# **APPENDIX VI:**

## **TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE**

#### TAXATION OF THE COMPANY BY THE PRC

#### **Income Tax**

From January 1, 1994, income tax payable by PRC domestic enterprises, including state-owned enterprises and share system enterprises, is governed by the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Provisional Regulations (the "EIT Regulations") which took effect from 1 January 1994, and which provide for an income tax rate of 33% unless a lower rate is provided by law, administrative regulations or State Council regulations. The Company is generally subject to tax at a rate of 33% pursuant to the EIT Regulations.

On 16 March 2007, the 10th National People's Congress adopted the resolution to revise the EIT Regulations. The New Enterprise Income Tax was come into effect on 1 January 2008, according to which the enterprise income tax rate in the PRC will be reduced from 33% to 25% and is in line with the rate applicable to foreign investment enterprises and foreign enterprises. At the same time, the Income Tax Law of the PRC Concerning Foreign Investment Enterprises and Foreign Enterprises and the EIT Regulations have ceased to be effective.

Sino-foreign joint ventures will be entitled to certain tax benefits during a term of transition under the relevant laws and regulations in the PRC.

### Value-added Tax

Pursuant to the Provisional Regulations of the PRC Concerning Value Added Tax (《中華人民共和國增值税暫行條例》) effective from January 1, 1994 which was amended in November 2008 and their implementing rules, the sale of products within the PRC, the importation of products and the provision of processing and/or repair services within the PRC by the Company are subject to value-added tax ("VAT"). VAT payable is calculated as "output VAT" minus "input VAT". Input VAT payable by the Company on purchases is recoverable out of the output VAT collected from its customers, and any excess of output VAT over input VAT paid is payable to the tax authority. The rate of VAT is 17%, or, in certain limited circumstances, 13%, depending on the product type.

#### **Business Tax**

Pursuant to the Provisional Regulations of the PRC Concerning Business Tax (《中華人民共和國營業税暫行條例》) effective from January 1, 1994 which was amended in November 2008 and the relevant implementing rules, a business tax is imposed on enterprises which provide taxable services, transfer intangible property or sell real estate in the PRC. The business tax is levied at a rate from 3% to 20% on the provision of taxable services, transfer of intangible property or sale of real estate in the PRC.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL

The lawful currency of the PRC is the Renminbi, which is subject to foreign exchange controls and is not freely convertible into foreign exchange at this time. SAFE, under the authority of the PBOC, is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange control regulations.

Prior to December 31, 1993, a quota system was used for the management of foreign currency. Any enterprise requiring foreign currency was required to obtain a quota from the local SAFE office before it could convert Renminbi into foreign currency through the PBOC or other designated banks. Such conversion had to be effected at the official rate prescribed by the SAFE on a daily basis. Renminbi could also be converted into foreign currency at swap centers. The exchange rates used by swap centers were largely determined by the demand for, and

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supply of, foreign currencies and the Renminbi requirements of enterprises in the PRC. Any enterprise that wished to buy or sell foreign currency at a swap center first had to obtain the approval of the SAFE.

On December 28, 1993, the PBOC, under the authority of the State Council, promulgated the Notice of the People's Bank of China Concerning Further Reform of the Foreign Currency Control System (《中國人民銀行關於進一步改革外匯管理體制的公告》) (the "Notice"), effective from January 1, 1994. The Notice announces the abolition of the system of foreign exchange quotas, the implementation of conditional convertibility of Renminbi in current account items, the establishment of the system of settlement and payment of foreign exchange by banks, and the unification of the official Renminbi exchange rate and the market rate for Renminbi established at swap centers. On March 26, 1994, the PBOC promulgated the Provisional Regulations for the Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (the "Provisional Regulations"). The Provisional Regulations set out detailed provisions regulating the sale and purchase of foreign exchange by enterprises, economic organizations and social organizations in the PRC.

On January 29, 1996, the State Council promulgated new Regulation of Foreign Exchange (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) (the "Foreign Exchange Regulations") which was effective from April 1, 1996. The Control of Foreign Exchange Regulations classify all international payments and transfers into current account items and capital account items. Most of the current account items are no longer subject to the approval from the SAFE while capital account items still are. The Control of Foreign Exchange Regulations were subsequently amended on January 14, 1997 and on August 1, 2008. This latest amendment affirmatively states that the State shall not restrict international current account payments and transfers.

