
APPENDIX VII SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL PRC AND HONG KONG LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

This appendix sets out summaries of certain aspects of the PRC legal and judicial system, its arbitration system and its company and securities regulations. It also contains a summary of certain Hong Kong legal and regulatory provisions, including summaries of certain material differences between PRC Company Law and Hong Kong company law, certain requirements of the Hong Kong Listing Rules and the Mandatory Provisions.

1. PRC LAWS AND REGULATIONS

(a) The PRC legal system

The PRC legal system is based on the PRC Constitution (hereinafter referred to as “the Constitution”) and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations and rules, autonomy regulations and separate rules and regulations of State Council departments, rules and regulations of local governments and international treaties of which the PRC government is a signatory. Court judgments do not constitute legally binding precedents, although they may be used for judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the PRC (“the Legislation Law”), the National People’s Congress (“NPC”) and the standing committee of the NPC (“the Standing Committee”) are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC enacts and amends basic laws governing criminal offences, civil affairs, the State organs and other matters. The Standing Committee enacts and amends laws other than those that shall be formulated by the NPC, and during the period of adjournment of the NPC, the Standing Committee may partially supplement and amend the laws enacted by the NPC, but not in contradiction to the basic principles of such laws. The State Council is the highest organ of state administration and enacts administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws. The people’s congresses at the provincial level and their standing committees may, in light of the specific circumstances and actual needs of their respective administrative areas, enact local regulations, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The ministries and commissions of the State Council, the PBOC, the National Audit Office of the PRC as well as other state organs endowed with administrative functions directly under the State Council may, according to laws, administrative regulations, decisions and orders of the State Council, formulate ministerial rules within their authorities. The people’s governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government and the comparatively larger cities may enact rules, in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the local regulations of their respective provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities. The people’s congresses of the national autonomous regions have the power to enact autonomous regulations and separate regulations on the basis of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the local nationalities that reside in the area.

The Constitution has supreme legal authority and no laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations or separate regulations may contravene the Constitution. The significance of laws is greater than that of administrative regulations, local regulations, and rules. The significance of administrative regulations is greater than that of local regulations and rules. The significance of local regulations is greater than that of the rules of the local governments at or below the corresponding level. The significance of the rules enacted by the people’s governments of the provinces or autonomous regions is greater than that of the rules enacted by the people’s governments of the comparatively larger cities within the administrative areas of the provinces and the autonomous regions.

The NPC has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate laws enacted by its Standing Committee, and to annul any autonomous regulations or separate regulations which have been approved by its Standing Committee but which contravene the Constitution or the Legislation Law. The Standing Committee has the power to annul any

administrative regulation that contravenes the Constitution and laws, to annul any local regulation that contravenes the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations, and to annul any autonomous regulation or local regulation which has been approved by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the Central Government, but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law. The State Council has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate ministerial rules and rules of local governments. The people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the Central Government have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate local regulations enacted or approved by their respective standing committees. The people's governments of provinces and autonomous regions have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate rules enacted by the people's governments at the lower level.

The power to interpret laws is vested in the Standing Committee by the Constitution. According to Resolutions of the Standing Committee on Improving Interpretation of Laws passed on 10 June 1981, in cases where the scope of provisions of laws or decrees needs to be further defined or additional stipulations need to be made, the Standing Committee shall provide interpretations or make stipulations by means of decrees. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in court trials shall be provided by the Supreme People's Court. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in the procuratorial work of the procuratorates shall be provided by the Supreme People's Procuratorate. If the interpretations provided by the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate are at variance with each other in principle, they shall be submitted to the Standing Committee for interpretation or decision. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in areas unrelated to judicial and procuratorial work shall be provided by the State Council and supervisory authorities. In case where the scope of local regulations needs to be further defined or additional stipulations need to be made, the standing committees of the people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government which have enacted these regulations shall provide the interpretations or make the stipulations. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of local regulations shall be provided by the supervisory authorities under the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government.

(b) The PRC judicial system

According to the Constitution and the *Law of Organization of the People's Courts of the PRC* (hereinafter referred to as the "Law of Organization of the People's Courts"), the People's Courts consist 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 comprised of the basic people's courts, the intermediate people's courts and the higher people's courts. The basic people's courts are further divided into civil, criminal and administrative divisions. The intermediate people's courts have divisions similar to those of the basic people's courts, and other special divisions, such as the intellectual property division, where necessary.

The people's courts at lower levels are subject to supervision of the people's courts at higher levels. The people's procuratorates also have the power to exercise legal supervision over the litigation proceedings of people's courts at the same level or below. The Supreme People's Court is the highest judicial organ of the PRC and it has the power to supervise the administration of justice by the people's courts at all levels.

The people's courts have adopted a "second instance as final" appellate system. A party may appeal against a judgment or ruling by the people's court of first instance to the people's court at the next higher level prior to the

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judgment or the ruling of the first instance is legally effective. The judgment or the ruling of the second instance by the people's court at the next higher level is final and legally binding. First judgments or rulings by the Supreme People's Court are final as well. However, in the case that the Supreme People's Court or the people's court at a higher level finds definite error(s) in the legally effective judgment or ruling by the people's court at a lower level, or the presiding judge of the people's court finds definite error(s) in the legally effective judgment by the court over which he/she presides, the case may then be retried in accordance with the judicial supervisory procedures.

The *Civil Procedure Law of the PRC* (hereinafter referred to as the "Civil Procedure Law") sets forth provisions for 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 local court in the defendant's place of domicile. The parties to a contract may, by express agreement, select a court of jurisdiction where civil actions may be brought, provided that the court of jurisdiction is located in either the plaintiff's or the defendant's place of domicile, or the place of execution or implementation, or the place of the object of the action, and provided that the provisions of the Civil Procedure Law regarding jurisdiction by level and exclusive jurisdiction shall not be violated.

A foreign individual or enterprise generally has the same litigation rights and obligations as a citizen or legal person of the PRC. Should the judicial system of a foreign country limit the litigation rights of PRC citizens or enterprises, the PRC courts may apply the same limitations to the citizens and enterprises of that foreign country. If any party to a civil action refuses to comply with a legally effective judgment or ruling by a people's court or an effective award by an arbitration tribunal in the PRC, the other party may apply to the people's court for the compulsory enforcement of the judgment, ruling or award. However, specific time limits are imposed on the right to apply for such compulsory enforcement. The time limit for the submission of an application for enforcement shall be two years. The suspension or termination of the time limit for the submission of an application for enforcement shall be governed by the provisions on the suspension or termination of the statute of limitation.

When a party applies to a people's court for enforcing an effective judgment or ruling by a people's court against a party who is not located within the territory of the PRC or whose property is not within the PRC, the party may apply to a foreign court with proper jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling. A foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced by the people's court according to the PRC enforcement procedures if the PRC has entered into, or acceded to, an international treaty with the relevant foreign country on the mutual recognition and enforcement of judgments and rulings, or if the judgment or ruling satisfies the court's examination based on the principle of reciprocity, unless the people's court finds that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling will result in the violation of the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or security, or for reasons related to the public interests.

(c) The PRC Company Law, Special Regulations and Mandatory Provisions

On 29 December 1993, the *Company Law of the PRC* was adopted by the standing committee of the Eighth NPC, which came into effect on 1 July 1994 and was amended for the first time on 25 December 1999, the second time on 28 August 2004 and the third time on 27 October 2005. The newly amended *Company Law of the PRC* (hereinafter referred to as the new "Company Law") came into effect on 1 January 2006.

The *Special Provisions of the State Council Concerning the Floatation and Listing Abroad of Shares by Joint Stock Limited Companies* (hereinafter referred to as the "Special Provisions") were adopted at the 22nd Standing Committee Meeting of the State Council on 4 July 1994. The Special Provisions was formulated according to

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Article 85 and Article 155 of the Company Law and applies to the overseas share subscription and listing of joint stock limited companies.

