

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 20-F

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of event requiring this shell company report

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 1-31517

中国电信股份有限公司
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

China Telecom Corporation Limited

(Translation of Registrant's Name into English)

People's Republic of China
(Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

31 Jinrong Street, Xicheng District
Beijing, People's Republic of China 100033
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

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(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol	Name of Each Exchange On Which Registered
American depositary shares H shares, par value RMB1.00 per share	CHA	New York Stock Exchange, Inc. New York Stock Exchange, Inc.*

* Not for trading, but only in connection with the listing on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. of American depositary shares, each representing 100 H shares.

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None
(Title of Class)

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act:

None
(Title of Class)

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report.

As of December 31, 2020, 67,054,958,321 domestic shares and 13,877,410,000 H shares, par value RMB1.00 per share, were issued and outstanding. H shares are ordinary shares of the Company listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files) Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or an emerging growth company. See definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer Non-Accelerated Filer Emerging Growth Company

If an emerging growth company that prepares its financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards[†] provided pursuant to Section 13 (a) of the Exchange Act.

[†] The term "new or revised financial accounting standard" refers to any update issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to its Accounting Standards Codification After April 5, 2012.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing.

U.S. GAAP

International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board

Other

If "Other" has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow. Item 17 Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

(APPLICABLE ONLY TO ISSUERS INVOLVED IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court. Yes No

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED
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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements are, by their nature, subject to significant risks and uncertainties, and include, without limitation, statements relating to:

- our business and operating strategies and our ability to successfully execute these strategies;
- our network expansion and capital expenditure plans;
- our operations and business prospects;
- the expected benefit of any acquisitions or other strategic transactions;
- our financial condition and results of operations;
- the expected impact of new services on our business, financial condition and results of operations;
- the future prospects of and our ability to integrate acquired businesses and assets;
- the industry regulatory environment as well as the industry outlook generally; and
- future developments in the telecommunications industry in the People's Republic of China, or the PRC.

The words “anticipate”, “believe”, “could”, “estimate”, “expect”, “intend”, “may”, “plan”, “seek”, “will”, “would” and similar expressions, as they relate to us, are intended to identify a number of these forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions, some of which are beyond our control. In addition, these forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are not a guarantee of future performance. We are under no obligation to update these forward-looking statements and do not intend to do so. Actual results may differ materially from the information contained in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including, without limitation, the following:

- any changes in the regulations or policies of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the PRC (prior to March 2008, the Ministry of Information Industry, or the MII), or the MIIT, and other relevant government authorities relating to, among other matters:
 - the granting and approval of licenses;
 - tariff or network speed policies;
 - interconnection and settlement arrangements;
 - capital investment priorities;
 - the provision of telephone and other telecommunications services to rural areas in the PRC; and
 - spectrum and numbering resources allocation;
- the effects of competition on the demand for and price of our services;
- any potential further restructuring or consolidation of the PRC telecommunications industry;
- changes in telecommunications and related technologies including the fifth generation mobile telecommunications, or 5G, and future generations of mobile technologies, and applications based on such technologies, including testing and monetization of 5G and future generations of mobile technologies;
- the development of new technologies and applications or services affecting the PRC telecommunications industry and our current and future business;
- the potential impact of restrictions, sanctions or other legal or regulatory actions under relevant laws and regulations in various jurisdictions on our suppliers and other business partners;
- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our operations and financial performance, the PRC economy and world economy, including disruptions to the demand for certain of our services and products such as international roaming services and services provided to corporate clients, a decline in network service quality due to the increased volume of online utilization, temporary closures of our sales outlets and a decline in new subscriber registration due to such closures, disruptions to the delivery of services or supplies, delay in network construction progress and fluctuation of labor supply and demand due to travel and other restrictions, and increased bad debts risk due to the deteriorating financial condition of certain corporate customers;

- the impact of Executive Order 13959 signed by the then President of the United States (as subsequently amended on January 13, 2021, the “Executive Order”), and any rules or regulations adopted, guidance issued or actions taken by U.S. regulators to implement or comply with the Executive Order, including the ongoing delisting proceedings of our ADSs;
- the impact of the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act and any rules or regulations adopted by U.S. regulators to implement such legislation;
- the completion of our proposed A share offering;
- changes in political, economic, legal and social conditions in the PRC, including changes in the PRC government’s specific policies with respect to foreign investment in and entry by foreign companies into the PRC telecommunications industry, economic growth, inflation, foreign exchange and the availability of credit;
- results and effects of any inspections by the relevant PRC regulatory authorities; and
- the development of our mobile business is dependent on the Tower Company.

Please also see “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors”.

CERTAIN DEFINITIONS AND CONVENTIONS

As used in this annual report, references to “us”, “we”, the “Company”, “our Company” and “China Telecom” are to China Telecom Corporation Limited and its consolidated subsidiaries except where we make clear that the term means China Telecom Corporation Limited or a particular subsidiary or business group only. References to matters relating to our H shares or American depository shares, or ADSs, or matters of corporate governance are to the H shares, ADSs and corporate governance of China Telecom Corporation Limited. All references to “China Telecom Group” are to China Telecommunications Corporation, our controlling shareholder. Unless the context otherwise requires, these references include all of its subsidiaries, including us and our subsidiaries. Unless otherwise indicated, references to and statements regarding China and the PRC in this annual report do not apply to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macau Special Administrative Region or Taiwan, while references to and statements regarding “international” in this annual report apply to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Macau Special Administrative Region and Taiwan.

PART I

Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers.

Not applicable.

Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable.

Not applicable.

Item 3. Key Information.

A. Selected Financial Data

Not Applicable.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

Risks Relating to Our Business

We face increasing competition, which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We operate in a highly competitive industry, and primarily compete against the other two full-service telecommunications providers in the PRC, namely, China Mobile Limited, or China Mobile, and China Unicom (Hong Kong) Limited, or China Unicom.

In mobile telecommunications services, China Mobile, China Unicom and China Broadcasting Network Corporation Ltd, or China Broadcasting Network, are our top three competitors. As of April 2021, each of China Unicom, China Mobile and us provides 4G services nationwide and has officially launched 5G commercial services in the PRC for more than one year. In June 2019, China Broadcasting Network was granted the 5G permit by the MIIT. In May 2020, China Broadcasting Network entered into a collaborative framework agreement in relation to 5G co-construction and sharing with China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd. (formerly known as China Mobile Communications Corporation) (“China Mobile Group”). In September 2020, China Broadcasting Network together with partners which include, among others, State Grid Information & Telecommunication Technology Group Co., Ltd. (国网信息通信产业集团有限公司) and Hangzhou Alibaba Venture Capital Management Co., Ltd. (杭州阿里巴巴创业投资管理有限公司) established China Broadcasting Network Co., Ltd to provide 5G services in partnership with China Mobile and it is also expected to offer 4G services in the future. Furthermore, in January 2021, China Mobile Communication Co., Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Mobile, on behalf of its 31 provincial subsidiaries, entered into a series of specific collaboration agreements with China Broadcasting Network, including (i) the 5G network co-construction and sharing collaboration agreement; (ii) the 5G network maintenance collaboration agreement; (iii) the market collaboration agreement; and (iv) the network usage fee settlement agreement. Our competitors and we have been rolling out 5G tariff plans to attract customers, and some of the plans offered by our competitors may be more attractive to customers than ours. In fixed-line voice and broadband services, we primarily compete against China Unicom, China Mobile and China Broadcasting Network. While we strive to provide competitive mobile and fixed-line telecommunications services to meet our subscribers’ evolving needs, we cannot assure you that: (i) our mobile and fixed-line telecommunications services will deliver the quality and levels of services currently anticipated; (ii) we will be able to provide all planned services or we will be able to provide such services on schedule; (iii) there will be sufficient demand for our mobile and fixed-line telecommunications services for us to deliver such services profitably; (iv) our competitors’ services will not be more popular among potential subscribers; or (v) we will not encounter unexpected technological difficulties in developing our Industrial Digitalization business and future generations of mobile and fixed-line services. Any adverse developments in these respects could impede our growth, which might have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We also face increasing competition from other competitors outside the telecommunications industry, in particular, from Internet services providers and mobile software and application developers, such as Over-the-Top messaging or voice services providers who offer contents and services on the Internet without their proprietary telecommunications network infrastructure. These competitors are competing with us in information and application or voice services. During the past few years, some of our traditional revenue streams, such as our voice services or short message services, or SMS have experienced negative growth, primarily due to the alternative means of communication offered by Over-the-Top messaging becoming increasingly popular among the subscribers. Though the increasing popularity of Over-the-Top messaging has generally contributed to the increase in our Internet data traffic and Internet services revenues, we cannot assure you that our Internet data traffic and Internet services revenue will continue to increase in the future or such increase could fully offset the negative effect of these Over-the-Top services on our voice services or SMS. In addition, in the field of Industrial Digitalization, we compete with telecommunications operators, Internet companies, software companies, equipment manufacturers, etc. Our cloud services and Internet data center (the “IDC”) business compete with domestic and international cloud service providers and IDC operators, respectively. Some of our competitors may adopt aggressive pricing policies. As a result, we may suffer from pricing pressure that would adversely affect our ability to generate revenues. Some of these competitors may also provide our target customers with additional benefits, including bundled services, and may do so in a manner that is more attractive to our potential customers. We expect that competition from competitors outside the telecommunications industry will intensify and the strategic cooperation between these competitors and telecommunications operators may reshape the competitive landscape of the telecommunications industry in which we operate. Though we strive to strengthen our competitiveness through comprehensively implementing our “Cloudification and Digital Transformation” strategy, we may encounter difficulties and challenges in addressing changing consumer needs and responding to the evolving competitive landscape.

In addition, the PRC government has taken various initiatives to encourage competition in the telecommunications industry, such as the policy encouraging private capital to enter the industry. For a series of government measures to encourage private capital to invest in telecommunications services that could compete with our services, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Competition”. Furthermore, by the end of November 2019, the mobile number portability services have been implemented nationwide, following pilot programs in certain municipalities and provinces. On November 11, 2019, the MIIT promulgated the Regulations on the Management of Mobile Number Portability Service, which became effective on December 1, 2019. As a result, the competitive landscape in the PRC telecommunications industry may further diversify, causing more intensified competition.

