law**") adopted on April 9, 1991 and amended on October 28, 2007 prescribes the provisions for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people's courts, the procedures to be followed 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 comply with the Civil Procedure Law. A civil case is generally heard by a court located in the defendant's place of domicile. The competent court may also be selected by express agreement amongst the parties to a contract provided that the court selected is located at the plaintiff's or the defendant's place of domicile, the place of performing the contract or the place of executing the contract or the object of the action, provided that the provisions of the Civil Procedure Law regarding the level of jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction shall not be violated.

A foreign national or foreign enterprise is generally given the same litigation rights and obligations as a citizen or legal person of the PRC. Should a juridical system of a foreign country limit the litigation rights of PRC citizens and enterprises, subject to the principle of reciprocity, the PRC courts may apply the same limitations to the citizens and enterprises (in China) of that foreign country. If any party to a civil action refuses to comply with 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 a stipulated period. Should anyone be unable to execute the judgment of the people's court within a stipulated period, as a result of any party's application, the people's court shall enforce such a judgment in accordance with the law.

A party seeking to enforce a judgment or ruling of a people's court against a party who is not personally 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. Similarly, if the PRC has entered into a treaty relating to judicial enforcement with the relevant foreign country or a relevant international treaty, a foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced according to PRC enforcement procedures by a PRC court based on the equity principle unless the people's court considers that the recognition or enforcement of a judgment or ruling will violate the basic legal principles of the PRC or its sovereignty or national security, or social and public interest.

THE PRC COMPANY LAW, SPECIAL REGULATIONS AND MANDATORY PROVISIONS

The PRC Company Law was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Eighth NPC at its Fifth Meeting on December 29, 1993 and came into effect on July 1, 1994. It was amended thrice on December 25, 1999 and on August 28, 2004 and revised on October 27, 2005. The latest revised PRC Company Law came into effect on January 1, 2006.

The Special Regulations of the State Council on the Overseas Offering and Listing of Shares by Joint Stock Limited Companies (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 are formulated in respect of the overseas share subscription and listing of joint stock limited companies. The Mandatory Provisions of the Companies Seeking Overseas Listing (the “**Mandatory Provisions**”) promulgated by Securities Commission and the State Restructuring Commission on August 27, 1994 prescribe provisions which must be incorporated in the articles of association of joint stock limited companies to be listed on overseas stock exchanges. Accordingly, the Mandatory Provisions have been incorporated in the Articles of Association.

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

General

A “company” is a corporate legal person incorporated within the PRC 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 full amount of its assets and the liability of its shareholders is limited to the extent of the capital contributions subscribed or the shares subscribed respectively by them. Companies can be divided into two different categories: limited liability companies and joint stock limited liability companies.

Incorporation

A joint stock limited liability company may be incorporated by promotion or subscription. A joint stock limited liability company may be incorporated by a minimum of two but not more than two hundred promoters. At least half of the promoters must have residence within the PRC.

Joint stock limited liability companies incorporated by promotion are companies the entire registered capital of which is subscribed for by the promoters. The initial capital contribution by all promoters of the joint stock limited liability company shall not be less than 20% of the registered capital. The remainder shall be paid up within two years from the date of incorporation of the joint stock limited liability company by the promoters. For investment in joint stock limited liability companies, the remainder may be paid up within five years. Shares in the company shall not be offered to other persons unless the registered capital has

been paid up. For joint stock limited liability companies incorporated by public subscription, the registered capital is the amount of its total paid up capital as registered with the registration authorities. The minimum registered capital of a joint stock limited liability company is RMB5 million or as required by the laws or administrative regulations, whichever is higher.

For joint stock limited liability companies incorporated by way of promotion, the promoters shall subscribe in full in writing for shares required to be subscribed by them by the articles of association. The full amount of capital contribution shall be paid up if payments are made in one lump sum and the first installment shall be paid forthwith if payments are made in installments. Procedures relating to the transfer of title for 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 provision shall be liable for breach of contract in accordance with the covenants laid down in the promoters' agreement. After the promoters have completed the initial capital contribution, a board of directors and a supervisory committee shall be elected and the board of directors shall apply for registration of incorporation by filing the articles of association with the company registration authorities, together with a capital verification certificate issued by a capital verification institution established by law and other documents required by the law or administrative regulations.