The *Mandatory Provisions in Articles of Association of Joint Stock Limited Companies to be Listed Overseas* (hereinafter referred to as the “Mandatory Provisions”) were promulgated by the former Securities Commission of the State Council and the State Economic System Restructuring Commission on 27 August 1994, prescribing provisions which must be incorporated into the articles of association of joint stock limited companies to be listed overseas. Therefore, the Mandatory Provisions have been incorporated into the Articles of Association (which are summarized in Appendix VII).

(i) *General provisions*

A “joint stock limited company” (hereinafter referred to as the “company”) is a corporate legal person incorporated under the Company Law, whose registered capital is divided into shares of equal par value. The liability of its shareholders is limited to the extent of the shares they hold, and the liability of the company is limited to the full amount of all the assets it owns.

A State-owned enterprise that is restructured into a company must comply with the conditions and requirements specified by laws and administrative regulations for the modification of its operation mechanisms, the handling and evaluation of the company’s assets and liabilities and the establishment of its internal management organs.

A company must conduct its business in accordance with law and professional ethics. A company may invest in other limited liability companies and joint stock limited companies. The liabilities of the company to such invested companies are limited to the amount invested. Unless otherwise provided by laws, a company cannot be the capital contributor who has the joint and several liability associated with the debts of the invested enterprises.

(ii) *Incorporation*

A company may be incorporated by promotion or public subscription.

A company may be incorporated by two to 200 promoters, but at least half of the promoters must reside in the PRC. According to the Special Regulations, state-owned enterprises or enterprises with the majority of their assets owned by the PRC government can be restructured in accordance with the relevant regulations to become joint stock limited companies which may issue shares to overseas investors. These companies, if incorporated by promotion, may have fewer than five promoters and can issue new shares once incorporated.

A company incorporated by promotion is one with registered capital entirely subscribed for by the promoters. Where a company is incorporated by public subscription, the promoters are required to subscribe for not less than 35% of the total shares of the company, and the remaining shares can be offered to the public or specific persons.

The Company Law provides that for companies incorporated by way of promotion, the registered capital shall be the total capital subscribed for by all promoters as registered with the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce; the initial capital contribution by all promoters of a company shall not be less than 20% of the registered capital, and the remaining shall be paid up within two years by the promoters from the date of incorporation of the company. For investment companies, the remaining shall be paid up within five years from the date of incorporation of the company; for companies incorporated by way of public subscription, the registered capital is the amount of total paid-up capital as registered with the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce.

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The registered capital of a company at a minimum should be RMB5 million. Pursuant to the Securities Law, the total capital of a company which proposes to apply for its shares to be listed on a stock exchange shall not be less than RMB30 million.

The promoters shall convene an inaugural meeting within 30 days after the issued shares have been completely paid up, and shall give notice to all subscribers or make a public announcement of the date of the inaugural meeting 15 days prior to the meeting. The inaugural meeting may be convened only with the presence of shareholders holding shares representing more than 50% of the total issued shares of the company. Matters to be dealt with at the inaugural meeting include adopting the draft articles of association proposed by the promoters and electing the board of directors and the Board of Supervisors of the company. Any resolution of the meeting shall be approved by subscribers with more than half of the voting rights of those present at the meeting.

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the registration authority for registration of the incorporation of the company. A company is formally established and has the qualification of a legal person once the registration has been approved by the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce and a business licence has been issued.

The promoters of a company shall individually and jointly be liable for: (i) the payment of all expenses and liabilities incurred in the incorporation process if the company cannot be incorporated; (ii) the repayment of subscription monies to the subscribers together with interest at bank rates for a deposit of the same term if the company cannot be incorporated; and (iii) damages suffered by the company as a result of the default of the promoters in the course of incorporation of the company. According to the Provisional Regulations Concerning the Issue and Trading of Shares promulgated by the State Council on 22 April 1993 (which is only applicable to the issue and trading of shares in the PRC and relevant activities), if a company is incorporated by means of public subscription, the promoters of the company are required to assume joint liability for the accuracy of the contents of this prospectus and to ensure that this prospectus does not contain any misleading statement or omission of any material information.

(iii) Share capital

The promoters of a company may make capital contributions in cash, or in kind that can be valued in currency and transferable according to laws such as intellectual property rights or land-use rights based on their appraised value, provided that the amount of capital contribution in cash by all shareholders shall not be less than 30% of the company's registered capital.

There is no limit under the Company Law as to the percentage of shares held by an individual shareholder in a company.

If capital contribution is made other than in cash by the promoters of the company, valuation and verification of the properties contributed must be carried out and converted into shares.

A company may issue registered or bearer shares. However, shares issued to promoter(s) or legal person(s) shall be in the form of registered shares and shall be registered under the name(s) of such promoter(s) or legal person(s) and shall not be registered under a different name or the name of a representative.

The Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that shares issued to foreign investors and listed overseas shall be issued in registered form and shall be denominated in RMB and subscribed for in foreign currency.

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Pursuant to the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions, shares issued to foreign investors and investors from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan and listed overseas are defined as overseas-listed-foreign-invested shares, and those issued to investors within the PRC other than the aforementioned areas are defined as domestic shares. Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (“QFII”) approved by China Securities Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as “CSRC”) may hold domestic listed shares.

A company may offer its shares to the public overseas with approval by the securities administration department of the State Council. Detailed measures shall be specified by the State Council based on the Special Regulations. According to the Special Regulations, upon approval of CSRC, a company may agree, in the underwriting agreement on issuing overseas-listed-foreign-invested shares, to retain not more than 15% of the aggregate amount of overseas-listed-foreign-invested shares proposed to be issued less the amount of underwritten shares.

The share offering price may be equal to or in excess of par value, but shall not be less than par value.

The transfer of shares by shareholders shall be conducted in legally established stock exchanges or via other methods as stipulated by the State Council. The transfer of registered shares by a shareholder must be conducted by means of an endorsement or by other means stipulated by laws or by administrative regulations.

Bearer shares are transferred by delivery of the H share certificates to the transferee.

No modification registration shall be made to the registrar of shareholders within twenty (20) days prior to the shareholders’ assembly being held or within five (5) days prior to the benchmark date set for the purpose of distribution of dividends.

(iv) Increase in capital

Pursuant to the Company Law, an increase in the capital of a company by means of an issue of new shares must be approved by shareholders in general meeting. Except for abovementioned conditions of obtaining approval at the general meeting required by the Company Law, the Securities Law requires the following conditions for a company to offer new shares to the public: (i) a complete and well-operated organization; (ii) capability of making profits continuously and a healthy financial status; (iii) no false records or significant irregularities in its financial statements over the last three years; (iv) fulfill any other requirements as prescribed by the securities administration authority of the State Council as approved by the State Council.

The public offer requires the approval of the securities administration authority of the State Council. After payment in full for the new shares issued, a company must modify its registration with the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce and issue a public notice accordingly.

(v) Reduction of share capital

Subject to the minimum registered capital requirements, a company may reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures stipulated by the Company Law:

- the company shall prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets;
- the reduction of general meeting registered capital must be approved by shareholders in the general meeting;

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- the company shall inform its creditors of the reduction in capital within ten days and publish an announcement of the reduction in newspapers within 30 days once the resolution approving the reduction in capital being passed;
- creditors of the company may require the company to clear its debts or provide guarantees covering the debts within the statutory time limit; and
- the company must apply to the relevant administrative bureau for industry and commerce for registration of the reduction in registered capital.