Increasing competition from other existing telecommunications services providers, including China Mobile and China Unicom, as well as competition from new competitors, among other factors, might force us to lower our tariffs, reduce or reverse the growth of our customer base and reduce usage of our services, which could materially and adversely affect our business and prospects. Any of these developments could materially and adversely affect our revenues and profitability. We cannot assure you that the increasingly competitive environment and any change in the competitive landscape of the telecommunications industry in the PRC would not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

We face uncertainties in the development and operation of our 5G business, and if we fail to address such uncertainties, our business, prospects and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

In June 2019, the MIIT granted the 5G permit to China Telecom Group, China Mobile Group, China United Network Communications Group Company Limited (formerly known as China United Telecommunications Corporation) (“Unicom Group”) and China Broadcasting Network. The MIIT has allocated the 3400MHz-3500MHz frequency bands to China Telecom Group, the 2515MHz-2675MHz and 4800MHz-4900MHz frequency bands to China Mobile Group, the 3500MHz-3600MHz frequency bands to Unicom Group, respectively, for nationwide 5G programs, and the 4900MHz-5000MHz to China Broadcasting Network for 5G trials. In February 2020, the MIIT approved China Telecom Group, Unicom Group and China Broadcasting Network to share the 3300MHz-3400MHz spectrum to build indoor 5G. In March 2020, the MIIT repurposed the use plan for 700MHz frequency bands to mobile communications. We have been authorized by China Telecom Group to develop 5G business nationwide.

In September 2019, in order to build a 5G network on an efficient basis and to rapidly create our 5G service capabilities, we entered into a 5G Network Co-Build and Co-Share Framework Cooperation Agreement with China United Network Communications Corporation Limited (“CUCL”) (the “5G Cooperation Agreement”). For more details, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Network System—Co-building and co-sharing with China Unicom”. Pursuant to the 5G Cooperation Agreement, both parties will delineate and designate districts, jointly co-build one 5G access network nationwide. We will rely on China Unicom’s network to provide our 5G services in the regions for which they are responsible. If the 5G network co-building and co-sharing construction progress falls behind the mutually agreed plan or our subscribers are unsatisfied with the network quality in such regions and turn to our competitors, our business and results of operations might be adversely impacted.

On October 31, 2019, we officially launched 5G commercial services in 50 cities nationwide. In 2020, leveraging “5G + e-Surfing Cloud”, we provided our subscribers with an excellent network experience as well as differentiated applications and services. As of December 31, 2020, the number of our 5G base stations in use exceeded 380,000, primarily achieving contiguous coverage in outdoor areas of all prefecture-level or above cities and some developed counties nationwide and indoor coverage of key buildings; the total number of our mobile subscribers reached 351 million, representing a net addition of 15.45 million and expanding our market share to 22.0%; the number of 5G package subscribers reached 86.50 million with a penetration rate of 24.6%. As of March 31, 2021, the number of 5G package subscribers further increased to approximately 111.23 million. For more details of our 5G operations, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview”.

The network deployment, construction of infrastructure and commercialization of 5G require us to devote significant financial resources and operational efforts, and we have been exploring optimal business models for our 5G business. However, there are uncertainties in the prospects of 5G developments and operations, including the competitiveness of 5G products and services, supplies and pricing of 5G terminals, the development of 5G Standalone, or 5G SA industry chain, capital expenditures in constructing 5G base stations, our suppliers’ ability to provide 5G equipment as well as future 5G technology application scenarios. If we are unable to appropriately address such uncertainties, it may adversely impact future benefits of our 5G business, which may materially and adversely affect our business, prospects and results of operations.

Our operations and further development of our mobile business is dependent on the Tower Company.

In July 2014, the Company, CUCL and China Mobile Communication Company Limited (“CMCL”) made the decision to jointly establish China Communications Facilities Services Corporation Limited (currently known as China Tower Corporation Limited, the “Tower Company”), and carried out the establishment of Tower Company and the transfer of certain tower assets. Upon completion of the transfer of tower assets by the Company to the Tower Company, the Company and the Tower Company entered into the Lease Agreement on July 8, 2016 that sets forth the pricing and related arrangements in relation to the lease of telecommunications towers and related assets (including both acquired towers and new towers). On February 1, 2018, the Company and the Tower Company entered into a supplemental agreement, effective from January 1, 2018, on the basis of the original Lease Agreement mainly to adjust the relevant pricing arrangement of tower products under the Lease Agreement. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Establishment of the Tower Company and the Disposal and Lease of the Telecommunications Towers”.

The Tower Company has been and will continue to be of significant importance to the operations and further development of our mobile business and our results of operations. Construction of new tower assets has been carried out by the Tower Company since the completion of the transfer of tower assets and, in principle, we expect the Tower Company will continue to carry out the construction of new tower assets in the future. Therefore, our mobile business has depended on and will continue to depend on the lease arrangement between us and the Tower Company. However, since we do not control the Tower Company, we cannot assure you that it will act in the best interests of us or the services of the Tower Company can sufficiently support our business needs and future plans.

The Lease Agreement, as may be further supplemented and amended from time to time, provides for pricing adjustment mechanism under which the fees may be further negotiated or agreed upon after considering effects of inflation, significant fluctuations in the real estate market or the steel price, many of which are beyond our control, and such pricing adjustment mechanism may result in a further adjustment of the fees charged to us by the Tower Company in the future. Furthermore, prior to the expiration of lease periods of individual towers, we have to negotiate with the Tower Company new leases of such tower, we cannot assure you that we will be able to enter into new leases at all or on favorable terms with the Tower Company. Due to our reliance on Tower Company for tower assets, if we fail to use the relevant tower assets at our desired locations and on terms and conditions that are favorable to us to maintain or expand our mobile network coverage, or if we cannot receive quality and stable services in a timely and economically viable manner from the Tower Company, the operations and further growth of our mobile business as well as our financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

We will continue to be controlled by China Telecom Group, which could cause us to take actions that may conflict with the best interests of our other shareholders.

China Telecom Group, a state-owned enterprise owned approximately 70.89% of our issued shares as of April 23, 2021. Accordingly, subject to our Articles of Association and applicable laws and regulations, China Telecom Group, as our controlling shareholder, will continue to be able to exercise significant influence over our management and policies by:

- controlling the election of our Directors and, in turn, indirectly controlling the selection of our senior management;
- determining the timing and amount of our dividend payments;
- approving our annual budgets;
- deciding on increases or decreases in our share capital;
- determining issuance of new securities;
- approving mergers and acquisitions; and
- amending our Articles of Association.

The interests of China Telecom Group as our controlling shareholder could conflict with our interests or the interests of our other shareholders. As a result, China Telecom Group may take actions with respect to our business that may not be in our or our other shareholders' best interests.

We depend on China Telecom Group and its other subsidiaries to provide certain services and facilities for which we currently have limited alternative sources of supply.

In addition to being our controlling shareholder, China Telecom Group, by itself and through its other subsidiaries, also provides us with services and facilities necessary for our business activities, including, but not limited to:

- use of international gateway facilities;
- provision of services in areas outside our service regions necessary to enable us to provide end-to-end services to our customers;
- use of certain inter-provincial optic fibers; and
- lease of properties and assets.

The interests of China Telecom Group and its other subsidiaries as providers of these services and facilities may conflict with our interests. We currently have limited alternative sources of supply for these services and facilities. Therefore, we have limited leverage in negotiating with China Telecom Group and its other subsidiaries over the terms for the provision of these services and facilities. Termination or adverse changes of the terms for the provisions of these services and facilities could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition. See "Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—B. Related Party Transactions" for a description of the services and facilities provided by China Telecom Group and its other subsidiaries.

Since our services require interconnection with networks of other operators, disruption in interconnections with those networks could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Under the relevant telecommunications regulations, telecommunications operators are required to interconnect with networks of other operators. China Telecom Group entered into interconnection settlement agreements with other telecommunications operators, including Unicom Group and China Mobile Group. We entered into an interconnection settlement agreement, as amended, with China Telecom Group, which allows our networks to interconnect with China Telecom Group's networks as well as networks of the other telecommunications operators, with whom China Telecom Group had interconnection arrangements. The effective provision of our voice, Internet and other services requires interconnection between our networks and those of China Telecom Group, Unicom Group, China Mobile Group and other domestic and international telecommunications operators. Any interruption in our interconnection with the networks of those domestic or international telecommunications carriers with which we interconnect due to technical or competitive reasons may affect our operations, service quality and customer satisfaction, and, in turn, our business and results of operations. In addition, any obstacles in existing interconnection arrangements and leased line agreements or any change in their terms, as a result of natural events, accidents, or for regulatory, technological, competitive or other reasons, could lead to temporary service disruptions and increased costs that may seriously jeopardize our operations and adversely affect our profitability and growth.

We may be unable to obtain sufficient financing to fund our capital requirements, which could limit our growth potential and prospects.

We believe that cash from operations, together with any necessary borrowings, will provide sufficient financial resources to meet our projected capital and other expenditure requirements. However, we may require additional funds to the extent we have underestimated our capital requirements or overestimated our future cash from operations. In addition, a significant feature of our business strategy is to transform our Company into a leading integrated intelligent information services operator, which may require additional capital resources. The cost of implementing new technologies, upgrading our networks or expanding bandwidth capacity may be significant. Furthermore, in order for us to effectively respond to technological changes and more intensive competition, we may need to make substantial investments in the future.

Financing may not be available to us on acceptable terms or at all. Our ability to obtain additional financing will depend on a number of factors, including:

- our future financial condition, results of operations and cash flows;
- general market conditions for financing activities by telecommunications companies; and
- economic, political and other conditions in the markets where we operate or plan to operate.

We cannot assure you that we can obtain sufficient financing at commercially reasonable terms or at all. If adequate capital is not available on commercially reasonable terms, our growth potential and prospects could be materially and adversely affected. On the other hand, incurrence of debt would result in increased interest expense and could require us to agree to restrictive operating and financial covenants.

The proposed A share offering, if completed, will result in dilution of the ownership interest of our existing shareholders, and we may not be able to realize the intended benefits of the offering proceeds and there are risks relating to listing on multiple stock exchanges. There is no assurance that the proposed A share offering will proceed and complete successfully.