Where joint stock limited liability companies are incorporated by subscription, not less than 35% of their total shares must be subscribed for by the promoters and the remainder can be subscribed for by the public or particular persons, unless otherwise provided for by the law or administrative regulations. A promoter who offers shares to the public must publish a prospectus and draft a share subscription form to be signed and sealed by subscribers, specifying the number and amount of shares to be subscribed for and their addresses. The subscribers shall pay up the amounts for the number of shares they have subscribed for. Where a promoter is offering shares to the public, such offer shall be underwritten by securities firms established by law, in relation to which underwriting agreements shall be signed. A promoter offering shares to the public shall also sign an agreement with a bank in relation to the receipt of subscription amounts. The receiving bank shall receive and keep in custody the subscription amounts, issue receipts to subscribers who have paid the subscription amounts and furnish evidence of receipt of subscription amounts to the relevant authorities. After the subscription amounts for the share issuance have been paid in full, a capital verification institution established by law must be engaged to conduct capital verification and furnish a report thereon. The promoters shall convene an inauguration meeting within thirty days and notify each subscriber of or publicly announce the date of the inaugural meeting no less than fifteen days in advance of the meeting. The inauguration meeting shall be held only if the promoters and subscribers representing more than half of the total shares issued are present. Where shares issued remain undersubscribed by the cut-off date stipulated in the share offering prospectus, or where the promoter fails to convene an inauguration meeting within thirty days after subscription amounts for the shares issued have been fully paid up, the subscribers may demand the promoter return the subscription amounts so paid up together with interest at bank rates payable for a deposit of an equivalent amount for the same term. Within thirty days after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the registration authority for registration of the establishment of the company.

A joint stock limited liability company is formally established and has the status of a legal person after the approval of registration has been given by the relevant administration bureau for industry and commerce and a business license has been issued.

A joint stock limited liability company's promoter shall bear the following liabilities:

- (i) Where the company cannot be incorporated, they shall bear the joint and several liability for all the debts and expenses incurred in the act of incorporation;
- (ii) Where the company cannot be incorporated, they shall bear the joint and several liability for refunding the subscription monies paid by the subscribers, plus their bank deposit interest calculated for the same period of time; and
- (iii) Where the interests of the company are impaired due to the fault committed by the promoters in the process of the incorporation of the company, they shall bear the liability to pay compensation to the company.

Share capital

The promoter of a joint stock limited liability company may make capital contribution in currencies, or in kind or by way of injection of assets, intellectual property rights or land use rights based on their appraised value, and may also convert lawfully transferred non-monetary assets into capital contribution with a monetary value, save for assets prohibited to be contributed as capital by the law or administrative regulations. If a capital contribution is made other than in cash, a valuation and verification of the asset contributed must be carried out without any overvaluation or under-valuation, subject to any provisions of the law or administrative regulations on valuation. The amount of monetary contribution by all shareholders shall not be less than 30% of the registered capital of the company.

A joint stock limited liability company may issue registered or bearer share certificates. The Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that shares issued to foreign investors and listed overseas be issued in registered form and shall be denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in foreign currency. Shares issued to foreign investors from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan and listed in Hong Kong are classified as H Shares, and those shares issued to investors within the PRC other than the territories specified above are known as domestic shares. Under the Special Regulations, upon approval of the 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 H Shares proposed to be issued besides the amount of underwritten shares. The share offering price may be equal to or greater than the par value, but may not be less than the par value.

Increase in share capital

According to the PRC Company Law, the issuance of shares shall be conducted in a fair and equitable manner. Shares in the same class shall rank *pari passu* with one another. Shares of the same class in the same offer shall be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. The same price per share shall be paid by any units or individuals subscribing for shares.

When a joint stock limited liability company is issuing new shares, resolutions shall be passed by a shareholders' general meeting, approving the class and number of the new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end of the new share issue and the class and amount of new shares to be issued to existing shareholders. When a joint stock limited company launches a public issue of new shares with the approval of the securities regulatory authorities under the State Council, a new share offering prospectus and financial accounting report must be published and a subscription form must be prepared. After the new share issuance of the company has been paid up, the change must be registered with the company registration authorities and an announcement must be made. Where a joint stock limited liability company is issuing new shares to increase its registered capital, the subscription of new shares by shareholders shall be conducted in accordance with provisions on the payment of subscription amounts in relation to the incorporation of the company.

Besides the PRC Company Law's provision that the issue of new shares shall be approved by a shareholders' general meeting, the Securities Law also stipulates that any company that makes an initial public offer (IPO) of its stock shall: (i) have a sound organizational structure and be well-operated; (ii) have a profitable outlook and be of sound financial status; (iii) have no record of having filed any false financial statement in the previous three years or any other major legal irregularity; and (iv) meet any other State Council-approved requirement prescribed by the securities regulatory authority under the State Council.