(vi) *Repurchase of shares*

A company shall not purchase its own shares other than for the following purposes:

- to reduce the registered capital by cancelling its shares or to merge with another company holding its shares;
- to grant shares as a reward to the staff of the company;
- to purchase the company's own shares upon request of its shareholders who vote against the resolution regarding the merger or division of the company in a general meeting; or
- other purposes permitted by laws and administrative regulations.

The shares repurchased by the company as a reward to its staff shall not exceed 5% of the total number of its issued shares. Any fund for the repurchase shall be paid out of after-tax profits of the company, and the shares repurchased shall be transferred to the staff of the company within one year. The Mandatory Provisions stipulate that upon obtaining approvals from relevant supervisory authorities in accordance with the articles of association of the company, a company may, for the aforementioned purposes, repurchase its issued shares by way of a general offer to its shareholders or purchase on a stock exchange or through on-market contract.

(vii) *Transfer of shares*

Shares may be transferred in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. A shareholder shall transfer his/her shares in stock changes established pursuant to laws or by other means as stipulated by the State Council. Registered shares may be transferred by endorsement or in any other manner specified in applicable laws and regulations.

Shares held by the promoter(s) of a company shall not be transferred within one (1) year from the date of incorporation of the company. Shares issued by a company prior to the public offer of its shares shall not be transferred within one (1) year from the date of its shares being listed on a stock exchange. Directors, supervisors and senior management personnel of the company shall not transfer over 25% of the total shares they hold in the company each year during their term of office, and shall not transfer any share of the company held by each of them within one (1) year from the listing date.

(viii) Shareholders

The articles of association of a company set forth the shareholders' rights and obligations and are binding on all the shareholders. Pursuant to the Company Law and the Mandatory Provisions, a shareholder's rights include:

- the right to attend in person or appoint a representative to attend the shareholders' general meeting and to vote in respect of the amount of shares held;
- the right to transfer his/her shares in accordance with applicable laws and regulations as well as the articles of association;
- the right to inspect the company's articles of association, shareholders' registers, records of short-term debentures, minutes of shareholders' general meeting, board resolutions, supervisor resolutions and financial accounting reports, and to put forward proposals or raise questions on the business operations of the company;
- if a resolution approved by the shareholders' general meeting or by the board of directors violates any law or regulation, or infringes on the shareholders' lawful rights and interests, the right to institute an action in a people's court demanding that the illegal infringing action be stopped;
- the right to receive dividends based on the number of shares held;
- the right to obtain surplus assets of the company upon its termination in proportion to shares he/she holds; to claim against other shareholders who abuse their rights of shareholders for the damages; and
- any other shareholders' rights specified in the articles of association.

The obligations of shareholders include: abide by the articles of association of the company; pay the subscription monies in respect of shares subscribed for; be liable for debts and liabilities of the company to the extent of the amount of subscription monies agreed to be paid in respect of the shares taken up; no abuse of shareholders' rights to damage the interests of the company or other shareholders of the company; no abuse of the independent status of the company as a legal person and its limited liability companies as to damage the interests of the creditors of the company; and any other obligation specified in the articles of association of the company.

(ix) Shareholders' general meeting

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

The shareholders' general meeting exercises the following functions and powers:

- to decide on operational policies and investment plans of the company;
- to elect or remove the directors and supervisors who are not representatives of the employees, and
- to decide on matters relevant to remuneration of directors and supervisors;
- to review and approve reports of the board of directors;
- to review and approve reports of the board of supervisors or the supervisors;
- to review and approve annual financial budgets and financial accounts proposed by the company;
- to review and approve proposals for profit distribution and for recovery of losses of the company;

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- to decide on increase and reduction of the registered capital of the company;
- to decide on bond issuances of the company;
- to decide on merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company and other issues;
- to amend the articles of association of the company; and
- other functions and powers specified in the articles of association of the company.

The annual shareholders' general meeting must be convened once a year. An extraordinary shareholders' general meeting shall be held within two months after the occurrence of any of the following circumstances:

- the number of directors is less than the number provided for in the Company Law or less than two-thirds of the number specified in the articles of association of the company;
- the losses of the company which are not made up reach one-third of the total paid-up share capital of the company;
- as requested by a shareholder holding, or shareholders holding in aggregate, 10% or more of the shares of the company;
- when deemed necessary by the board of directors;
- as suggested by the board of supervisors; or
- other matters required by the articles of association.

The shareholders' general meeting shall be convened by the board of directors and shall be presided over by the chairman of the board of directors.

The notice to convene the shareholders' general meeting shall be dispatched to all the shareholders 20 days before the general meeting pursuant to the Company Law, and 45 days pursuant to the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions, stating the matters to be reviewed at the general meeting. Under the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions, shareholders intending to attend are required to send written confirmations of their attendance to the company 20 days before the general meeting. According to the Special Regulations, at the annual shareholders' general meeting of the company, shareholders with 5% or more of the voting rights in the company are entitled to propose to the company in writing new resolutions to be reviewed at the general meeting, which if within the functions and powers of the shareholders' general meeting, are required to be added to the agenda of the general meeting.

Shareholders present at the shareholders' general meeting possess one vote for each share they hold. However, the company shall have no vote for any of its own shares the company holds. Resolutions proposed at the shareholders' general meeting shall be approved by more than half of the voting rights cast by shareholders present in person (including those represented by proxies) at the general meeting, except that such resolutions as merger, division or reduction of registered capital, the issue of bonds or short-term debentures, the change in the form of the company or the amendment to the articles of association, shall be approved by shareholders with more than two-thirds of the voting rights cast by shareholders present (including those represented by proxies) at the general meeting.

A shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend a shareholders' general meeting. The proxy shall present a power of attorney issued by the shareholder to the company and shall exercise his voting rights within the authorization

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scope. There is no specific provisions in the 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 20 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. Holders of domestic invested shares and holders of overseas listed foreign invested shares are deemed to be different classes of shareholders for this purpose.

(x) Directors

A company shall have a board of directors, which shall consist of five to nineteen members, and there can be sta representatives of the company. The term of office of the directors shall be provided for by the articles of association, but each term of office shall not exceed three years. The directors may hold consecutive terms upon re-election.

Meetings of the board of directors shall be convened at least twice a year. A notice of meeting shall be given to all directors at least ten days before the meeting. 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.

Under the Company Law, the board of directors exercises the following functions and powers:

- to convene the shareholders' general meeting and report on its work to the shareholders;
- to implement the resolution of the shareholders' general meeting;
- to decide on the company's business plans and investment plans;
- to formulate the company's proposed annual financial budget and final accounts;
- to formulate the company's proposals for profit distribution and for recovery of losses;
- to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of the company's registered capital and the issue of corporate bonds;
- to prepare plans for the merger, division or dissolution of the company;
- to decide on the company's internal management structure;
- to appoint or dismiss the company's general manager, and based on the general manager's recommendation, to appoint or dismiss deputy general managers and financial officers of the company and to decide on their remuneration;
- to formulate the company's basic management system; and
- other functions and powers as specified in the articles of association.

In addition, the Mandatory Provisions provide that the board of directors is also responsible for formulating the proposals for amendment of the articles of association of a company.

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Meetings of the board of directors shall be held only if more than half of the directors are present. Resolutions of the board of directors require the approval of more than half of all directors.

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 for another director to attend the meeting on his behalf.

If a resolution of the board of directors violates the laws, administrative regulations or the company's articles of association 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 proven 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 of that liability.

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

- persons without capacity or restricted capacity to undertake civil liabilities;
- 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;
- persons who are former directors, factory managers or managers of a company or enterprise that has been bankrupt and has been liquidated due to mismanagement, and those persons 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;
- 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, and less than three years have elapsed since the date of the revocation of the business license; or
- persons who have a relatively large amount of debt due and outstanding; or other circumstances under which a person is disqualified from acting as a director of a company are set out in the Mandatory Provisions (which have been incorporated in the Articles of Association, a summary of which is set out in Appendix VII).