We currently plan to raise additional equity capital by publicly offering A shares, the number of which will be no more than 12,093,342,392 shares (namely no more than 13% of our total issued share capital upon the A share offering, without taking into account the exercise of the over-allotment option). Please see "Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Proposed A Share Offering" for more information. Such offering, like any other issuance of equity securities, will result in dilution to our shareholders and may cause the market price of our securities to decline. In addition, if we successfully complete the A share offering and list our A shares on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, all of our shareholders (including the holders of newly issued A shares) would be entitled *pro rata* to our undistributed profits accumulated before the completion of our A share listing, which will dilute the interest of our existing shareholders.

We plan to apply most of the proceeds from the proposed A share offering to projects including the 5G industrial Internet construction project, the cloud-network integration new information infrastructure project, and the research and development project of sci-tech innovation. Our research and analysis on the necessity and feasibility of these projects are mainly based on current industry, technology, market and other factors, many of which are not within our control. If there are major changes in subsequent industry standards, technology trends, and market demand, the ultimate benefits generated from these projects may not meet our expectations, which will adversely affect our operating results.

Upon the completion of the proposed A share offering, our shares will be listed on multiple stock exchanges at the same time. Due to the differences in domestic and overseas regulatory rules, we need to comply with different sets of laws and regulations with respect to governance structure, compliant operation, information disclosure, internal control, investor protection, etc. In particular, we need to comply with the listing rules of all relevant regulatory authorities. This poses greater challenges to our compliant operation and investor relations management. In addition, we may incur additional costs and resources in continuously complying with all sets of securities regulatory regimes in multiple jurisdictions. Upon the listing of our A shares, holders of our A shares and H shares (including our ADSs) will be treated as different classes of shareholders for the purpose of voting on certain specific matters (such as increase or decrease of the number of class shares, cancellation or reduction of the rights of class shares, etc.). The convening and voting results of A share class shareholders meetings may have impact on our H share class shareholders (including our ADS holders). Furthermore, domestic and overseas investors may have different views on the valuation of us, and the factors that affect stock prices and their sensitivity to influencing factors may also be different among markets. These may result in significant differences in our stock prices in different stock exchanges. Systematic risks in domestic capital markets and fluctuations in domestic stock prices may adversely affect our ADS and H share investors.

The proposed A share offering is subject to approvals from China Securities Regulatory Commission, or CSRC, and other relevant regulatory authorities and may or may not proceed. The completion of such offering is also subject to market condition. Therefore, there is no assurance that the offering will complete as currently planned or at all.

If we are not able to respond successfully and cost-efficiently to technological or industry developments, our business may be materially and adversely affected.

The telecommunications market is characterized by rapid advancements in technology, evolving industry standards and changes in customer needs. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in responding to these developments. In addition, new services or technologies, such as cloud computing, Internet of Things, Big Data, artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum information, present new challenges to our existing services and technologies. In the event we do take measures to respond to technological developments and changes in industry standards, the integration of new technology or industry standards or the upgrading of our networks may require substantial time, effort and capital investment. Moreover, the successful development and application of such cutting edge technologies depend on a number of factors, including the integration of legacy networks and cloud security related challenges. We cannot assure you that we will succeed in integrating these new technologies and industry standards or adapting our network systems in a timely and cost-effective manner, or at all. Our inability to respond successfully and cost-efficiently to technological or industry developments may materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and competitiveness.

Our ability to respond to technological developments in a cost-efficient manner may also be adversely affected by external factors, some of which are beyond our control. For example, the development in 5G technology is expected to have a major impact on our services. See “—We face uncertainties in the development and operation of our 5G business, and if we fail to address such uncertainties, our business, prospects and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected” under this Item. In addition, we have been taking the initiatives to explore the feasibility of collaborative development of 5G and 4G. If our efforts turn out to be unsuccessful, our ability to attract and retain subscribers could be adversely affected.

Transactions in and holdings of our ADSs and H shares by U.S. persons beyond specified dates are prohibited, and the continued listing of and trading in our ADSs are subject to significant uncertainty.

On November 12, 2020, the then President of the United States signed Executive Order 13959 (as subsequently amended on January 13, 2021, the “Executive Order”) to (i) prohibit (the “Prohibitions”) any transaction by any U.S. person, subject to certain divestiture and other exemptions, in publicly traded securities, or any securities that are derivative of, or are designed to provide investment exposure to such securities, of certain Chinese companies (each, a “Restricted Company”), (ii) prohibit possession of the foregoing securities by a U.S. person after November 11, 2021 and (iii) authorize the United States Secretary of the Treasury to publicly list an entity as a Restricted Company, with respect to which the Prohibitions shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after such listing. The United States Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”) maintains a list of companies identified as a Restricted Company (the “Restricted List”) and, on January 8, 2021, added the Company to the “Issuer Name” column of the Restricted List. According to guidance issued by OFAC (available at https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/ccmc_gl1a_01272021_1.pdf), the Prohibitions with respect to the Company took effect on March 9, 2021, 60 days after the Company was added to the “Issuer Name” column of the Restricted List.

On December 31, 2020, the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, announced that it had determined to commence proceedings to delist our ADSs on the basis that we were no longer suitable for listing in light of the Executive Order. On January 4, 2021, the NYSE announced that, in light of further consultation with relevant regulatory authorities, the NYSE no longer intended to move forward with the delisting action in relation to our ADSs. On January 6, 2021, the NYSE announced that it had determined (the “Determination”) to re-commence proceedings to delist our ADSs to comply with the Executive Order and suspended trading in our ADSs on January 11, 2021.

Separately, the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation’s National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) suspended trade capture activities through its Universal Trade Capture (“UTC”) and Continuous Net Settlement (“CNS”) systems for our ADSs after trading ended on January 8, 2021. As a result, our ADSs can no longer be traded in any U.S. market that relies on NSCC’s UTC and CNS systems, including the over-the-counter (“OTC”) markets. On January 20, 2021, we filed with the NYSE a written request for a review of the Determination by a Committee of the Board of Directors of the NYSE (the “Committee”). The Company requested that the Committee reverse the Determination and stay the trading suspension of the ADSs pending review of the Determination. However, there is no assurance that such request will be successful and that the Committee will reverse its Determination.

If our ADSs were delisted from the NYSE, in light of the evolving situation described above, the organizers of OTC markets in the U.S. would also likely prohibit, or be directed to prohibit, the trading of our ADSs on such markets. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement entered into among the Company, the Bank of New York Mellon, and holders and beneficial owners of ADSs from time to time, holders of our ADSs may convert the ADSs into our H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange but will incur costs in order to do so. See “Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities” for further information. More importantly, pursuant to the Executive Order and the latest OFAC guidance, U.S. persons are prohibited from purchasing or selling our ADSs or H shares (subject to certain divestiture and other exemptions) beyond March 9, 2021 and holding our ADSs or H shares beyond January 8, 2022, 365 days after the Company was added to the “Issuer Name” column of the Restricted List. Furthermore, the foregoing events or any further development thereof may adversely affect investor sentiment towards our Company, regardless of our actual operating performance. As a result, the value and liquidity of our ADSs and H shares may significantly decrease.

Restrictions, sanctions and other legal or regulatory actions in various jurisdictions could adversely affect us, our suppliers, business partners and other stakeholders in the supply chain of semiconductor and telecommunications industry, which could materially and adversely affect our business operations directly and indirectly.

We procure our telecommunications network equipment, related maintenance and technical support and other equipment and services from certain PRC and overseas suppliers. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Network System”. We also transact with our overseas branches, as well as our business partners who operate globally. Therefore, both we and our business partners are subject to the laws and regulations of various jurisdictions and international organizations. The relevant jurisdictions or international organizations include, among others, the United States, the European Union (“EU”) and the United Nations. Any restrictions, sanctions or other legal or regulatory actions in the relevant jurisdictions, such as restrictions on import and export activities, could cause disruptions or other material difficulties on the business activities of our suppliers, business partners and us. Such disruptions could prevent our suppliers from delivering equipment and services to us in accordance with the agreed terms of supply, which in turn could negatively affect our business operations. We may not be able to find suitable alternative suppliers for the affected equipment or services in a timely manner. Even if we are able to find alternative suppliers, the commercial terms may not be comparable, and we could therefore be subject to a higher procuring cost. Furthermore, if any of our suppliers raises their prices due to an increase in international trade tariffs, we could be subject to a higher cost in procuring the relevant products. We may experience a significant delay in implementing the part of our business plans that relies on delivery of the affected equipment and services and difficulties in timely improving our services that rely on those suppliers for upgrading our networks and related software and applications.

Furthermore, the significant disruptions in the supply chain of semiconductor and telecommunications industry may indirectly impact the growth of our Internet services and information and application services. For example, the sanctions against certain mobile phone manufacturers may adversely affect the availability of quality 5G smart phones for users who may wish to upgrade their handsets, which could indirectly adversely affect our 5G business as such users potentially could have been our 5G package subscribers.

Any of the above and other consequences could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects and cause a significant volatility in and a decline in our share price.

Our business may be materially and adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or future health epidemics, pandemics or outbreaks.

The World Health Organization declared the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020. Since then, confirmed and death cases of the COVID-19 pandemic have continued to grow globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic and financial impact around the world. While various COVID-19 vaccine products have been developed and distributed, at this time, we are still not able to estimate the longer-term effects that the COVID-19 pandemic could have on our business. The extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic impacts our business, financial condition, results of operations will depend on future developments which are still uncertain, including the potential resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic from time to time, the implementation of the vaccination plans by the government, the efficacy and safety of vaccine products, and other actions taken or to be taken to restrain or resolve its impact. We are continuing to monitor the spread of the COVID-19 and related risks.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19, the Chinese government implemented domestic temporary control measures in late January 2020. Since March 2020, while the Chinese government has been gradually easing such control measures on a nationwide basis, stringent control measures have been maintained in provinces or cities where COVID-19 resurged. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has been primarily controlled in China and China's economy has gradually recovered, China's economy still experienced a slowdown and may continue to face new difficulties and challenges due to the increasing risk of imported cases, temporary impossibility of total elimination of the pandemic domestically, and heightened volatility and uncertainties in the global economy.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has been rapidly evolving globally and many countries have implemented vaccination plans, quarantine, social distancing and other mitigation measures to slow down the spread. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted global economic activities and caused significant volatility and negative pressure in the financial markets.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other adverse public health developments could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. The adverse impacts likely include disruptions to the demand of certain services and products such as international roaming services and services provided to corporate clients, a decline in network service quality due to the increased volume of online utilization, temporary closures of our sales outlets and a decline in new subscriber registration due to such closures, disruptions to the delivery of services or supplies, delay in network construction progress and fluctuation of labor supply and demand due to travel and other restrictions, increased bad debts risk due to the deteriorating financial condition of certain corporate customers. In addition, we have transitioned a subset of our employees to a remote work environment and allowed certain suppliers to remotely provide services in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which may increase certain costs and risks to our business and operations, including an increased demand for information technology resources.