Reduction of share capital

Subject to the minimum registered capital requirements, a joint stock limited liability company may reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures prescribed by the PRC Company Law: (i) the joint stock limited liability company shall prepare a balance sheet and a property list; (ii) the reduction of registered capital must be approved by shareholders in a shareholders' general meeting; (iii) the joint stock limited liability company shall inform its creditors of the reduction in capital within ten days and publish an announcement of the reduction in the newspaper within thirty days after the resolution approving the reduction has been passed; (iv) the creditors of the company may within the statutory prescribed time limit require the company to pay its debts or provide guarantees covering the debts; and (v) the company must apply to the relevant administration bureau for industry and commence the registration of the reduction in registered capital.

Repurchase of shares

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

(i) to reduce its registered share capital; (ii) to merge with another company that holds its shares; (iii) to grant shares to its employees as incentives; (iv) to purchase its own shares from its shareholders who are against the resolution regarding the merger or demerger with other company in a shareholders' general meeting; and (v) such other purposes permitted by law and administrative regulations. The company's acquisition of its own shares on the grounds set out in (i) to (iii) above shall require approval by way of a resolution passed in a shareholders' general meeting. Following the company's acquisition of its shares in accordance with the foregoing, such shares shall be canceled within ten days from the date of acquisition in the case of (i) and transferred or canceled within six months in the case of (ii) or (iv).

Shares acquired by the company in accordance with (iii) under paragraph one of this section shall not exceed 5% of the total number of issued shares of the company. Such acquisition shall be financed by funds appropriated from the company's profit after taxation, and the shares so acquired shall be transferred to the employees of the company within one year.

Transfer of shares

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. A shareholder may only effect a transfer of its shares on a stock exchange established in accordance with law or by other ways as required by the State Council. Registered shares may be transferred after the shareholders endorse their signatures on the back of the share certificates or in any other manner specified by the law or administrative regulations. Following the transfer, the company shall enter the name of the transferee and its address into the share register. The transfer of bearer's share certificate shall become effective upon the delivery of such share certificate to the transferee by the shareholder. Subject to the PRC Company Law, no changes of registration in the share register provided in the foregoing shall be effected during a period of twenty days prior to the convening of the shareholders' general meeting or five days prior to the record day 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. Subject to the Mandatory Provisions, the shareholders' register may not be modified within the thirty days preceding the shareholder's general meeting or within the five days preceding any ex-dividend date fixed by the company.

Shares held by a promoter may not be transferred within one year after the company's establishment. Shares of the company issued prior to the public issue of shares shall not be transferred within one year from 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 the company and any changes in such shareholdings. During their term of office, they shall transfer no more than 25% of the shares they hold in the company. They shall not transfer the shares they hold within one year from the date of the company's listing on a stock exchange, nor within six months after they have resigned from their positions with the company. The articles of association may lay down other restrictive provisions in respect of the transfer of shares in the company held by the directors, supervisors and the senior management of the company.

Shareholders

A shareholder's rights and duties are all stipulated in the company's articles of association, which is binding on all shareholders.

Under the PRC Company Law and the Mandatory Provisions, the rights of a shareholder include:

- (i) to attend shareholders' general meetings and exercise the voting rights on the basis of the number of the shares held by such shareholder personally or appoint an agent to attend such meetings and exercise the rights referred to hereinabove;

- (ii) to transfer the shares held by such shareholder subject to the applicable laws, regulations and the company's articles of association;
- (iii) to bring an action in the people's court to rescind the resolution when any law or administrative regulation or any legal right or interest of any shareholder is violated by a resolution passed by the shareholders' general meeting or the board of directors;
- (iv) to inspect the articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of shareholders' general meetings, board resolutions, resolutions of the supervisory committee and financial and accounting reports and to make proposals or enquiries in respect of the company's operations;
- (v) to receive dividends in respect of the number of shares held;
- (vi) to receive residual properties of the company in proportion to their shareholdings upon the liquidation of the company; and
- (vii) any other shareholders' rights provided for in the articles of association.

The obligations of a shareholder 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 him and any other shareholders' obligation specified in the company's articles of association.

Shareholders' general meetings

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

The shareholders' general meeting exercises the following principal powers:

- (i) to decide on the company's operational policies and investment plans;
- (ii) to elect or remove the directors and supervisors (that are not staff representatives) and to decide on matters relating to the remuneration of directors and supervisors;
- (iii) to examine and approve reports of the board of directors;
- (iv) to examine and approve reports of the supervisory committee or supervisor;
- (v) to examine and approve the company's proposed annual financial budget and final accounts;
- (vi) to examine and approve the company's proposals for profit distribution plans and recovery of losses;

- (vii) to decide on any increase or reduction of the company's registered capital;
- (viii) to decide on the issue of bonds by the company;
- (ix) to decide on issues such as merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company and other matters;
- (x) to amend the company's articles of association; and
- (xi) other powers as provided for in the articles of association.