The board of directors shall appoint a chairman, who is elected with approval of more than half of all the directors. The chairman of the board of directors exercises the following functions and powers (including but not limited to):

- to preside over shareholders' general meetings and convene and preside over meetings of the board of directors;
- to check on the implementation of the resolutions of the board of directors;

The legal representative of a company, in accordance with the company's articles of association, may be the chairman, any executive director or the manager. The Special Regulations provide that a company's directors, supervisors, managers and other officers bear fiduciary duties and the duty to act diligently. They are required to faithfully perform their duties, protect the interests of the company and not to use their positions for their own benefit. The Mandatory Provisions (which have been incorporated into the Articles of Association, a summary of which is set out in Appendix VII) contains further elaborations of such duties.

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(xi) Supervisors

A company shall have a Board of Supervisors composed of not less than three members. Each term of office of a supervisor is three years, and the supervisors may hold consecutive terms upon re-election. The Board of Supervisors is made up of shareholders representatives and an appropriate proportion of the company's staff representatives; and the percentage of the number of the company's staff representatives shall not be less than one-third. Directors and senior management shall not act as supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors exercises the following functions and powers:

- check the financial affairs of the company;
- supervise the directors and senior management in the performance of their duties, and to put forward proposals on the removal of any director or senior manager who violates laws, administrative regulations, the articles of association or any resolution of the shareholders' meeting;
- require the director or senior manager to make corrections if his act is detrimental to the interests of the company;
- propose the convening of extraordinary shareholders' general meetings, and to convene and preside over shareholders' meetings when the board of directors fails to exercise the function of convening and presiding over shareholders' meetings;
- put forward proposals at shareholders' general meetings;
- initiate actions against directors or senior management; and
- other functions and duties as provided for by the articles of association.

The circumstances under which a person is disqualified from being a director of a company described above apply mutatis mutandis to supervisors of a company.

(xii) Managers and senior officers

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

- manage the production, operation and management of the company and arrange for the implementation of resolutions of the board of directors;
- arrange for the implementation of the company's annual business and investment plans;
- formulate plans for the establishment of the company's internal management structure;
- formulate the basic administration system of the company;
- formulate the company's internal rules;
- recommend the appointment and dismissal of deputy managers and any financial officer and appoint or dismiss other administration officers (other than those required to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors);
- attend board meetings as a non-voting attendant; and
- other powers conferred by the board of directors or the company's articles of association.

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The Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that the other senior management personnel of a company include the financial officers, secretary of the board of directors and other executives as specified in the articles of association of the company.

The circumstances under which a person is disqualified from being a director of a company described above apply mutatis mutandis to managers and officers of the company. The articles of association of a company shall have binding effect on the shareholders, directors, supervisors, managers and other senior management of the company. Such persons shall be entitled to exercise their rights, apply for arbitration and issue legal proceedings according to the articles of association of the company. The provisions of the Mandatory Provisions regarding the senior management personnel of a company have been incorporated in the Articles of Association (a summary of which is set out in Appendix VII).

(xiii) Duties of directors, supervisors, managers and senior officers

Directors, supervisors, managers and other senior officers of a company are required under the Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the company's articles of association, carry out their duties honestly and protect the interests of the company. Each director, supervisor, manager and senior officer of a company is also under a duty of confidentiality to the company and is prohibited from divulging secret information of the company unless permitted by the relevant laws and regulations or by the shareholders.

Any directors, supervisors, managers and other senior officers who contravenes any laws, regulations or the company's articles of association in the performance of his duties which results in any loss to the company shall be personally liable to the company.

The Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that a director, supervisor, manager and other senior officers of a company owe fiduciary duties to the company and are required to perform their duties faithfully and to protect the interests of the company and not to make use of their positions in the company for their own benefit.

(xiv) Finance and accounting

A company shall establish its financial and accounting systems according to the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the responsible financial department of the State Council. At the end of each financial year, a company shall prepare a financial report which shall be audited and verified as provided by law.

A company shall make available its financial statements at the company for the inspection by the shareholders at least 20 days before the convening of the annual general meeting of shareholders. A company established by the public subscription method 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 common reserve (except where such reserve has reached 50% of the company's registered capital). After a company has made an allocation to its statutory common reserve from its after-tax profit, subject to a resolution of the shareholders' meeting or the shareholders' general meeting, the company may make an allocation to a discretionary common reserve from the after-tax profits.

If the aggregate balance of the company's statutory surplus reserve is not enough to make up for the losses of the company of the previous year, the current year's profits shall first be used for making good the losses before the statutory surplus reserve is set aside according to the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

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After the losses have been made up and statutory surplus reserves have been set aside, the remaining profits shall be distributed to shareholders in proportion to the number of shares held by shareholders as in the case of a joint stock limited company, except as otherwise provided in the articles of association.

The capital common reserve of a joint stock limited company is made up of the premium over the nominal value of the shares of the company on issue, and other amounts required by the financial department of the State Council to be treated the capital reserve.

The company's common reserves shall be used for making up losses, expanding the production and business scale or increasing the registered capital of the company, but the capital reserve shall not be used for making up the company's losses. Where the statutory surplus reserve is converted into registered capital, the balance of the statutory surplus reserve shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital after such conversion.

(xv) Appointment and retirement of auditors

The Special Regulations require a company to employ an independent PRC qualified accounting firm to audit the company's annual report and review and check other financial reports.

The auditors are to be appointed for a term commencing from the close of an annual general meeting and ending at the close of the next annual general meeting.

If a company removes or ceases to continue to appoint the auditors, it is required by the Special Regulations to give prior notice to the auditors and the auditors are entitled to make representations before the shareholders in general meeting. The appointment, removal or non re-appointment of auditors shall be decided by the shareholders at shareholders' general meetings and shall be filed with the CSRC for record.

(xvi) Distribution of profits

The Special Regulations provide that the dividends and other distributions to be paid to holders of overseas listed foreign invested shares shall be declared and calculated in Renminbi and paid in foreign currency. Under the Mandatory Provisions, the payment of foreign currency to shareholders shall be made through a receiving agent.

(xvii) Amendments to articles of association

Any amendments to the company's articles of association must be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the company's articles of association. Any amendment of provisions incorporated in the articles of association in connection with the Mandatory Provisions will only be effective after approval by the companies' approval department of the State Council and CSRC. In relation to matters involving the company's registration, the company shall modify its registration with the companies' registration authority.

(xviii) Dissolution and liquidation

A company may apply for the declaration of insolvency by reason of its inability to pay debts as they fall due. After the People's Court has made a declaration of the company's insolvency, the shareholders, the relevant authorities and the relevant professionals shall form a liquidation committee to conduct the liquidation of the company.

Under the Company Law, a company shall be dissolved in any of the following events:

- (1) the term of its operations set down in the company's articles of association has expired or events of dissolution specified in the company's articles of association have occurred;
- (2) the shareholders in a general meeting have resolved to dissolve the company;
- (3) the company is dissolved by reason of its merger or demerger;
- (4) the company is subject to the revocation of business license, a closure order or dismissal in accordance with laws; or
- (5) 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 shareholders, and where this cannot be resolved through other means, 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.

Where the company is dissolved in the circumstances described in (1), (2), (4) and (5) above, a liquidation committee must be formed within 15 days from the date of dissolution. Members of the liquidation committee shall be appointed by the shareholders in the general meeting.

If a liquidation committee is not established within the stipulated period, the company's creditors can apply to the People's Court for its establishment. The liquidation committee shall notify the company's creditors within 10 days after its establishment, and issue a public notice in the newspapers within 60 days. A creditor shall lodge his claim with the liquidation committee within 30 days after receiving notification, or within 45 days of the public notice if he did not receive any notification.