We may be adversely affected by future health epidemics, pandemics or outbreaks which are beyond our control. These events are impossible to forecast and difficult to mitigate. Any of these events might have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. See “—Risks Relating to the People's Republic of China—The PRC's economic, political and social conditions, as well as government policies, could affect our business” under this Item.

Cyber security breaches could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

We rely on information technology systems to process, transmit, store, and protect electronic information. As a telecommunications operator, we are considered a critical information infrastructure operator under the relevant PRC law and therefore are subject to the regulations designed to protect critical information infrastructure and therefore may be more likely to be targeted by cyber attack activities. Our information technology systems may be vulnerable to a variety of interruptions due to events beyond our control, including, but not limited to, cyber attacks, computer viruses, hackers, telecommunications failures, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other security issues. We have technology and information security processes and disaster recovery plans in place to mitigate our risks to these vulnerabilities. However, these measures may not be adequate to ensure that our operations will not be disrupted, should such an event occur.

Increasing regulatory focus on personal information protection could impact our business and expose us to increased liability.

Regulators in various jurisdictions are increasingly scrutinizing how companies collect, process, use, store, share and transmit personal data. For example, the General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”), which went into effect in the EU on May 25, 2018, applies to the collection, use, retention, security, processing, and transfer of personally identifiable information of residents of EU countries. The GDPR created a range of new compliance obligations, and imposed significant fines and sanctions for violations. Although we have not been subject to any GDPR sanctions and have subscriber privacy policy in place, it is possible that the GDPR or other emerging regulations may be interpreted or applied in a manner that is adverse to us. Any failure, or perceived failure, by us to comply with any applicable regulatory requirements or orders, including but not limited to privacy, data protection, information security, or consumer protection-related privacy laws and regulations, could result in proceedings or actions against us by governmental entities or individuals, subject us to fines, penalties, and/or judgments, or otherwise adversely affect our business, as our reputation could be negatively impacted.

We face a number of risks relating to our Internet-related services.

We currently provide a range of Internet-related services, including dial-up and broadband Internet access, and Internet-related applications. We face a number of risks in providing these services.

Our network may be vulnerable to cyber attacks, including, among others, unauthorized access, denial of service attack and malicious software attack. In addition, cyber attacks may cause equipment failures, loss of information, including confidential or otherwise protected information stored in our customers' computer systems and mobile phone systems, failure or perceived failure to comply with applicable privacy, security, or data protection laws or regulations, as well as disruptions to our operations or our customers' operations. We have devoted significant resources to network security, data security and other security measures to protect our systems and data, but we cannot assure you that the security measures we have implemented will not be circumvented or otherwise fail to protect the integrity of our network, including our mobile network. Furthermore, it is difficult to estimate or calculate the economic costs caused by potential cyber security incidents and maintain sufficient insurance coverage relating to them at commercially reasonable rates and terms, as the costs may differ based on the identity and motive of the programmer or hacker, which are often difficult to identify. Thus, the economic costs to us to eliminate or alleviate cyber attacks could be significant. Eliminating computer viruses and other security problems may also require interruptions, delays or suspension of our services, reduce our customer satisfaction and cause us to incur costs. Cyber attacks may also subject us to litigations, liabilities for information loss, breach of confidentiality of private information, and/or reputational damage. While, to date, we have not been subject to cyber attacks which, individually or in the aggregate, have been material to our operations or financial condition, we cannot assure you that we will not experience them in the future. Due to the evolving nature of cyber security threats, the scope and impact of any future incident cannot be predicted. While we continually work to safeguard our systems and mitigate potential risks, there is no assurance that such actions will be sufficient to prevent cyber attacks or security breaches that manipulate or improperly use our systems or networks, compromise confidential or otherwise protected information, destroy or corrupt data, or otherwise disrupt our operations. The occurrence of such events could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, because we provide connections to the Internet and host websites for customers and develop Internet information and applications, we may be perceived as being associated with the content carried over our network or displayed on websites that we host. We are not able to screen all of this content and may face litigation claims due to a perceived association with this content. These types of claims have been brought against other providers of online services in the past. Regardless of the merits of the lawsuits, these types of claims can be costly to defend, divert management resources and attention, and may damage our reputation.

Furthermore, we rely on proper operation and maintenance of our equipment. Any malfunction, capacity constraint or operation interruption of our equipment may have an adverse impact on our business.

Any failure to achieve and maintain effective internal controls could have a material adverse effect on our reputation, business, results of operations and the market prices of our securities.

Effective internal controls are necessary for us to provide reasonable assurance with respect to our financial reports and to prevent fraud. We are required to comply with various PRC, U.S. and Hong Kong laws, rules and regulations on internal controls, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. In particular, Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 requires that we include a report of management on our internal control over financial reporting in our annual reports on Form 20-F that contains an assessment by our management of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. In addition, our independent registered public accounting firm must issue an auditor's report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

Internal controls may not prevent or detect misstatements because of their inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error, the circumvention or overriding of controls, or fraud. As a result, even effective internal controls are able to provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements. Any of the possible failure in maintaining the effective internal control over financial reporting could result in a decline of investor confidence in the reliability of our consolidated financial statements, which could cause the market prices of our securities to fluctuate.

Revenues derived from our voice services may continue to decline, which may adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Revenues from our voice services continued to decline during the past several years. Our revenues from voice services decreased by 11.1% from RMB50,811 million in 2018 to RMB45,146 million in 2019 and further decreased by 9.5% to RMB40,866 million in 2020. Percentage of revenues derived from our voice services out of our total operating revenues also continued to decrease, from 13.5% in 2018 to 12.0% in 2019 and 10.4% in 2020.

Of revenues from our voice services, revenues from wireline voice services decreased by 6.6% in 2019 compared to 2018 and further decreased by 13.0% in 2020 and the percentage of revenues derived from our wireline voice services out of our total operating revenues also continued to decrease, from 5.2% in 2018 to 4.9% in 2019 and 4.1% in 2020. This is primarily due to the fact that we continued to lose wireline telephone subscribers resulting from the increasing popularity of mobile services and other alternative means of communication, such as Over-the-Top messaging services. The number of our wireline telephone subscribers decreased by 4.8% at the end of 2019 compared to that at the end of 2018 and further decreased by 2.7% at the end of 2020.

Revenues from our mobile voice services decreased by 14.0% in 2019 compared to 2018 and further decreased by 7.1% in 2020 and the percentage of revenues derived from our mobile voice services out of our total operating revenues also continued to decrease, from 8.3% in 2018 to 7.1% in 2019 and 6.3% in 2020. In recent years, while the number of subscribers of our mobile services has continued to grow, due to the increasing popularity of alternative means of communication and the continued decrease in our tariffs for mobile voice services, revenues from our mobile voice services still continued to decrease.

We cannot assure you that we will be successful in slowing down the decline of our revenues generated from voice services. Migration from voice services to other alternative means of communication may further intensify and tariffs for voice services may further decrease in the future, which may affect the financial performance of our voice services and thus adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and prospects as a whole.

Revenues derived from our wireline broadband services may decline, which may adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Our revenues from wireline broadband services decreased by 7.9% to RMB68,413 million in 2019. Such revenues increased by 5.1% to RMB71,872 million in 2020. However, due to increasing broadband penetration rates and fierce market competition, tariffs for wireline broadband may further decrease in the future. As such, we cannot assure you that we will be successful in maintaining the growth in our revenues generated from wireline broadband services, which may adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

We may suffer damage to our reputation due to communications fraud carried out on our network.

Communications fraud, in which a person defrauds another by means of telecommunications technologies including SMS, telephone, and Internet, poses a risk to us. If communications fraud is committed over our network, we may incur liability as a result of the inadequacy in our measures to prevent such fraud. On September 23, 2016, six departments including the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China (the "Supreme People's Court"), the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China (the "Supreme People's Procuratorate"), the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China (the "Ministry of Public Security"), the MIIT, the People's Bank of China and the China Banking Regulatory Commission (now known as China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission) jointly released the Announcement on Preventing and Cracking Down on Telecom and Internet Frauds (关于防范和打击电信网络诈骗犯罪的通告), on December 19, 2016, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the Ministry of Public Security jointly issued the Opinions on Several Issues concerning the Application of Law to the Handling of Criminal Cases Involving Telecom and Internet Frauds (关于办理电信网络诈骗等刑事案件适用法律若干问题的意见), and on October 25, 2019, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate released the Interpretation on Several Issues concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases Involving Crimes of Illegally Using an Information Network or Providing Aid for Criminal Activities in Relation to Information Network (最高人民法院、最高人民检察院关于办理非法利用信息网络、帮助信息网络犯罪活动等刑事案件适用法律若干问题的解释).

We have implemented various measures to prevent and crack down on communications fraud. For example, we have strengthened the real identity registration of telephone users by strengthening the staff's authentication for the real-name login system, user ID verification, portrait comparison and living body authentication. We have also adopted measures such as standardized caller transmission, abnormal traffic monitoring and interception, phishing website identification, verification of user reporting and shutdown of the numbers involved in communications fraud cases. However, there is no assurance that such measures will prevent communications fraud effectively. Communications fraud as a result of our failure in implementing the real name registration measure may result in claims being brought against us and may damage our reputation and could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Our authorizations to provide telecommunications services in the United States are subject to actions by the relevant authorities in the United States and we cannot assure you we will be able to maintain those authorizations in the future.