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

- (i) the number of directors is less than the number stipulated by the law or less than two-thirds of the number specified in the articles of association;
- (ii) the aggregate losses of the company which are not recovered reach one third of the company's total paid-in share capital;
- (iii) when shareholders alone or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the company's shares request the convening of an extraordinary general meeting;
- (iv) whenever the board of directors deems necessary;
- (v) when the supervisory committee so requests; or
- (vi) other circumstances as provided for in the articles of association.

Shareholders' general meetings 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 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 not performing his duties, a director nominated by more than half of directors shall preside over the meeting. Where the board of directors is incapable of performing or not performing its duties of convening the shareholders' general meeting, the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over such meeting in a timely manner. In case the supervisory committee fails to convene and preside over such meeting, shareholders alone or in aggregate holding more than 10% of the company's shares for ninety days consecutively may unilaterally convene and preside over such meeting.

Subject to the PRC Company Law, notice of the shareholders' general meeting stating the time and venue of and matters to be considered at the meeting shall be given to all shareholders twenty days before the meeting. Notice of extraordinary general meetings shall be given to all shareholders fifteen days prior to the meeting. Notice of the issuance of bearer's share shall be

announced thirty days before the meeting. Subject to the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions, such notice shall be delivered to all the shareholders forty five days in advance, and the matters to be considered at the meeting shall be specified. Subject to the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions, the confirmation letter of the shareholders planning to attend the meeting shall be delivered to the company twenty days in advance of the meeting. Moreover, subject to the Special Regulations, shareholders holding more than 5% of the company's shares may put forward a new proposal in writing for discussion at the shareholder's annual meeting, and if the proposal falls within the purview of the meeting, it shall be placed on the agenda of that 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 shareholders' general meeting must be adopted by more than half of the voting rights held by shareholders present at the meeting, with the exception of matters relating to merger, division, dissolution of a company or amendments to the articles of association, which must be adopted by more than 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 a company must be approved by way of resolution of the shareholders' general meeting, the directors shall convene a shareholders' general meeting promptly to vote on the above matters. The accumulative voting system may be adopted pursuant to the provisions of the articles of association or a resolution of the shareholders' general meeting for the election of directors and supervisors at the shareholders' general meeting. Under the accumulative voting system, each share shall be entitled to votes equivalent to the number of directors or supervisors to be elected at the shareholders' general meeting and shareholders may consolidate their voting rights when casting a vote.

Minutes shall be prepared in respect of matters considered at the shareholders' general meeting and the president of the meeting and directors attending the meeting shall sign to endorse such minutes. 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 issue of shares of any class, warrants or other similar securities, and bonds or debentures, the liquidation of the company and any other matters in respect of which the shareholders by ordinary resolution so decide, must be approved through special resolutions by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by shareholders 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' meeting, although the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that a company's annual general meeting may be convened when replies to the notice of that meeting from shareholders holding shares representing 50% of the voting rights in the company have been received twenty days before the proposed date, or if that 50% level is not achieved, the company shall within five days of the last day for receipt of the replies notify shareholders again by public announcement of the matters to be considered at the meeting and the date and place of the meeting and the annual general meeting may be held thereafter. The Mandatory Provisions require class meetings to be held in the event of a variation or derogation of the class rights of a class.

Directors

A company shall have a board of directors, which shall consist of five to 19 members. Members of the board of directors may include staff representatives of the company, who shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the 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 duties in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and articles of association until a re-elected director takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his 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 exercises the following powers:

- (i) to convene the shareholders' general meetings and report on its work to the shareholders' general meetings;
- (ii) to implement the resolutions passed in general meetings;
- (iii) to decide on the company's business plans and investment proposals;
- (iv) to formulate the company's proposed annual financial budget and final accounts;
- (v) to formulate the company's profit distribution proposals and for recovery of losses;
- (vi) to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of the company's registered capital and the issuance of corporate bonds;
- (vii) to prepare plans for the merger, division or dissolution of the company;
- (viii) to decide on the company's internal management structure;
- (ix) to appoint or dismiss the company's general manager and based on the general manager's recommendation, to appoint or dismiss the deputy general managers and financial officers of the company and to decide on their remuneration;
- (x) to formulate the company's basic management system; and
- (xi) to exercise any other power under the articles of association.