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

- handle the company's assets and to prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of the assets;
- notify creditors or issue public notices;
- deal with and settle any outstanding business of the company;
- pay any tax overdue;
- settle the company's financial claims and liabilities;
- handle the surplus assets of the company after its debts have been paid off; and
- represent the company in civil lawsuits.

If the company's assets are sufficient to meet its liabilities, they shall be applied towards the payment of the liquidation expenses, wages owed to the employees and labor insurance expenses, tax overdue and debts of the company. Any surplus assets shall be distributed to the shareholders of the company in proportion to the number of shares held by them.

A company shall not engage in operating activities unrelated to the liquidation. 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.

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Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation committee shall submit a liquidation report to the shareholders' general meeting or the relevant supervisory department for verification. Thereafter, the report shall be submitted to the company 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 relevant laws. A member of the liquidation committee is liable to indemnify the company and its creditors with respect to any loss arising from his willful or material default.

(xix) Overseas Listing

The shares of a company shall only be listed overseas after obtaining approval from the securities regulatory authority of the State Council and the listing must be arranged in accordance with procedures specified by the State Council.

According to the Special Regulations, a company's plan to issue overseas listed foreign invested shares and domestic invested shares which has been approved by the Securities Commission may be implemented by the board of directors of a company by way of separate issues, within 15 months after approval is obtained from CSRC.

(xx) Loss of H share certificates

A shareholder may apply, in accordance with the relevant provision set out in the PRC Civil Procedure Law, to a people's court in the event that H share certificates in registered form are either stolen or lost, for a declaration that such certificates will no longer be valid. After such a declaration has been obtained, the shareholder may apply to the company for the issue of replacement certificates.

The Mandatory Provisions provide for a separate procedure regarding loss of H share certificates (which has been incorporated in the Articles of Association, a summary of which is set out in Appendix VII).

(xxi) Suspension and Termination of Listing

The new and amended Company Law has deleted provisions governing suspension and termination of listing. The new Securities Law has been amended as follows: the trading of shares of a company on a stock exchange may be suspended if so decided by the securities administration department of the State Council (the new Securities Law has renamed this as the Securities Exchange) under one of the following circumstances:

- (1) the registered capital or shareholding distribution no longer complies with the necessary requirements for a listed company;
- (2) the company failed to make public its financial position in accordance with the requirements or there is false information in the company's financial report with the possibility of misleading investors;
- (3) the company has committed a major breach of the law;
- (4) the company has incurred losses for three (3) consecutive years; or
- (5) other circumstances as required by the listing rules of the relevant stock exchange(s)

Under the Securities Law, in the event that the conditions for listing are not satisfied within the period stipulated by the relevant stock exchange in the case described in (1) above, or the company has refused to rectify the situation in the case described in (2) above, or the company fails to become profitable in the next subsequent

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year in the case described in (4) above, the relevant stock exchange shall have the right to terminate the listing of the shares of the company.

The Company Law provides that the securities administration department of the State Council may also terminate the listing of a company's shares in the event that the company resolves to cease operation or is so instructed by its government supervisory body, or the company is declared bankrupt. In such event, the Securities Law would regard this as "other circumstances as required by the listing rules of the relevant stock exchanges".

(xxii) Merger and demerger

Companies may merge through merger by absorption or through the establishment of a newly merged entity. If it merges by absorption, the company which is absorbed shall be dissolved. If it merges by forming a new corporation, both companies will be dissolved.

(d) Securities law and other relevant regulations

The PRC has promulgated a number of regulations that relate to the issue and trading of Shares and disclosure of information by the Company. In October 1992, the State Council established the Securities Committee and the CSRC. The Securities Committee is responsible for co-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 the CSRC. The CSRC is the regulatory body of the Securities Committee and is responsible for the drafting of regulatory provisions of securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating public offers of securities by PRC companies in the PRC or overseas, regulating the trading of securities, compiling securities related statistics and undertaking research and analysis.

On 22 April 1993, the State Council promulgated the Securities Provisional Regulations. These regulations deal with the application and approval procedures for public offerings of equity securities, trading in equity securities, the acquisition of listed companies, deposit, settlement, clearing and transfer of listed equity securities, the disclosure of information with respect to a listed company, investigation and penalties and dispute settlement. According to these regulations, a company must obtain the approval of the Securities Committee to offer its shares outside the PRC. In addition, if a company proposes to issue Renminbi denominated ordinary shares as well as special Renminbi-denominated shares, it must comply with the Securities Provisional Regulations. Provisions of these regulations in relation to acquisitions of listed companies and disclosure of information expressly apply to listed companies in general without being confined to listed companies on any particular stock exchange.

On 25 December 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 and declaration of dividends and other distributions of domestic listed foreign shares and disclosure of information related to joint stock limited liability companies with domestically listed foreign shares.

The Securities Law took effect on 1 July 1999 and was revised for the first time as of 28 August 2004 and for the second time on 27 October 2005. This is the first national securities law in the PRC, and it is divided into 12 chapters and 240 articles regulating, among other things, the issue and trading of securities, takeovers by listed companies, securities exchanges, securities companies and the duties and responsibilities of the State Council's securities regulatory authorities. The Securities Law comprehensively regulates activities in the PRC securities

market. Article 238 of the Securities Law provides that a company must obtain prior approval from the State Council's regulatory authorities to list shares outside the PRC. Article 239 of the Securities Law provides that specific measures with respect to shares of companies in the PRC that are to be subscribed and traded in foreign currencies shall be separately formulated by the State Council. Currently, the issue and trading of foreign issued shares (including H Shares) are still mainly governed by the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

(e) Arbitration and enforcement of arbitral awards

The *Arbitration Law of the People's Republic of China* (the "Arbitration Law") was passed by the Standing Committee on 31 August 1994 and became effective on 1 September 1995. It is applicable to contract disputes and other property disputes between natural person, legal person and other organizations where the parties have entered into a written agreement to refer the matter to arbitration before an arbitration committee constituted in accordance with the Arbitration Law. Under the Arbitration Law, an arbitration committee may, before the promulgation by the PRC Arbitration Association of arbitration regulations, formulate interim arbitration rules in accordance with the Arbitration Law and the PRC Civil Procedure Law. Where the parties have by agreement provided arbitration as the method for dispute resolution, the people's court will refuse to handle the case.

The Hong Kong Listing Rules and the Mandatory Provisions require an arbitration clause to be included in a company's Articles of Association and, in the case of the Hong Kong Listing Rules, also in contracts with each of the directors and supervisors, to the effect that whenever any disputes or claims arise between holders of H Shares and the company; holders of H Shares and the directors, supervisors, manager or other senior officers; or holders of H Shares and holders of domestic shares, with respect to any disputes or claims in relation to the companies affairs or as a result of any rights or obligations arising under its Articles of Association, the PRC Company Law or other relevant laws and administrative regulations, such disputes or claims shall be referred to arbitration. Where a dispute or claim of rights referred to in the preceding paragraph is referred to arbitration, the entire claim or dispute must be referred to arbitration, and all persons who have a cause of action based on the same facts giving rise to the dispute or claim or whose participation is necessary for the resolution of such dispute or claim shall comply with the arbitration. Disputes with respect to the definition of shareholders and disputes related to a company's register of shareholders need not be resolved by arbitration.

A claimant may elect for arbitration to be carried out at either the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission in accordance with its Rules or the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center in accordance with its Securities Arbitration Rules. Once a claimant refers a dispute or claim to arbitration, the other party must submit to the arbitral body elected by the claimant. If the claimant elects for arbitration to be carried out at the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center, any party to the dispute or claim may apply for a hearing to take place in Shenzhen in accordance with the Securities Arbitration Rules of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center.