Our wholly owned subsidiary, China Telecom (Americas) Corporation, or CTA, provides international common carrier communications services between the United States and foreign countries pursuant to the authorizations previously issued to it by the United States Federal Communications Commission, or the FCC, under Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934 and provides domestic interstate common carrier communications services in the United States based on the FCC's blanket authority (collectively, the "214 Authorizations"). On April 4, 2020, the then President of the United States issued an executive order for the establishment of a committee to review foreign participation in the telecommunications services in the United States. On April 9, 2020, the U.S. Justice Department and other federal agencies recommended the FCC to revoke and terminate CTA's international section 214 authorizations. On April 24, 2020, the FCC issued a Show Cause Order to CTA directing CTA to file a response demonstrating why the FCC should not initiate proceedings to revoke and terminate its 214 Authorizations. On June 8, 2020, CTA filed its response. On December 10, 2020, the FCC adopted an order (the "FCC Order") that instituted proceedings to determine whether to revoke and/or terminate our 214 Authorizations.

CTA has appealed the FCC Order in accordance with relevant laws, regulations and regulatory requirements to safeguard its legitimate rights. We are cooperating with the regulators and providing additional details to support our position and address any concerns, and to defend our legitimate rights through legal proceedings. However, we cannot assure you that our 214 Authorizations will not be revoked or terminated. Despite that the revenues from the telecommunications services we provide in the United States in recent years have not been significant to our overall operations and financial results, losing our 214 Authorizations would have an adverse effect on our operations in North America and may also harm our reputation.

Our success depends on the continued services of our senior management team and other qualified employees.

Our continued success and growth depends on our ability to identify, hire, train and retain suitably skilled and qualified employees, including management personnel, with relevant professional skills. The services of our Directors and members of senior management are essential to our success and future growth. As we have to compete for a limited supply of qualified employees, such as managerial, sales, administration, research and development and operating personnel with adequate skills and experience, in China, we may not be able to successfully attract, assimilate or retain all of the personnel we need. We may also need to offer superior compensation and other benefits to attract and retain key personnel and therefore cannot assure you that we will have the resources to fully achieve our staffing need. Due to the intense competition for management and other personnel and qualified employees in the telecommunications industry in mainland China, any failure to recruit and retain the necessary management personnel and other qualified employees could have a material adverse effect on our business and prospects.

We may not be able to effectively detect or prevent misconduct of our executives and other employees, which could adversely harm our reputation and negatively impact our financial conditions and results of operations as well as the trading price of our securities.

We are exposed to the risk of misconduct by executives and other employees and we have experienced incidents of executive misconduct in the past. In May 2017, Mr. Chang Xiaobing, the former Chairman of China Telecom Group was sentenced to six years of imprisonment over corruption charges. Mr. Chang was appointed as the chief executive officer of the Company on September 1, 2015 and the director and chairman of the Company on October 23, 2015. On December 30, 2015, Mr. Chang resigned from his positions as the executive director, chairman and chief executive officer of the Company with effect from the same date. Prior to his resignation, Mr. Chang had worked at the Company for four months. In September 2017, Mr. Zhen Caiji, the former Executive Vice President of the Company was expelled from the Communist Party of China and dismissed from public service for serious disciplinary violations and was under investigation of suspected criminal violations. Mr. Zhen was appointed as an executive vice president of the Company on November 4, 2016 and resigned from the position of executive vice president of the Company on May 22, 2017. Prior to his resignation, Mr. Zhen had worked at the Company for seven months. In response to executive misconducts, we have taken various measures to identify and deter employee misconduct and have adopted a code of conducts and ethics of employees. However, we cannot assure you that these measures will be effective in detecting or preventing all employee misconduct. The publicity of the investigation and/or prosecution against our employees or former employees may harm our reputation and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations as well as the trading price of our securities.

We enjoy certain preferential tax policies in China; any adverse change of such tax policies in the future may have an adverse effect on our cash flows and results of operations.

According to the Announcement of the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the General Administration of Customs on Deepening the Value-added Tax Reform Policy (Announcement No. 39 of the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the General Administration of Customs in 2019), from April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, taxpayers in the producer and consumer services sectors, including us, are allowed to deduct tax payable by adding 10% to the current deductible input tax. However, this policy may be cancelled when it expires on December 31, 2021, and in that case we will cease to benefit from this preferential tax treatment.

Applicable preferential tax policies including the above have had a positive effect on our development and business performance. Any adverse change of such tax policies in the future may have an adverse effect on our cash flows and results of operations.

Risks Relating to the Telecommunications Industry in the PRC

The current and future government regulations and policies that extensively govern the telecommunications industry may limit our flexibility in responding to market conditions as well as competition, and may have a material adverse effect on our profitability and results of operation.

Our business is subject to extensive government regulation. The MIIT, which is the primary telecommunications industry regulator under the PRC's State Council, regulates, among other things:

- industry policies and regulations;
- licensing;

- competition;
- telecommunications resource allocation;
- service standards;
- technical standards;
- tariff policies;
- interconnection and settlement arrangements;
- enforcement of industry regulations;
- universal service obligations;
- network information security;
- network access license approval for telecom equipment and terminals; and
- network construction plans.

Other PRC governmental authorities also take part in regulating tariff policies, capital investment and foreign investment in the telecommunications industry. The regulatory framework within which we operate may constrain our ability to implement our business strategies and limit our flexibility to respond to market conditions. For example, the PRC governmental authorities have promulgated various regulations, rules, guidance opinions and other directives regarding network speed upgrade and tariff reduction. On May 20, 2015, the office of the State Council promulgated the Guidance Opinions Regarding Expediting the Development of the High-Speed Broadband Network and Promoting the Speed Upgrade and Tariff Reduction, calling for the telecommunications operators to reduce the data tariffs. As a result, we carried out a series of measures, including launching the upgrade service in October 2015 which allowed handset data subscribers who subscribe to our monthly data packages to rollover the unused data remaining in the monthly packages to the next month. In addition, we ceased to charge handset subscribers domestic long distance and roaming fees on and from September 1, 2017. Meanwhile, we have significantly reduced the fees of international long distance calls since May 1, 2017 and also have reduced the tariff of Internet dedicated line access for small and medium enterprises.

On March 5, 2018, the Government Work Report presented in the first plenary session of the 13th National People's Congress of the PRC included certain policy requirements regarding network speed upgrade and tariff reduction, including requirements to: (i) increase efforts in implementing network speed upgrade and tariff reduction measures; (ii) achieve full coverage of high-speed broadband in cities and rural areas; (iii) expand the coverage of free WiFi Internet access in public areas; (iv) substantially reduce the tariffs of household broadband, corporate broadband and dedicated leased line; (v) cancel data roaming fee; and (vi) reduce mobile data tariff by at least 30% in 2018. In 2018, we implemented corresponding measures in due course to meet such policy requirements, including: (i) starting July 1, 2018, we cancelled data roaming fee within mainland China; (ii) we launched "large data traffic packages" to reduce the unit price of data traffic products; (iii) we further reduced the tariff for international roaming charges in various countries and regions; (iv) we carried out broadband upgrade by promoting Hundred-Mbps broadband; and (v) we reduced the tariff of Internet dedicated line access and commercial dedicated line access for small and medium enterprises.

On March 5, 2019, the Government Work Report presented in the second plenary session of the 13th National People's Congress of the PRC included policy requirements regarding further promotion of network speed upgrade and tariff reduction. Such requirements include a 15% further reduction in the average broadband tariff for small and medium enterprises and a more than 20% reduction in the average tariff of mobile network in 2019. In 2019, we implemented corresponding measures in due course to meet such policy requirements, including: (i) starting January 1, 2019, we reduced out-of-package data tariff; (ii) we enhanced the promotion of large data traffic packages, enabling more subscribers to enjoy data traffic with lower unit tariff; (iii) we launched discounted traffic packages to serve the needs for specific subscribers; and (iv) starting May 1, 2019, we further reduced the tariff of Internet dedicated line access, and carried out free speed upgrade programs for qualified small and medium enterprise subscribers.

On May 22, 2020, the Government Work Report presented in the third plenary session of the 13th National People's Congress of the PRC further required a 15% reduction in the average tariff of broadband and dedicated line. In 2020, we likewise implemented corresponding measures in due course to meet such policy requirements, including (i) carrying out optical fiber transformation and tariff discounts for our broadband subscribers that are small and medium enterprises, manufacturing enterprises and dedicated line subscribers, and (ii) implementing free speed upgrade for our qualified subscribers.

On March 5, 2021, the Government Work Report presented in the fourth plenary session of the 13th National People’s Congress of the PRC further required a 10% reduction in the average tariff of broadband and dedicated line for small and medium enterprises. In 2021, we will take corresponding measures to meet such policy requirements, including: (i) carrying out speed upgrade and favorable initiatives for small and medium enterprises subscribers of broadband and dedicated line access to launch speed upgrades, integration upgrades and service upgrades, and upgrading speed free of charge for qualified small and medium enterprises subscribers of broadband and dedicated line access; (ii) providing cloud product discount packages for small and medium enterprises subscribers; (iii) increasing policy awareness for small and medium enterprises subscribers, especially in areas where they are concentrated, such as buildings and parks.

Though we strive to sustain our competitive advantages through various initiatives, our revenues and profitability may be affected by these requirements on network speed upgrade and tariff reduction. We may also have to devote substantial resources, incur significant expenses and make strategic adjustment of business and operation strategies in order to meet these requirements and maintain our competitive advantages. Failure to effectively respond to such evolving standards in a timely and cost-efficient manner may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, we may face further policy requirements imposed by the PRC government on network speed upgrade and tariff reduction in the future. Any such requirements could materially and adversely affect our revenues, profitability and results of operations.

In China, the regulatory framework governing the collection, processing, storage and use of business information and personal data is rapidly evolving. For example, the Cyber Security Law of the People’s Republic of China (“Cyber Security Law”) came into force on June 1, 2017, which sets forth the general framework regulating network products, equipment and services, as well as the operation and maintenance of information networks, the protection of personal data, and the supervision and administration of cyber security in China. On October 1, 2020, the revised Information Security Technology—Personal Information Security Specification (信息安全技术个人信息安全规范) which superseded the previous specification published in 2018 was formally implemented, adding provisions with respect to “autonomous selection of multiple business functions”, “convergence and integration of personal information collected for different business purposes”, “usage restrictions of user portraits”, “third-party access management”, “personal information security project”, and “personal information processing activity records”, etc. It also revised “exceptions for authorization and consent”, “personal information subject cancellation accounts”, etc., which provides more privacy protection with respect to the collection, utilization and retention of personal information. If we are unable to respond to changing laws, regulations, policies and guidelines related to privacy or cyber security, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may be materially and adversely affected.