Meetings of the board of directors shall be convened at least twice a year. Notice of meeting shall be given to all directors and supervisors ten days before the meeting. Interim board meetings may be convened by shareholders representing more than 10% of voting rights, more than one third of the directors or the supervisory committee. The chairman shall convene

and preside over such meeting within ten days after receiving such proposal. The board of directors may provide for a different method of giving notice and notice period for convening an extraordinary meeting of the board of directors. Meetings of the board of directors shall be held only if half or more of the directors are present. Resolutions of the board of directors require the approval of more than half of all directors. Each director shall have one vote for resolutions to be approved by the board of directors. Directors shall attend board meetings in person. If a director is unable to attend a board meeting, he may appoint another director by a written power of attorney specifying the scope of the authorization to attend the meeting on his behalf.

If a resolution of the board of directors violates the law, administrative regulations or the company's articles of association, 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 objections were recorded in the minutes of the meeting, such director may be relieved from that liability.

Under the PRC Company Law, the following persons may not serve as a director of a company:

- (i) persons without civil capacity or with restricted civil capacity;
- (ii) persons who have committed the offence of corruption, bribery, taking of property, misappropriation of property or destruction of the social economic order, and have been sentenced to criminal punishment, where less than five years have elapsed since the date of completion of the sentence; or persons who have been deprived of their political rights due to criminal offence, where less than five years have elapsed since the date of the completion of implementation of this deprivation;
- (iii) persons who are former directors, factory managers or managers of a company or enterprise which has become bankrupt and has been liquidated and who are personally liable for the bankruptcy 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) persons who were legal representatives of a company or enterprise which had its business license revoked due to violation of the law and who are personally liable, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the revocation of the business license; and
- (v) persons who have a relatively large amount of debts due and outstanding.

The election, appointment or engagement of directors elected or appointed by the company in violation of the aforesaid provisions shall be null and void. If one of these restrictions becomes applicable to a director during his term of office, such director shall be released of his 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 of directors shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman are elected with approval of more than half of all the directors. The chairman shall convene and preside over board meetings and examine the implementation of board resolutions. The vice chairman shall assist in the work of the chairman. In the event that the chairman is not performing his duties, the duties shall be performed by the vice chairman. In the event that the vice chairman is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, a director nominated by more than half of directors shall perform his duties.

Supervisors

A company shall have a supervisory committee composed of not less than three members. The supervisory committee is made up of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the company's staff. The actual proportion shall be stipulated in the articles of association, provided that the proportion of representatives of the company's staff shall not be less than one-third of the directors and officers may not act concurrently as supervisors. Representatives of the company's staff and workers at the supervisory committee shall be democratically elected at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The supervisory committee shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman of the supervisory committee are elected with approval of more than half of all the supervisors. The chairman of the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over supervisory committee meetings. In the event that the chairman of the supervisory committee is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, the vice chairman of the supervisory committee shall convene and preside over supervisory committee meetings. In the event that the vice chairman of the supervisory committee is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, a supervisor nominated by more than half of supervisors shall convene and preside over supervisory committee meetings.

Each term of office of a supervisor is three years and he or she may serve consecutive terms if reelected. A supervisor shall continue to perform his duties in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and 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 term of office or if the resignation of supervisors results in the number of supervisor being less than the quorum.

The supervisory committee exercises the following powers:

- (i) to review the company's financial position;
- (ii) to supervise the directors and officers in their performance of their duties and to propose the removal of directors and officers who have violated laws, regulations, the articles of association or shareholders' resolution;

- (iii) when the acts of directors and officers are harmful to the company's interests, to require correction of these acts;
- (iv) to propose the convening of extraordinary shareholders' general meetings and to convene and preside over shareholders' meetings when the board of directors fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over shareholders' meeting under this law;
- (v) make proposals for resolutions to shareholders' general meeting;
- (vi) to initiate proceedings against directors and officers; and
- (vii) other powers specified in the articles of association.

Supervisors may be in attendance at board meetings and make enquiries or proposals in respect of board resolutions. The supervisory committee or (where there is no supervisory committee) the supervisors of a company may initiate investigations into any irregularities identified in the operation of the company and, where necessary, may engage an accountant to assist in their work at the company's expense.

Managers and officers

A company shall have a manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors. The manager shall report to the board of directors and may exercise the following powers:

- (i) supervise the production, business and administration of the company and arrange for the implementation of resolutions of the board of directors;
- (ii) arrange for the implementation of the company's annual business and investment plans;
- (iii) formulate plans for the establishment of the company's internal management structure;
- (iv) formulate the basic administration system of the company;
- (v) formulate the company's internal rules;
- (vi) recommend the appointment and dismissal of deputy managers and any financial controller;
- (vii) appoint or dismiss other administration officers (other than those required to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors); and
- (viii) other powers conferred by the board of directors or the articles of association.