Under the Arbitration Law and PRC Civil Procedure Law, an arbitral award is final and binding on the parties. If a party fails to comply with an award, the other party to the award may apply to the people's court for enforcement. A people's court may refuse to enforce an arbitral award made by an arbitration commission if there is any procedural or membership irregularity specified by law or the award exceeds the scope of the arbitration agreement or is outside the jurisdiction of the arbitration commission.

A party seeking to enforce an arbitral award by a PRC arbitration panel against a party who, or whose property, is not within the PRC, may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for enforcement.

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Similarly, an arbitral award made by a foreign arbitration body may be recognized and enforced by the PRC courts in accordance with the principles of reciprocity or any international treaty 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 10 June, 1958 pursuant to a resolution of the Standing Committee passed on 2 December, 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 to the New York Convention, subject to their right to refuse enforcement under certain circumstances, including where the enforcement of the arbitral award is against the public policy of the state to which the request for enforcement is made.

It was declared by the Standing Committee simultaneously with the accession of the PRC that (1) the PRC will only recognize and enforce foreign arbitral awards on the principle of reciprocity and (2) the PRC will only apply the New York Convention in disputes considered under PRC laws to arise from contractual and non-contractual mercantile legal relations. On 18 June 1999, an arrangement was made between Hong Kong and the Supreme People’s Court of the PRC for the mutual enforcement of arbitral awards. This new arrangement was approved by the Supreme People’s Court of the PRC and the Hong Kong Legislative Council, and became effective on 1 February 2000. The arrangement is made in accordance with the spirit of the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958. Under the arrangement, awards made by PRC arbitral authorities recognized under the Arbitration Ordinance of Hong Kong can be enforced in Hong Kong. Hong Kong arbitration awards are also enforceable in China.

2. HONG KONG LAWS AND REGULATIONS

(a) 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 supplemented by common law and rules of equity that apply to Hong Kong. The Company, which is a joint stock limited company established in the PRC, is 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 the material differences between the 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 and existing under the PRC Company Law. This summary is, however, not intended to be an exhaustive comparison.

(i) *Corporate existence*

Under Hong Kong company law, a company having share capital, is incorporated and will acquire an independent corporate existence after the company registrar of Hong Kong issuing a certificate of 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 certain preemptive provisions. A public company’s articles of association does not contain such preemptive provisions.

Under the PRC Company Law, a company may be incorporated by promotion or public subscription.

A company must have a minimum registered capital of RMB5 million, or a higher amount as may otherwise be required by laws and regulations. Hong Kong law does not prescribe any minimum capital requirement for a

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Hong Kong company. Under the PRC Company Law, the monetary contributions by all the shareholders must not be less than 30% of the registered capital. There is no such restriction on a Hong Kong company under Hong Kong law.

(ii) Share capital

Under Hong Kong law, the authorized share capital of a Hong Kong company is the amount of share capital which the company is authorized to issue and a company is not bound to issue the entire amount of its authorized share capital. The authorized share capital may be larger than its issued share capital. Hence, the directors of a Hong Kong company may, with the prior approval of the shareholders, if required, cause the company to issue new shares. The PRC Company Law does not provide for authorized share capital. The registered capital of a joint stock limited company is the amount of the issued share capital. Any increase in registered capital must be approved by the shareholders in a general meeting and by the relevant PRC governmental and regulatory authorities.

Under the PRC Company Law, a company which is authorized by the relevant securities administration authority to list its shares on a stock exchange must have a registered capital of not less than RMB30 million. Hong Kong law does not prescribe any minimum capital requirements for companies incorporated in Hong Kong.

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 verification must be carried out to ensure no overvaluation or under-valuation of the assets. The monetary contribution shall not be less than 30% of a joint stock limited company's registered capital. There is no such restriction on a Hong Kong company under Hong Kong law.

(iii) Restrictions on shareholding and transfer of shares

Under PRC law, the domestic shares ("domestic shares") in the share capital of a joint stock limited company which are denominated and subscribed for in Renminbi may only be subscribed or traded by the State, PRC legal and natural persons. The overseas listed foreign shares ("foreign shares") issued by a joint stock limited company 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 and Taiwan or any country and territory outside the PRC.

Under the PRC Company Law, shares in a joint stock limited company held by its promoters cannot be transferred within one year after the date of establishment of the company. Shares in issue prior to the company's public offering cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares on the Stock Exchange. Shares in a joint stock limited company held by its directors, supervisors and managers and 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 the said personnel 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 officers. There are no such restrictions on shareholdings and transfers of shares under Hong Kong law.

(iv) Financial assistance for acquisition of shares

Although the PRC Company Law does not contain any provision prohibiting or restricting a joint stock limited company or its subsidiaries from providing financial assistance for the purpose of an acquisition of its own

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or its holding company's shares, the Mandatory Provisions contain certain restrictions on a company and its subsidiaries providing such financial assistance similar to those under Hong Kong company law.

(v) Variation of class rights

The PRC Company Law makes no specific provision relating to variation of class rights. However, the PRC Company Law states that the State Council can promulgate 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 approval procedures required to be followed regarding variations of class rights. These provisions have been incorporated in the Articles of Association, which are summarized in Appendix VIII 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 of three-fourths in nominal value of the issued shares of the class in question, (iii) by agreement of all the members of a Hong Kong company or (iv) if there are provisions in the articles of association relating to the variation of those rights, then in accordance with those provisions. The Company (as required by the Listing Rules and the Mandatory Provisions) has adopted in the Articles of Association provisions protecting class rights in a similar manner to those found in Hong Kong law. Holders of overseas listed foreign invested shares and domestic invested shares are defined in the Articles of Association as different classes, except where (i) the Company issues and allots, in any 12-month period, pursuant to a shareholders' special resolution, not more than 20% of each of the issued overseas listed foreign invested shares and the issued domestic invested shares existing as at the date of the shareholders' special resolution; and (ii) the plan for the issue of domestic invested shares and listed foreign invested shares upon its establishment is implemented within 15 months following the date of approval by the CSRC. The Mandatory Provisions contain detailed provisions relating to circumstances which are deemed to constitute a variation of class rights.

(vi) Directors

The PRC Company Law, unlike Hong Kong company law, does not contain any requirements relating to the declaration of interests in material contracts; restrictions on interested directors being counted towards the quorum of, and voting at, a meeting of the board of directors at which a transaction in which a director is interested is being considered; restrictions on directors' authority in making major dispositions; restrictions on companies providing certain benefits, such as loans 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 requirements and restrictions on major dispositions and specify the circumstances under which a director may receive compensation for loss of office, all of which provisions have been incorporated in the Articles of Association, a summary of which is set out in Appendix VIII to this prospectus.

(vii) Board of Supervisors

Under the PRC Company Law, the board of directors and managers of a joint stock limited company is subject to the supervision and inspection of a Board of Supervisors but there is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of a Board of Supervisors for a company incorporated in Hong Kong. The Mandatory Provisions provide that each supervisor owes a duty, in the exercise of his powers, to act in good faith and honestly in what he considers to be in the best interests of the company and to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonable and prudent person would exercise under comparable circumstances.

(viii) Derivative action by non-controlling shareholders

Hong Kong law permits non-controlling shareholders to start a derivative action on behalf of a company against directors who have committed a breach of their fiduciary duties to the company, if such 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 gives shareholders of a joint stock limited company the right to initiate proceedings in the people's court to restrain the implementation of any resolution passed by the shareholders in a general meeting, or by the board of directors, that violates any law or infringes the lawful rights and interests of the shareholders, there is no form of proceedings equal to a derivative action. The Mandatory Provisions further provide remedies to the company against directors, supervisors and officers in breach of their duties to the company. In addition, every director and supervisor of a joint stock limited company applying for a listing of its foreign shares on the Stock Exchange is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company to comply with the company's articles of association.