Moreover, on December 1, 2016, the amended PRC Regulations on the Management of Radio Operation (中华人民共和国无线电管理条例) came into effect. The amended provision provided that a permit is required for using certain radio frequencies, which may be obtained through a bidding process or auctions. As such, we may incur additional costs in the future when we need to obtain the permit to use certain radio frequencies. In addition, the PRC government has taken various initiatives and promulgated a number of regulations to encourage private capital to invest in the telecommunications industry, all of which have intensified, and are expected to continue to intensify, the competition in the telecommunications industry in the PRC. See “—Risks Relating to our Business—We face increasing competition, which may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations” under this Item.

Furthermore, PRC telecommunications services providers operating in other jurisdictions are also subject to the licensing and other regulatory requirements and supervision of the relevant foreign government agencies. See “—Risks Relating to our Business—Our authorizations to provide telecommunications services in the United States are subject to actions by the relevant authorities in the United States and we cannot assure you we will be able to maintain those authorizations in the future” under this Item.

The regulations and policies that govern the telecommunications industry in the PRC have experienced continuous changes in the past several years. Any significant future changes in regulations or policies that govern the telecommunications industry may have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

The PRC government may require us, along with other providers in the PRC, to provide universal services with specified obligations, and we may not be compensated adequately for providing such services.

Under the Telecommunications Regulations promulgated by the State Council, telecommunications service providers in the PRC are required to fulfill universal service obligations in accordance with relevant regulations to be promulgated by the PRC government. The MIIT has the authority to delineate the scope of universal service obligations. The MIIT, together with other governmental authorities, is also responsible for formulating administrative rules relating to the establishment of a universal service fund and compensation schemes for universal services. The PRC government currently uses financial resources to compensate for the expenses incurred in the universal services related projects before the establishment of a universal service fund. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulatory and Related Matters—Universal Services”. However, the compensation from the PRC government may not be sufficient to cover all of our expenses for providing the telecommunications universal services.

Under the Telecommunications Regulations, all PRC telecommunications operators shall provide universal services, and we expect to perform our duties thereunder accordingly. We may not be able to realize adequate return on investments for expanding networks to, and providing telecommunications services in, those economically less developed areas due to potentially higher capital expenditure requirements, lower usage by customers and lack of flexibility in setting our tariffs. If we are required to provide universal services with specified obligations without proper compensation by the government, our business and profitability may be adversely affected.

Actual or perceived health risks associated with the use of mobile devices could impair our ability to retain and attract customers of our mobile services, reduce mobile service usage or result in litigation.

Concerns have been expressed in some countries that the electromagnetic signals emitted by wireless telephone handsets and base stations may pose health risks at exposure levels below existing guideline levels, and interfere with the operation of electronic equipment. While we comply with applicable standards for radio frequency emissions and we are not aware that such health risks have been substantiated, there can be no assurance that the actual, or perceived, risks associated with the transmission of electromagnetic signals will not impair our ability to retain customers and attract new customers, significantly reduce mobile service and wireless communications usage or result in litigation.

Risks Relating to the People's Republic of China

Substantially all of our assets are located in the PRC and substantially all of our revenues are derived from our operations in the PRC. Accordingly, our results of operations and prospects are subject, to a significant extent, to the economic, political and legal developments in the PRC.

The PRC's economic, political and social conditions, as well as government policies, could affect our business.

Substantially all of our business, assets and operations are located in the PRC. The PRC's economy differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including without limitation:

- government involvement;
- level of development;
- growth rate;
- control of foreign exchange; and
- allocation of resources.

While the PRC's economy has experienced significant growth in the past 40 years, growth has been uneven, both geographically and among various sectors of the economy. The PRC government has implemented various measures to encourage economic growth and guide the allocation of resources. Some of these measures benefit the overall economy of the PRC, but may also have a negative effect on us.

Economic developments in the PRC have a significant effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Although the PRC has been one of the world's fastest growing economies in terms of GDP growth in the past 40 years, the economic growth of the PRC has experienced a marked slowdown in the past few years and may continue to slow down. For example, the GDP growth rate of the PRC decreased from 10.6% in 2010 to 2.3% in 2020. Although the PRC's GDP growth rate still outpaced other major economies in 2020, there is no assurance that the PRC's economy will continue to outperform other countries.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact might continue to cause a decline of global economy and an evident slowdown in the economic development in many countries and China might not be able to avoid being affected by such development. As the PRC is increasingly connected with the rest of the world, any slowdown or decline of global economy might adversely impact the PRC economy in various respects, including reduction in exports, decreased consumer spending, higher unemployment levels, declined business confidence and continued volatility in financial markets. Any significant slowdown or decline in the PRC economy might have a material adverse impact on the PRC telecommunications industry as well as our business and operations, including decreased demand for, or delayed purchase of, our services and products, especially with regard to non-essential items, such as value-added or premium services.

We are subject to reviews and inspections by governmental authorities and regulatory agencies.

Certain Chinese regulatory authorities may conduct compliance checks on us in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. These reviews and inspections could cover a broad range of aspects in relation to our business and operations. We cannot predict the impact of any findings of these reviews and inspections, and we cannot assure you that the outcome of any such reviews and inspections would not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Government restriction on currency conversion may adversely affect our financial condition.

We receive substantially all of our revenues in Renminbi, which currently is not a freely convertible currency. A portion of these revenues must be converted into other currencies to meet our foreign currency obligations. These foreign currency-denominated obligations include:

- payment of interest and principal on foreign currency-denominated debt;
- payment for equipment and materials purchased offshore; and
- payment of dividends declared, if any, in respect of our H shares.

Under the PRC's existing foreign exchange regulations, we will be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies without prior approval from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, by complying with certain procedural requirements. However, the PRC government may take measures at its discretion in the future to restrict access to foreign currencies for both current account transactions and capital account transactions. We may not be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies to our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs, if the PRC government restricts access to foreign currencies for current account transactions.

Foreign exchange transactions under our capital account, including but not limited to foreign currency-denominated borrowings from foreign banks, issuance of foreign currency-denominated debt securities, if any, and principal payments in respect of foreign currency-denominated obligations, continue to be subject to significant foreign exchange controls and require the approval of or registration with SAFE or certain banks designated by SAFE, as applicable. These limitations could affect our ability to obtain foreign exchange through debt or equity financing, or to obtain foreign exchange to meet our payment obligations under the debt securities, if any, or to obtain foreign exchange for capital expenditures.

Fluctuation of the Renminbi could materially affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We receive substantially all of our revenues, and our financial statements are presented, in Renminbi. The value of the Renminbi against U.S. dollar and other currencies fluctuates and is affected by, among other things, the policies of the PRC government and changes in the PRC's and international political and economic conditions, as well as supply and demand in the local market. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to disruption and volatility in the global financial markets, which has increased uncertainties in the foreign exchange markets and also fluctuations in the value of the Renminbi. On July 21, 2005, the People's Bank of China introduced a managed floating exchange rate system to allow the value of the Renminbi to fluctuate within a regulated band based on market supply and demand and by reference to a basket of currencies. In April 2012, the People's Bank of China expanded the daily floating band of Renminbi trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign currency exchange market from 0.5% to 1.0%, which was further expanded to 2.0% in March 2014. On August 11, 2015, the People's Bank of China announced that the mid-point exchange rate for the floating range of Renminbi against the U.S. dollar will be determined based on market maker submissions that take into account the Renminbi-U.S. dollar exchange rate at the previous day's closing of the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market, the supply and demand dynamics and the movements of other major currencies. With the development of the foreign exchange market and progress towards interest rate liberalization and Renminbi internationalization, we cannot assure you that the People's Bank of China will not announce further changes to the exchange rate system and there is no guarantee that the Renminbi will not appreciate or depreciate significantly in value against the U.S. dollar in the future. There is uncertainty in the exchange rate of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar in the future.

Fluctuations in exchange rates may adversely affect the value, translated or converted into U.S. dollars or Hong Kong dollars, of our net assets, earnings and any declared dividends payable on our H shares in foreign currency terms. Our financial condition and results of operations may also be affected by changes in the value of certain currencies other than the Renminbi, in which our obligations are denominated. For further information on our foreign exchange risks and certain exchange rates, see "Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk—Foreign Exchange Rate Risk". We cannot assure you that any future movements in the exchange rate of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar or other foreign currencies will not adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. We do not currently engage in any foreign currency hedging activities.

The PRC legal system has inherent uncertainties that could limit the legal protections available to you.

We were incorporated under the PRC Company Law and are governed by our Articles of Association. The PRC legal system is based on written statutes. Prior court decisions may be cited for reference but have limited precedential value. With the continuous development of the Chinese economy, the PRC government has promulgated laws and regulations dealing with economic matters, such as issuance and trading of securities, foreign investment, corporate organization and governance, commerce, taxation and trade, with the aim of forming a comprehensive business legal system. However, because many related laws and regulations are relatively new, and because of the rapid development in the PRC telecommunications industry, the impact of these laws and regulations on the rights and obligations of relevant persons involves uncertainties.

The ability of our shareholders to enforce their rights in respect of violations of corporate governance procedures may be limited. In this regard, our Articles of Association provide that most disputes between holders of H shares and our Company, Directors, Supervisors, officers or holders of domestic shares, arising out of our Articles of Association or the PRC Company Law and related regulations concerning the affairs of our Company, are to be resolved through arbitration by an arbitration tribunal in Hong Kong or the PRC, rather than by a court of law. Awards that are 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 the PRC. However, to our knowledge, no action has been brought in the PRC by any holder of H shares to enforce an arbitral award, and we are uncertain as to the outcome of any action, if brought in the PRC to enforce an arbitral award made in favor of holders of H shares. See “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association”.

To our knowledge, there has not been any published report of judicial enforcement in the PRC by holders of H shares of their rights under the Articles of Association of a PRC company or the PRC Company Law.