Other provisions of the articles of association concerning the general manager's powers shall also be complied with. The general manager shall be in attendance at board meetings.

According to the PRC Company Law, officers shall mean the general manager, deputy general manager(s), financial controller, board secretaries (in case of a listed company) of a company and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

Duties of the directors, supervisors, general managers and other officers

Directors, supervisors, managers and officers of a company are required under the PRC Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the articles of association, and carry out their duties honestly and diligently. Directors, supervisors, managers and officers are prohibited from abusing their powers to accept bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating the company's properties. Directors and officers are prohibited from:

- (i) misappropriation of company funds;
- (ii) deposit of company funds into accounts under his own name or the name of other individuals;
- (iii) loaning company funds to others or providing guarantees in favor of others supported by the company properties in violation of the articles of association or without prior approval of the shareholders' meeting, shareholders' general meeting or board of directors;
- (iv) entering into contracts or deals with the company in violation of the articles of association or without prior approval of the shareholders' meeting, shareholders' general meeting or board of directors;
- (v) using their position and powers to procure business opportunities for themselves or others that should have otherwise been available to the company or operating for their own benefit or managing on behalf of others businesses similar to that of the company without prior approval of the shareholders' meeting or the shareholders' general meeting;
- (vi) accepting for their own benefit commissions from a third party dealing with the company;
- (vii) unauthorized divulgence of confidential business information of the company; or
- (viii) other acts in violation of their duty of loyalty to the company.

Income generated by directors or officers in violation of the foregoing provisions shall be reverted to the company.

A director, supervisor or officer who contravenes any law, regulation or the company's articles of association in the performance of his duties resulting in any loss to the company shall be personally liable to the company.

Where the attendance of a director, supervisor or officer is requested by the shareholders' general meeting, such director, supervisor or officer shall attend the meeting as requested and answer enquiries of shareholders.

Directors and officers should furnish with all truthful facts and information to the supervisory committee or the supervisor (for companies with limited liability that do not have supervisory committees) without obstructing the discharge of duties by the supervisory committee or the supervisors.

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

Finance and accounting

A company shall establish its financial and accounting systems according to laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the responsible financial department of the State Council and at the end of each financial year prepare a financial report which shall be audited by an accountant as provided by law. The financial and accounting report shall be prepared in accordance with provisions of the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council.

The financial report of a liability limited company shall be delivered to all the shareholders within the time limit stipulated in the company's articles. A joint stock limited liability company shall deposit its financial statements at the company for inspection by the shareholders at least twenty days before the convening of an annual general meeting of shareholders. A joint stock limited liability company issuing its shares in public must publish its financial statements.

When distributing each year's after-tax profits, the company shall set aside 10% of its after-tax profits for the company's statutory surplus common reserve fund (except where the fund has reached 50% of the company's registered capital). When the company's statutory common reserve fund is not sufficient to make up for the company's losses of the previous year, current year profits shall be used to make good the losses before allocating such profits. After the company has made appropriations to the statutory common reserve fund from its after-tax profit, it may, with the approval of the shareholders' meeting or the shareholders' general meeting by way of resolution, make further appropriations from its after-tax profit to the discretionary common reserve fund. After the company has made good its losses and made allocations to its common reserve fund, the remaining profits are distributed in proportion to the number of shares held by the shareholders, or in other manner. Profit distributed to shareholders by the shareholders' meeting or shareholders' general meeting or the board of directors before losses have been made good and appropriations have been made to the statutory commons reserve fund in violation of the foregoing provisions must be returned to the company. Company shares held by the company shall not be entitled to any distribution of profit.

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

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

Appointment and retirement of auditors

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, the appointment or dismissal of accountants responsible for the company's auditing shall be determined in a shareholders' meeting, shareholders' general meeting or the board of directors in accordance with the articles of association. The accountant should be allowed to make representations when the shareholders' meeting, the shareholders' general meeting or board of directors is going to conduct a vote on the dismissal of the accountant. The company should provide true and complete accounting evidences, books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting data to the accountant it hires without any refusal, withholding and false information.

The Special Regulations require a company to employ an independent qualified firm of accountants to audit the company's annual report and review and check other financial reports. The accountant's term of office shall commence at the end of the annual general meeting of the company's shareholders and it shall expire at the end of the next annual general meeting of the company's shareholders.