This allows non-controlling shareholders to act against the directors and supervisors in default.

(ix) 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 court to either wind up 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 the Hong Kong Government may appoint inspectors who are given extensive statutory powers to investigate the affairs of a company incorporated in Hong Kong. The PRC law does not contain similar safeguards. The Mandatory Provisions, however, contain provisions to the effect that a controlling shareholder may not exercise its voting rights in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the shareholders generally or of some part of the 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.

(x) Notice of shareholders' meetings

Under the PRC Company Law, notice of a shareholders' general meeting must be given not less than 20 days before the meeting, or, in the case of a company having bearer shares, a public announcement of a shareholders' general meeting must be made at least 30 days prior to it being held. Under the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions, 45 days' written notice must be given to all shareholders and shareholders who wish to attend the meeting must reply in writing 20 days before the date of the meeting. For a company incorporated in Hong Kong, the minimum notice periods of a general meeting convened for passing an ordinary resolution and a special resolution are 14 days and 21 days, respectively. The notice period for an annual general meeting is 21 days.

(xi) Quorum for shareholders' meetings

Under Hong Kong law, the quorum for a general meeting is two members unless the articles of association of the company otherwise provide. For one member companies, one member will be a quorum.

The PRC Company Law does not specify any quorum requirement for a shareholders' general meeting, but the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions provide that a company's general meeting can be convened when replies to the notice of that meeting have been received from shareholders whose shares represent 50% of the voting rights in the company at least 20 days before the proposed date of the meeting. If that 50% level is not

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achieved, the company shall within five days notify its shareholders by public announcement and the shareholders' general meeting may be held thereafter.

(xii) Voting

Under Hong Kong law, an ordinary resolution is passed by a simple majority of votes cast by members present in person or by proxy at a general meeting and a special resolution is passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of votes cast by members present in person or by proxy at a general meeting. Under the PRC Company Law, the passing of any resolution requires more than one half of the votes cast by shareholders present in person or by proxy at a shareholders' general meeting except in cases of proposed amendment to the articles of association, increase or reduction of share capital, and merger, demerger or dissolution of a joint stock limited company or changes to the company status, which require two-thirds or more of votes cast by shareholders present at a shareholders' general meeting.

(xiii) Financial disclosure

A company is required under the PRC Company Law to make available at its office for inspection by shareholders its annual balance sheet, profit and loss account, statements of changes in financial position and other relevant annexes 20 days before the annual general meeting of shareholders. In addition, a company established by way of public subscription under the PRC Company Law must publish its financial position.

The annual balance sheet has to be verified by registered accountants. The Companies Ordinance requires a company to send to every shareholder a copy of its balance sheet, auditors' report and directors' report, which are to be laid before the company in its annual general meeting, not less than 21 days before such meeting.

A company is required under the PRC law to prepare its financial statements in accordance with the PRC accounting standards. The Mandatory Provisions require that the company must, in addition to preparing accounts according to the PRC standards, have its accounts prepared and audited in accordance with International Accounting Standards or Hong Kong accounting standards 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 accounting standards.

The Special Regulations require that there should not be any inconsistency 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.

(xiv) Information on directors and shareholders

The PRC Company Law gives the shareholders of a company the right to inspect the Articles of Association, minutes of the shareholders' general meetings and financial and accounting reports. Under the Articles of Association, shareholders of a company have the right to inspect and copy (at reasonable charges) certain information on shareholders and on directors similar to that available to shareholders of Hong Kong companies under Hong Kong law.

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(xv) Receiving agent

Under both the PRC Company Law and Hong Kong law, dividends once declared become debts payable to shareholders. The limitation period for debt recovery action under Hong Kong law is six years, while that under the PRC law is two years. The Mandatory Provisions require the appointment of 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 foreign shares dividends declared and all other monies owed by a joint stock limited company in respect of such foreign shares.

(xvi) Corporate reorganization

Corporate reorganizations 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 to another company in the course of being wound up voluntarily pursuant to section 237 of the Companies Ordinance or a compromise or arrangement between the company and its creditors or between the company and its members pursuant to section 166 of the Companies Ordinance which requires the sanction of the court. Under PRC Company Law, the merger, demerger, dissolution or change to the status of a company has to be approved by shareholders at general meeting.

(xvii) Arbitration of disputes

In Hong Kong, disputes between shareholders and a company incorporated in Hong Kong or its directors may be resolved through the courts. The Mandatory Provisions provide that such disputes should be submitted to arbitration at either the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre or the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission at the claimant's choice.

(xviii) Mandatory deductions

Under the PRC Company Law, after-tax profits of a company are subject to deductions of contributions to the statutory surplus reserve fund and the statutory public welfare fund of a company before they can be distributed to its shareholders. There are prescribed percentages under the PRC Company Law for such deductions. There are no such requirements under Hong Kong law.

(xix) Remedies of a company

Under the PRC Company Law, if a director, supervisor or manager infringes any laws in carrying out his duties, administrative regulation or the articles of association of a company, which results in damage to the company, that director, supervisor or manager should be responsible to the company for such damages. In addition, remedies of the company similar to those available under the Hong Kong law (including rescission of the relevant contract and recovery of profits made by a director, supervisor or officer) have been in compliance with the Hong Kong Listing Rules.

(xx) Dividends

The articles of association of a company empower the company 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.

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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 two years. A company shall not exercise its powers to forfeit any unclaimed dividend in respect of its listed foreign shares until after the expiry of the applicable limitation period.

(xxi) Fiduciary duties

In Hong Kong, there is the common law concept of the fiduciary duty of directors. Under the PRC Company Law and the Special Regulations, directors, supervisors, officers, and managers owe a fiduciary duty towards a company and are not permitted to engage in any activities which compete with or damage the interests of the company.

(xxii) 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 in certain circumstances) in a year, whereas the articles of association of a company provide, as required by the PRC Company Law, that share transfers may not be registered within 30 days before the date of a shareholders' meeting or within five days before the record date set for the purpose of distribution of dividends.

(b) Hong Kong Listing Rules

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

(i) Compliance Adviser

A company seeking listing on the Stock Exchange is required to appoint a compliance adviser acceptable to the Stock Exchange for the period from its listing date up to the date of the publication of its first full year's financial results, to provide the company with professional advice on continuous compliance with the Hong Kong Listing Rules and all other applicable laws, regulations, rules, codes and guidelines, and to act at all times, in addition to the company's two authorized representatives, as the principal channel of communication with the Stock Exchange. The appointment of the compliance adviser may not be terminated until a replacement acceptable to the Stock Exchange has been appointed.

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

The compliance adviser must keep the company informed on a timely basis of changes in the Hong Kong 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 Stock Exchange if the authorized representatives of the company are expected to be frequently outside Hong Kong.

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(ii) Accountants' report

An accountants' report for a PRC issuer will not normally be regarded as acceptable by the Stock Exchange unless the relevant accounts have been audited to a standard comparable to that required in Hong Kong. Such report will normally be required to conform to either Hong Kong or international accounting standards.

(iii) Process agent

The 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 Stock Exchange and must notify the Stock Exchange of his appointment, the termination of his appointment and his contact particulars.

(iv) Public shareholdings

If at any time there are existing issued securities of a PRC issuer other than foreign shares ("foreign shares") which are listed on the Stock Exchange, the Hong Kong Listing Rules require that the aggregate amount of such foreign shares held by the public must constitute not less than 25% of the issued share capital and that such foreign shares for which listing is sought must not be less than 15% of the total issued share capital if the company has an expected market capitalization at the time of listing of not less than HK\$50,000,000. The Stock Exchange may, at its discretion, accept a lower percentage of between 15% and 25% if the Company has an expected market capitalization at the time of listing of over HK\$10,000,000,000.