Unlike in the United States, the applicable PRC laws did not specifically allow shareholders to sue the directors, supervisors, senior management or other shareholders on behalf of the corporation to enforce a claim against such party or parties that the corporation has failed to enforce itself until January 1, 2006, when the amendments to the PRC Company Law passed on October 27, 2005 became effective. The amended PRC Company Law provides that shareholders, under certain circumstances, may sue the directors, supervisors and senior management on behalf of the corporation. Furthermore, the Supreme People’s Court issued judicial interpretations on the aforementioned provisions in the PRC Company Law, i.e., Provisions of the Supreme People’s Court on Issues Concerning the Application of the PRC Company Law (I) and (IV) (最高人民法院关于适用《中华人民共和国公司法》若干问题的规定(一)和(四)) in April 2006 and August 2017, respectively. However, our minority shareholders may not be able to enjoy protections to the same extent as to shareholders of companies incorporated under the state laws of the United States.

Although we are subject to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Listing Rules”) and the Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Buy-backs (the “Takeovers Code”), the holders of H shares are not able to bring actions solely on the basis of violations of the Listing Rules or the Takeovers Codes, and must rely on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Hong Kong Stock Exchange” or “HKSE”) and the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong to enforce the Listing Rules or the Takeovers Codes, as the case may be.

You may experience difficulties in effecting service of legal process and enforcing judgments against us and our management, and the ability of U.S. authorities to bring action in China may also be limited.

We are a company incorporated under the PRC Company Law, and substantially all of our assets and our subsidiaries are located in the PRC. In addition, most of our Directors and officers reside within the PRC, and substantially all of the assets of our Directors and officers are located within the PRC. As a result, it may not be possible to effect service of process within the United States or elsewhere outside the PRC upon most of our Directors or officers, including with respect to matters arising under applicable laws and regulations. Moreover, our PRC counsel has advised us that the PRC does not have treaties providing for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments of courts with the United States, the United Kingdom or most other Western countries. Our Hong Kong counsel has also advised us that Hong Kong has no arrangement for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments with the United States. As a result, you may not have the ability to seek certain legal remedies in U.S. courts as private plaintiffs. Even if you sue successfully in a U.S. court or any of the other jurisdictions mentioned above, you may not be able to collect on such judgment against the Company or our Directors and officers. You may have to rely on domestic legal remedies that are available in the PRC. Recognition and enforcement in the PRC of judgments of a court in the United States and any of the other jurisdictions mentioned above in relation to any matter not subject to a binding arbitration provision may be difficult or impossible. In addition, according to Article 177 of the amended PRC Securities Law, which became effective in March 2020, no overseas securities regulator can directly conduct investigations or evidence collection activities within the PRC and no entity or individual in China may provide documents and information relating to securities business activities to overseas regulators without Chinese government approval. Therefore, the SEC, the U.S. Department of Justice and other U.S. authorities may have difficulties in conducting investigations, or bringing and enforcing actions against us or our Directors and officers in China.

Holders of H shares may be subject to PRC taxation.

Under the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC, or the EIT Law, and its implementing regulations, holders of our H shares or ADSs which are “non-resident enterprises” for the EIT Law’s purpose are subject to enterprise income tax at the rate of 10.0% with respect to dividends paid by us and income derived from sale of our H shares or ADSs, unless reduced under an applicable tax treaty. In addition, a resident enterprise, including a foreign enterprise whose “de facto management body” is located in the PRC, is not subject to any PRC income tax with respect to dividends paid to it by us. The capital gains realized by such resident enterprise are subject to the PRC enterprise income tax. Specifically, according to the Notice of the PRC State Administration of Taxation Concerning the Withholding Enterprise Income Tax on Dividend Distributed by PRC Resident Enterprises to Overseas Non-Resident Enterprise Holders of H shares issued in November 2008 and the Approval of the PRC State Administration of Taxation Concerning the Collection of Enterprise Income Tax on Dividend from B-shares Received by Non-Resident Enterprise issued in July 2009, when PRC resident enterprises distribute dividend to overseas non-resident enterprise holders of H shares for the year 2008 and the years thereafter, the 10.0% enterprise income tax will be withheld. The Company will withhold the 10.0% enterprise income tax when it pays dividends to holders of H shares or ADSs who are non-resident enterprises. See “Item 10. Additional Information—E. Taxation—People’s Republic of China”.

Furthermore, dividends paid by us to holders of our H shares or ADSs who are individuals outside the PRC are subject to a withholding tax of 20.0% unless reduced by an applicable tax treaty. For example, Hong Kong and Macau individual residents are subject to a withholding tax of 10.0% on dividends paid to them. In addition, gains realized by individuals upon the sale or other disposition of our H shares or ADSs are temporarily exempted from PRC capital gains tax. If the exemptions are withdrawn in the future, holders of our H shares or ADSs who are individuals may be required to pay PRC capital gains tax upon the sale or other disposition of our H shares. See “Item 10. Additional Information—E. Taxation—People’s Republic of China”.

Natural disasters and health hazards in the PRC may severely disrupt our business and operations and may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Several natural disasters and health hazards have struck mainland China in recent years. See “—Risks Relating to Our Business—Our business may be materially and adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic or future health epidemics, pandemics or outbreaks” under this Item. In 2020, certain areas of mainland China suffered from natural disasters, including floods in Yangtze River and Huai River basins affecting large areas, super typhoon “Hagupit” sweeping across many provinces and cities in south China, multiple landslides in Longnan of Gansu Province and Wuxi of Chongqing Municipality, which resulted in significant damage to the telecommunications equipment in the affected areas. We have suffered damage from similar nature disasters in the past years. We are unable to predict the effect, if any, that any future natural disasters and health hazards may have on our business. Any future natural disasters and health hazards may, among other things, significantly disrupt our ability to adequately staff our business, and may generally disrupt our operations. Furthermore, such natural disasters and health hazards may severely restrict the level of economic activity in affected areas, which may in turn materially and adversely affect our business and prospects. As a result, any severe natural disasters or health hazards may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

The audit reports included in this annual report have been prepared by our independent registered public accounting firm whose work may not be inspected fully by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and, as such, you may be deprived of the benefits of such inspection. In addition, legislative and regulatory developments related to U.S.-listed China-based companies due to lack of PCAOB inspection and other developments may have a material adverse impact on our listing and trading in the U.S.

Our independent registered public accounting firm, or our auditor, that issues the audit reports included in our annual reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as a firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), or the PCAOB, is required by the laws of the United States to undergo regular inspections by the PCAOB to assess its compliance with the laws of the United States and professional standards.

Because we have substantial operations within the PRC and the PCAOB is currently unable to conduct inspections of the work of our auditor as it relates to those operations without the approval of the Chinese authorities, our auditor is not currently inspected fully by the PCAOB. This lack of PCAOB inspections in the PRC prevents the PCAOB from regularly evaluating our auditor’s audits and its quality control procedures. As a result, investors may be deprived of the benefits of PCAOB inspections.

On December 7, 2018, the SEC and the PCAOB issued a joint statement highlighting continued challenges faced by the U.S. regulators in their oversight of financial statement audits of U.S.-listed companies with significant operations in China. On November 4, 2019, the SEC announced that SEC and PCAOB had dialog with the “Big Four” accounting firms, which emphasized the need for effective and consistent global firm oversight of member firms, including those operating in China. On February 19, 2020, the SEC and the PCAOB further issued a joint statement on continued dialog with “Big Four” accounting firms on audit quality in China, highlighting that PCAOB continues to be prevented from inspecting the audit work and practices of PCAOB-registered audit firms in China on a comparable basis to other non-U.S. jurisdictions. On April 21, 2020, the SEC and the PCAOB issued another joint statement reiterating the greater risks of insufficient disclosures from companies in many emerging markets, including China, compared to those from U.S. domestic companies. In discussing the specific issues related to these risks, the statement again highlighted the PCAOB’s inability to inspect audit work and practices of accounting firms in China with respect to U.S. reporting companies. The inability of the PCAOB to conduct full inspections of auditors in the PRC makes it more difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our auditor’s audit procedures or quality control procedures as compared to auditors outside the PRC that are subject to PCAOB inspections. Investors may lose confidence in our reported financial information and procedures and the quality of our financial statements.

As part of a continued regulatory focus in the United States on access to audit and other information currently protected by national law, in particular PRC laws, on June 4, 2020, the then U.S. President issued a memorandum ordering the President’s Working Group on Financial Markets, or the PWG, to submit a report to the President within 60 days of the memorandum that includes recommendations for actions that can be taken by the executive branch and by the SEC or the PCAOB on Chinese companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges and their audit firms. On August 6, 2020, the PWG released the report. In particular, with respect to non-compliant jurisdictions that do not grant the PCAOB sufficient access to fulfill its statutory mandate, or NCJs, the PWG recommended that enhanced listing standards be applied to companies from NCJs for seeking initial listing and remaining listed on U.S. stock exchanges. Under the enhanced listing standards, if the PCAOB does not have access to work papers of the principal audit firm located in a NCJ for the audit of a U.S.-listed company as a result of governmental restrictions, the U.S.-listed company may satisfy this standard by providing a co-audit from an audit firm with comparable resources and experience where the PCAOB determines that it has sufficient access to the firm’s audit work papers and practices to inspect the co-audit. The report recommended a transition period until January 1, 2022 before the new listing standards apply to companies already listed on U.S. stock exchanges. On August 10, 2020, the SEC announced that the SEC chairman had directed the SEC staff to prepare proposals in response to the PWG report, and that the SEC was soliciting public comment and information with respect to the development of these proposals. Furthermore, the Division of Corporation Finance of the SEC issued staff guidance on Disclosure Considerations for China-Based Issuers on November 23, 2020. Any resulting actions, proceedings or new rules from these recommendations could adversely affect the listing and compliance status of China-based issuers listed in the United States, including us, and may have a material and adverse impact on the trading of the securities of such issuers, including our ADSs.