Distribution of profits

According to the PRC Company Law, the company shall not distribute profits before losses are covered and the statutory common reserve is drawn. Under the Mandatory Provisions, the payment of foreign currency to shareholders shall be made through a receiving agent.

Amendment of articles of association

Any amendments to the articles of association must be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in applicable laws, regulations and the articles of association. Any amendment of provisions incorporated in the articles of association in accordance with the Mandatory Provisions will only be effective after approved by the company's approval department authorized by the CSRC and the State Council and filed with the State Administration of Industry and Commerce or any of its local bureaus for registration. If the amendment to the articles of association needs to be registered and filed and has been adopted, the company must process registration of changes in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Dissolution and liquidation

According to the PRC Company Law, a company shall be dissolved by reason of the following:

- (i) the term of its operations set down in the company's articles of association has expired or other events of dissolution specified in the company's articles of association have occurred;
- (ii) the shareholders in general meeting have resolved to dissolve the company;
- (iii) the company is dissolved by reason of its merger or demerger;
- (iv) the business license is invalidated; the operation is suspended, or the company is dissolved as ordered; or
- (v) the company is dissolved by the people's court in response to the request of shareholders holding shares that represent more than 10% of the voting rights of all shareholders of the company, on the grounds that the operation of the company experiences serious difficulties that cannot be resolved through other means, rendering ongoing existence of the company a source of significant losses for shareholders.

In the event of (i) above, the company may carry on its existence by amending its articles of association. The amendment of the articles of association in accordance with provisions set out in the previous paragraph shall require approval of shareholders holding more than two-thirds of voting rights in the case of companies with limited liability and more than two-thirds of voting rights of shareholders attending a shareholders' general meeting in the case of a joint stock limited liability company.

Where the company is dissolved in the circumstances described in (i), (ii), (iv) or (v) above, a liquidation committee shall be established and liquidation within fifteen days after the occurrence of an event of dissolution.

Members of the liquidation committee of a joint stock limited liability company shall be composed of its directors or the person appointed by the shareholders' general meeting. If a liquidation committee is not established within the stipulated period, the company's creditors can apply to the people's court, requesting the court to appoint relevant personnel to form the liquidation committee. The people's court should accept such application and form a liquidation committee to conduct a liquidation in a timely manner.

The liquidation committee shall exercise the following powers during the liquidation period:

- (i) to handle the company's assets and to prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of the assets;
- (ii) to notify creditors or issue public notices;
- (iii) to deal with the company's outstanding businesses related to liquidation;
- (iv) to pay any tax overdue as well as tax amounts arising from the process of liquidation;
- (v) claiming credits and paying off debts;
- (vi) to handle the surplus assets of the company after its debts have been paid off; and
- (vii) to represent the company in civil lawsuits.

The liquidation committee shall notify the company's creditors within ten days after its establishment, and issue public notices in the newspapers within sixteen days. A creditor shall lodge his claim with the liquidation committee within thirty days after receiving notification, or within forty five days of the public notice if he does not receive any notification. A creditor shall state all matters relevant to his creditor rights in making his claim and furnish evidence. The liquidation committee shall register such creditor rights. The liquidation committee shall not make any debt settlement to creditors during the period of claim.

Upon liquidation of the company's properties and the preparation of the balance sheet and inventory of assets, the liquidation committee shall draw up a liquidation plan to be submitted to the shareholders' meeting, shareholders' general meeting or people's court for endorsement.

The remaining assets of the company after payment of liquidation expenses, wages, social insurance expenses and statutory compensation, outstanding taxes and the company's debt shall be distributed to shareholders according to their proportion of capital contribution in the case of companies with limited liability and according to shareholding proportion in the case of joint stock limited liability companies. The company shall continue to exist during the liquidation period, although it can only engage in any operating activities that are related to the liquidation. The company's properties shall not be distributed to the shareholders before repayment are made in accordance to the foregoing provisions.

Upon liquidation of the company's properties and the preparation of the 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 immediately apply to the people's court for a declaration for bankruptcy.

Following such declaration, the liquidation committee shall hand over all affairs of the liquidation to the people's court.

Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation committee shall submit a liquidation report to the shareholders' meeting, shareholders' general meeting or the court for verification. Thereafter, the report shall be submitted to the company's registration authority in order to cancel the company's registration, and a public notice of its termination shall be issued. Members of the liquidation committee are required to discharge their duties honestly and in compliance with the relevant laws. Members of the liquidation committee shall be prohibited from making of their powers to accept bribes or other unlawful income and from appropriating the company's properties.

A member of the liquidation committee is liable to indemnify the company and its creditors in respect of any loss arising from his willful or material default.