(v) Independent non-executive directors and supervisors

The 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 general body of shareholders will be adequately represented. The supervisors of a PRC issuer must have the character, expertise and integrity and be able to demonstrate a standard of competence commensurate with their position as supervisors.

(vi) Restrictions on purchase and subscription of its own securities

Subject to governmental approvals and the provisions of the Articles of Association, the Company may repurchase its own H shares on the Stock Exchange in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong Listing Rules. Approval by way of special resolution of the holders of domestic shares and the holders of H shares at separate class meetings conducted in accordance with the Articles of Association is required for share repurchases. In seeking approvals, the 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 Stock Exchange. The Directors must also state the consequences of any purchases which will arise under either or both of the Code on Takeovers and Mergers and any similar PRC law of which the directors are aware, if any.

Any general mandate given to the directors to repurchase the foreign shares must not exceed 10% of the total amount of existing issued foreign shares of the Company.

(vii) Mandatory provisions

With a view to increasing the level of protection afforded to investors, the Stock Exchange requires the incorporation, in the articles of association of a PRC company whose primary listing is on the Stock Exchange, of the Mandatory Provisions and provisions relating to the change, removal and resignation of auditors, class meetings

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and the conduct of the Board of Supervisors of the Company. Such provisions have been incorporated into the Articles of Association, a summary of which is set out in Appendix VIII to this prospectus.

(viii) Redeemable shares

The Company must not issue any redeemable shares unless the Stock Exchange is satisfied that the relative rights of the holders of the foreign shares are adequately protected.

(ix) Pre-emptive rights

Except in the circumstances mentioned below, the directors of a company are required to obtain the approval by a special resolution of shareholders in general meeting, and the approvals by special resolutions of the holders of domestic shares and foreign shares (each being otherwise entitled to vote at general meetings) at separate class meetings conducted in accordance with the Company's articles of association, prior to (1) authorizing, allotting, issuing or granting shares or securities convertible into shares, or options, warrants or similar rights to subscribe for any shares or such convertible securities; or (2) any major subsidiary of the Company making any such authorization, allotment, issue or grant so as materially to dilute the percentage equity interest of the company and its shareholders in such subsidiary.

No such approval will be required, but only to the extent that, the existing shareholders of the company have by special resolution in general meeting given a mandate to the 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 the existing domestic shares and foreign shares as of the date of the passing of the relevant special resolution or of such shares that are part of the company's plan at the time of its establishment to issue domestic shares and foreign shares and which plan is implemented within 15 months from the date of approval by the CSRC.

(x) Supervisors

The Company is required to adopt rules governing dealings by its Supervisors in securities of the Company in terms no less exacting than those of the model code (set out in Appendix 10 to the Hong Kong Listing Rules) issued by the Stock Exchange.

The Company is required to obtain the approval of its shareholders at a general meeting (at which the relevant Supervisor and his associates shall not vote 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 Company or its subsidiary: (1) the term of the contract may exceed three years; or (2) the contract expressly requires the Company to give more than one year's notice or to pay compensation or make other payments equivalent to the remuneration more than one year.

The remuneration committee of the 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 Company and its shareholders as a whole and advise shareholders on how to vote.

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(xi) Amendment to the Articles of Association

The Company is required not to permit or cause any amendment to be made to its Articles of Association which would cause the same to cease to comply with the mandatory provisions of the Hong Kong Listing Rules and the Mandatory Provisions or the PRC Company Law.

(xii) Documents for inspection

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

- a complete duplicate register of shareholders;
- a report showing the state of the issued share capital of the Company;
- the Company's latest audited financial statements and the reports of the Directors, auditors and Supervisors (if any) thereon;
- special resolutions of the Company;
- reports showing the number and nominal value of securities repurchased by the Company since the end of the last certificates 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 between Domestic Shares and H Shares);
- a copy of the latest annual return led with the State Administration of Industry and Commerce of the PRC; and for shareholders only, copies of minutes of meetings of shareholders.

(xiii) Receiving agents

The Company is required to appoint one or more receiving agents in Hong Kong and pay to such agent(s) dividends declared and other monies owing in respect of the H Shares to be held, pending payment, in trust for the holders of such H Shares.

(xiv) Statements in H share certificates

The Company is required to ensure that all of its listing documents and H 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 such 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 of the Company, and the Company agrees with each shareholder of the Company, to observe and comply with the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations, the Articles of Association and other relevant laws and administrative regulations;
- agrees with the Company, each shareholder, Director, Supervisor, manager and officer of the Company, and the Company acting for itself and for each Director, Supervisor, manager and officer of the Company agrees with each shareholder, to refer all differences and claims arising from the Articles of Association or any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by the PRC Company Law or other relevant laws and administrative regulations concerning the affairs of the Company to arbitration in accordance with the

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Articles of Association, and any reference to arbitration shall be deemed to authorize the arbitration tribunal to conduct hearings in open session and to publish its award. Such arbitration shall be final and conclusive;

- agrees with the Company and each shareholder of the Company that the H Shares are freely transferable by the holder thereof; and
- authorizes the Company to enter into a contract on his behalf with each Director, Supervisors, Managers and officer of the Company whereby each such Director and officer undertakes to observe and comply with his obligation to shareholders as stipulated in the Articles of Association.

(xv) Compliance with the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations and the Articles of Association

The Company is required to observe and comply with the PRC Company Law, the Special Regulations and the Articles of Association.

(xvi) Contract between the Company and its Directors, officers and Supervisors

The Company is required to enter into a contract in writing with every Director and officer containing at least the following provisions:

- an undertaking by the Director or officer to the Company to observe and comply with the PRC Company law, the Special Regulations, the Articles of Association, the Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Repurchases and an agreement that the Company shall have the remedies provided in the Articles of Association and that neither the contract nor his office is capable of assignment;
- an undertaking by the Director or officer to the Company acting as agent for each shareholder to observe and comply with his obligations to shareholders as stipulated in the Articles of Association;
- an arbitration clause which provides that whenever any differences or claims arise from that contract, the Articles of Association or any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by the PRC Company Law or other relevant law and administrative regulations concerning the affairs of the Company between the Company and its Directors or officers and between a holder of H Shares and a Director or officer of the Company, 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 must submit to the arbitral body 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 HKIAC;
- PRC laws shall govern the arbitration of disputes or claims referred to above, unless otherwise provided by law or administrative regulations;
- the award of the arbitral body is final and shall be binding on the parties thereto;

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- the agreement to arbitrate is made by the Director or offer with the Company on its own behalf and on behalf of each shareholder; and
- any reference to arbitration shall be deemed to authorize the arbitral tribunal to conduct hearings in open session and to publish its award.

The Company is also required to enter into a contract in writing with every Supervisor containing statements in substantially the same terms.

(xvii) Subsequent listing

The Company must not apply for the listing of any of its foreign shares on a PRC stock exchange unless the Stock Exchange is satisfied that the relative rights of the holders of foreign shares are adequately protected.

(xviii) English translation

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

(xix) General

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

(c) Other Legal and Regulatory Provisions

Upon the Company's listing, the provisions of the Securities and Futures Ordinance, the Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Repurchases and such other relevant ordinances and regulations as may be applicable to companies listed on the Stock Exchange will apply to the Company.

(d) Securities Arbitration Rules

The Articles of Association provide that certain claims arising from the Articles of Association or the PRC Company Law shall be arbitrated at either the CIETAC or the HKIAC in accordance with their respective rules. The Securities Arbitration Rules of the HKIAC contain provisions allowing an arbitral tribunal to conduct a hearing in Shenzhen for cases involving the affairs of companies incorporated in the PRC and listed on the 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 of its 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 China Taiwan.