On June 20, 1996, the PBOC promulgated the Regulations for Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (《結匯、售匯及付匯管理規定》) (the "Settlement Regulations") which took effect on July 1, 1996. The Settlement Regulations superseded the Provisional Regulations and abolished the remaining restrictions on convertibility of foreign exchange in respect of current account items while retaining the existing restrictions on foreign exchange transactions in respect of capital account items. On the basis of the Settlement Regulations, the PBOC also published the Announcement on the Implementation of Foreign Exchange Settlement and Sale at Banks by Foreign-invested Enterprises (《關於對外資企業實施銀行結匯與售匯的通知》) (the "Announcement").

The Announcement permits foreign-invested enterprises to open, on the basis of their needs, foreign exchange settlement accounts for current account receipts and payments of foreign exchange along with specialized accounts for capital account receipts and payments at designated foreign exchange banks.

On October 25, 1998, the PBOC and the SAFE promulgated the Notice Concerning Closure of the Foreign Exchange Swap Business Activities (《關於停辦外匯調劑業務的通知》) pursuant to which and with effect from December 1, 1998, all foreign exchange swapping business in the PRC for foreign-invested enterprises shall be discontinued, while the trading of foreign exchange by foreign-invested enterprise shall come under the banking system for the settlement and sale of foreign exchange.

Since January 1, 1994, the former dual exchange rate system for Renminbi has been abolished and replaced by a managed floating exchange rate system, which is determined by demand and supply. The PBOC sets and publishes daily the Renminbi-U.S. dollar base exchange rate. This exchange rate is determined with reference to the transaction price for Renminbi-U.S. dollar in the inter-bank foreign exchange market on the previous day. The PBOC will also, with reference to exchange rates in the international foreign exchange market, announce the exchange rates of Renminbi against other major currencies. In foreign exchange transactions, designated foreign exchange banks may, within a specified range, freely determine the applicable exchange rate in accordance with the exchange rate announced by the PBOC.

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On July 21, 2005, the PBOC announced that from the same date, the PRC would implement a managed floating exchange rate system based on market supply and demand and with reference to a basket of currencies. Therefore, the Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar only. The PBOC would announce the closing price of a foreign currency such as the U.S. dollar against the Renminbi in the inter-bank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each working day. This closing price will be used as the middle price for quoting the Renminbi exchange rate on the following working day.

Since January 4, 2006, the PBOC improved the method of generating the middle price for quoting the Renminbi exchange rate by introducing an enquiry system while keeping the match-making system in the interbank spot foreign exchange market. In addition, the PBOC provided liquidity in the foreign exchange market by introducing the market-making system in the inter-bank foreign exchange market. After the introduction of the enquiry system, the generation of the middle price for quoting the Renminbi was transformed to a mechanism under which the PBOC authorized the China Foreign Exchange Trading System to determine and announce the middle price for quoting the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar, based on the enquiry system, at 9:15 am on each business day.

Save for foreign-invested enterprises or other enterprises which are specially exempted by relevant regulations, all entities in the PRC must sell their foreign exchange recurrent income to designated foreign exchange banks. Foreign exchange income from loans issued by organizations outside the territory or from the issuance of bonds and shares (for example foreign exchange income received by the Company from the sale of shares overseas) is not required to be sold to designated foreign exchange banks, but may be deposited in foreign exchange accounts at the designated foreign exchange banks.

PRC enterprises (including foreign-invested enterprises) which require foreign exchange for transactions relating to current account items, may, without the approval of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, effect payment from their foreign exchange account or convert and pay at the designated foreign exchange banks, on the strength of valid receipts and proof of transactions. Foreign-invested enterprises which need foreign exchange for the distribution of profits to their shareholders, and PRC enterprises which in accordance with regulations are required to pay dividends to shareholders in foreign exchange (like the Company), may on the strength of general meeting resolutions of such PRC enterprises or board resolutions on the distribution of profits, effect payment from their foreign exchange account or convert and pay at the designated foreign exchange banks.

Convertibility of foreign exchange in respect of capital account items, like direct investment and capital contribution, is still subject to restriction, and prior approval from the SAFE and the relevant branch must be sought.

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in Renminbi.

The PBOC sets and publishes daily a base exchange rate with reference primarily to the supply and demand of Renminbi against the U.S. dollar in the market during the prior day. The PBOC also takes into account other factors such as the general conditions existing in the international foreign exchange markets. Although PRC governmental policies were introduced in 1996 to reduce restrictions on the convertibility of Renminbi into foreign currency for current account items, conversion of Renminbi into foreign exchange for capital items, such as foreign direct investment, loans or security, requires the approval of the SAFE and other relevant authorities.