Securities Law and Regulations and Regulatory Regimes

Since 1992, the PRC has promulgated a number of regulations in relation to the issue and trading of shares and disclosure of information. In October 1992, the Securities Commission and the CSRC were established under the State Council. The Securities Commission is responsible for coordinating the drafting of relevant laws and regulations on securities, formulating policies on securities affairs, planning the development of securities markets and guiding, coordinating and regulating all PRC institutions involved in securities affairs and supervising the CSRC. The CSRC is the regulatory and execution arm of the Securities Commission and is responsible for drafting regulations governing the securities market, supervising securities companies, regulating the domestic and overseas public issue of securities by PRC companies, supervising securities trading, compiling securities related statistics and conducted research and analysis. In 1998, the State Council decided to cancel the Securities Commission of the State Council and the functions of the Securities Commission was assumed by the CSRC.

On December 25, 1995, the State Council promulgated the Regulations of the State Council Concerning Domestic Listed Foreign Shares of Joint Stock Limited Liability Companies. These regulations deal mainly with the issue, subscription, trading, declaration of dividends and other distributions of domestic listed foreign shares and the disclosure of information of joint stock limited liability companies having domestic listed foreign shares.

On December 29, 1998, the Standing Committee of the NPC promulgated the Securities Law which came into effect on July 1, 1999. This is the first national securities law in the PRC and is the fundamental law comprehensively regulating activities in the PRC securities market. On August 28, 2004 and October 27, 2005, the Securities Law was respectively revised twice. The Securities Law is applicable to the issuance and trading of shares in the PRC, company bonds and other securities designated by the State Council according to law, and provisions of the issuance and transaction of securities, acquisitions of listed companies, stock exchanges, security companies and the duties and responsibilities of securities regulatory authority under the State Council, etc.

Where the Securities Law does not apply, the provisions of the PRC Company Law and other applicable laws and administrative regulations will apply.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL

The SAFE promulgated the “Notice of SAFE on the Relevant Issues concerning Foreign Exchange Administration of Foreign Investment by Funds Management Companies and Securities Companies” (國家外匯管理局關於基金管理公司和證券公司境外證券投資外匯管理有關問題的通知) on September 29, 2009, which regulates the exchange control for investments in overseas securities by domestic fund management companies and securities companies. For securities operating institutions which possess the qualification to engage in foreign exchange business to conduct investments in overseas securities, they shall apply to SAFE for investment quotas; SAFE adopts the method of quota balance in managing the investment quotas, the net amount remitted by a securities operating institution shall not exceed the approved investment quota, a securities institution is not allowed to transfer or sell its investment quota to other institutions in any form; a securities operating institution may raise foreign exchange funds from the domestic investors, or it may raise capital in RMB from the domestic investors to purchase foreign currency for investments in overseas securities, domestic investors are not allowed to purchase the relevant products issued by securities operating institutions with foreign currencies; a securities company shall, within seven working days after establishment of each product, report to SAFE the situations such as the actual size and source of funds of the product, a securities operating institution shall, within seven working days after the end of each month, report to SAFE the aggregate data on overseas securities investments by that institution, a domestic custodian shall, within seven working days after the end of each month, report to SAFE the relevant data for investments in overseas securities by the securities operating institutions under the custody. Securities operating institutions and domestic custodians shall discharge their declaration responsibilities in accordance with the relevant provisions of the declaration of international balance of payment statistics.

In accordance with the “Provisions on the Foreign Exchange Administration of Domestic Securities Investments by Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors” (合格境外機構投資者境內證券投資外匯管理規定) which came into force on September 29, 2009, the administration of quota on domestic securities investments by qualified foreign institutional investors (“QFII”) has been implemented. The investment quota applied for by a QFII shall be worth no less than USD50 million each time, with the accumulative investment quota not exceeding USD1 billion and the aforesaid quota may be subject to adjustment. A QFII shall not file another application for increase of investment quota within one year after the approval of the previous investment quota. The lock-in period for deposit for the QFIIs of pension fund, insurance fund, publicly-raised fund, charity fund, donation fund and government and currency administration and the open-ended Chinese fund established by QFIIs shall be three months; and that of deposit for other QFIIs shall be one year. A custodian should go through a filing in the foreign exchange bureau where the custodian is domiciled within five working days upon the opening of the QFII foreign exchange account and the special RMB account, submit the official custody agreement to SAFE and receive the “Foreign Exchange Registration Certificate” (外匯登記證) for the QFII. The “Provisions on the Foreign Exchange Administration of Domestic Securities Investments by Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors” has also listed out details regarding QFII account management, currency exchange management as well as statistics and supervision issues.