Furthermore, on December 18, 2020, the United States enacted the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act, or the HFCA Act. The HFCA Act includes requirements for the SEC to identify issuers whose audit reports are prepared by auditors that the PCAOB is unable to inspect or investigate completely because of a restriction imposed by a non-U.S. authority in the auditor’s local jurisdiction. The HFCA Act also requires public companies on this SEC list to certify that they are not owned or controlled by a foreign government (the “Submission Requirement”) and make certain additional disclosure in their SEC filings (the “Disclosure Requirement”). In addition, if the auditor of a U.S.-listed company is not subject to PCAOB inspections for three consecutive “non-inspection” years after December 18, 2020, the SEC is required to prohibit the securities of these issuers from being traded on a U.S. national securities exchange, such as the NYSE, on OTC markets in the U.S. or through any other method within the SEC’s jurisdiction to regulate. The HFCA Act requires the SEC to issue new rules within 90 days of the enactment to implement the HFCA Act. On December 18, 2020, the SEC then-Chairman stated that prior to enactment of the HFCA Act, the SEC staff were finalizing recommendations for proposed rules regarding enhanced listing standards for U.S. securities exchanges and auditor qualifications for the SEC’s consideration and directed the SEC staff to consider providing a single consolidated proposal for the SEC’s consideration on issues related to the PCAOB’s access to audit work papers, exchange listing standards and trading prohibitions due to the substantial overlap between the SEC staff’s proposal in response to the PWG Report’s recommendations and the HFCA Act. On March 24, 2021, the SEC issued the Interim Final Rule on HFCA Act Disclosure dated March 18, 2021 and requested for comments until May 5, 2021 when the Interim Final Rule would become effective. The Interim Final Rule would add Item 16I (Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections) in Form 20-F to reflect the Disclosure Requirement, which requires disclosure in a foreign issuer’s annual report regarding the audit arrangements of, and governmental influence on, such foreign issuer. The Interim Final Rule clarified that a foreign issuer that is owned or controlled by a foreign governmental entity is not required to comply with the Submission Requirement. In addition, a foreign issuer will not be required to comply with Item 16I in Form 20-F until the SEC has identified it as having a non-inspection year under a process to be subsequently established by the SEC with appropriate notice. Once identified, a foreign issuer will be required to comply with Item 16I in Form 20-F in its annual report for each fiscal year in which it is identified. The SEC plans to separately address implementation of the trading prohibitions in the HFCA Act in a future notice and comment process. While we understand that there has been dialogue among the CSRC, the SEC and the PCAOB regarding the inspection of PCAOB-registered accounting firms in China, there can be no assurance that our auditor or we will be able to comply with requirements imposed by U.S. regulators.

As of the date of this annual report, we have not been identified by the SEC as having a non-inspection year. However, we cannot assure you that we will not be identified as such in the future. In addition, as a result of the enactment of the HFCA Act, trading of our ADSs in the United States may be effectively terminated if our auditor is not inspected by the PCAOB for three consecutive years. This could also result in our ADSs being delisted from the NYSE. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement entered into among the Company, the Bank of New York Mellon, and holders and beneficial owners of ADSs from time to time, holders of our ADSs may convert the ADSs into our H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange but will incur costs in order to do so. See “Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities” for further information. The value and liquidity of our ADSs may therefore be materially and adversely affected.

If the settlement reached between the SEC and the Big Four PRC-based accounting firms (including the Chinese affiliate of our independent registered public accounting firm), concerning the manner in which the SEC may seek access to audit working papers from audits in China of U.S.-listed companies, is not or cannot be carried out in a manner acceptable to authorities in China and the U.S., we could be unable to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.

In late 2012, the SEC commenced administrative proceedings under Rule 102(e) of its Rules of Practice and also under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 against the mainland Chinese affiliates of the “Big Four” accounting firms (including the mainland Chinese affiliate of our independent registered public accounting firm). A first instance trial of the proceedings in July 2013 in the SEC’s internal administrative court resulted in an adverse judgment against the firms. The administrative law judge proposed penalties on the Chinese accounting firms including a temporary suspension of their right to practice before the SEC, although that proposed penalty did not take effect pending review by the Commissioners of the SEC. On February 6, 2015, before a review by the Commissioner had taken place, the Chinese accounting firms reached a settlement with the SEC whereby the proceedings were stayed. Under the settlement, the SEC accepts that future requests by the SEC for the production of documents will normally be made to the CSRC. The Chinese accounting firms will receive requests matching those under Section 106 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and are required to abide by a detailed set of procedures with respect to such requests, which in substance require them to facilitate production via the CSRC. If they fail to meet specified criteria, the SEC retains authority to impose a variety of additional remedial measures on the Chinese accounting firms depending on the nature of the failure. Remedies for any future noncompliance could include, as appropriate, an automatic six-month bar on a single firm’s performance of certain audit work, commencement of a new proceeding against a firm, or in extreme cases the resumption of the recently-stayed proceeding against all four firms. The SEC also reserves the right to resume those proceedings in circumstances where, notwithstanding the accounting firms’ compliance with the procedures in the settlement agreement, the SEC does not receive a production of documents which it considers satisfactory (for example because of action or inaction by the Chinese authorities). Under the terms of the settlement, the underlying proceeding against the four PRC-based accounting firms was deemed dismissed with prejudice at the end of four years starting from the settlement date, which was February 6, 2019. We cannot predict if the SEC will further challenge the four PRC-based accounting firms’ compliance with U.S. law in connection with U.S. regulatory requests for audit work papers or if the results of such a challenge would result in the SEC imposing penalties such as suspensions. If additional challenges are imposed on the Chinese affiliates of the “Big Four” accounting firms, we could be unable to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.

In the event that the SEC restarts the administrative proceedings, depending upon the final outcome listed companies in the United States with major PRC operations may find it difficult or impossible to retain auditors in respect of their operations in the PRC, which could result in financial statements being determined to not be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act. In addition, if the Chinese affiliate of our independent registered public accounting firm were denied, even temporarily, the ability to practice before the SEC and we were unable to timely find another registered public accounting firm to audit and issue an opinion on our financial statements, our financial statements could be determined not to be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act. These could lead to possible delisting of our ADSs from the NYSE or deregistration from the SEC, or both, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of our ADSs in the United States, and adversely affect the value and liquidity of our ADSs in the United States. Moreover, any negative news about any such future proceedings against these accounting firms may cause investor uncertainty regarding China-based, United States-listed companies and the market price of our securities may be adversely affected.

Risks Relating to Our ADSs

We are a foreign private issuer within the meaning of the rules under the Exchange Act, and as such we are exempt from certain provisions applicable to U.S. domestic public companies.

Because we qualify as a foreign private issuer under the Exchange Act, we are exempt from certain provisions of the securities laws and regulations in the United States that are applicable to U.S. domestic issuers, including:

- the rules under the Exchange Act requiring the filing with the SEC of quarterly reports on Form 10-Q or current reports on Form 8-K;
- the sections of the Exchange Act regulating the solicitation of proxies, consents, or authorizations in respect of a security registered under the Exchange Act;

- the sections of the Exchange Act requiring insiders to file public reports of their stock ownership and trading activities and liability for insiders who profit from trades made in a short period of time;
- the selective disclosure rules by issuers of material nonpublic information under Regulation FD; and
- certain audit committee independence requirements in Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act.

We will be required to file an annual report on Form 20-F within four months of the end of each fiscal year. In addition, our announcements relating to financial results and material events will also be furnished to the SEC on Form 6-K. However, the information we are required to file with or furnish to the SEC will be less extensive and less timely compared to that required to be filed with the SEC by U.S. domestic issuers. As a result, you may not be afforded the same protections or information that would be made available to you were you investing in a U.S. domestic issuer.

Item 4. Information on the Company.

A. History and Development of the Company

Our Restructuring and Initial Public Offering in 2002

We were incorporated under the PRC Company Law on September 10, 2002 as a joint stock company with limited liability under the name “China Telecom Corporation Limited”. As part of our initial restructuring, China Telecom Group’s telecommunications operations in Shanghai Municipality, Guangdong Province, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, together with the related assets and liabilities, were transferred to us in consideration of 68,317,270,803 of our shares.

Following our restructuring, China Telecom Group continues to be the holder of the licenses required for operating our telecommunications business. In accordance with the approval of the MIIT, we derive our exclusive rights to operate basic telecommunications business and the rights to operate related value-added telecommunications business from our status as a subsidiary controlled by China Telecom Group, and China Telecom Group must hold and maintain all licenses received from the MIIT in connection with our business for our benefits. The government currently does not charge license fees for the telecommunications licenses held by China Telecom Group.

In 2002, we successfully completed our initial public offering of H shares and raised approximately RMB10,659 million in aggregate net proceeds for us. Upon completion of our initial public offering, our H shares have been listed for trading on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and ADSs representing our H shares have been listed for trading on the NYSE.

Establishment of the Tower Company and the Disposal and Lease of the Telecommunications Towers

On July 11, 2014, the Company, CUCL and CMCL entered into a Promoters’ Agreement for China Communications Facilities Services Corporation Limited to jointly establish the Tower Company. The registered capital of the Tower Company was RMB10 billion. The Company, CUCL and CMCL subscribed for 2.99 billion shares, 3.01 billion shares and 4.00 billion shares, respectively, of the Tower Company in cash at a par value of RMB1.00 per share, representing a shareholding percentage of 29.9%, 30.1% and 40.0%, respectively. The Tower Company was registered on July 15, 2014 and was renamed as China Tower Corporation Limited on September 2, 2014. We had paid in our subscription of the registered capital of the Tower Company by December 31, 2014.

On October 14, 2015, the Company entered into a transfer agreement with (i) CMCL and related subsidiaries (together, “Mobile”), (ii) CUCL and Unicom New Horizon Telecommunications Company Limited (“New Horizon”, together with CUCL, “Unicom”), (iii) China Reform Holding Company Limited (“CRHC”) and (iv) the Tower Company (the “Transfer Agreement”). Pursuant to the Transfer Agreement, the Company agreed to sell certain telecommunications towers and related assets in an aggregate amount of RMB30,131 million and inject cash in the amount of RMB2,966 million to the Tower Company in exchange for 33,097 million new shares, with a par value of RMB1.00 per share, issued by the Tower Company. The cash injected by the Company into the Tower Company under the Transfer Agreement was funded by the Company using its internal cash resources. All conditions precedent to the completion of the transactions contemplated under this agreement were fulfilled and completion of the transactions contemplated under this agreement occurred on October 31, 2015. As a result, the Company, Mobile, Unicom and CRHC own 27.9%, 38.0%, 28.1% and 6.0%, respectively, of the share capital of the Tower Company. On January 29, 2016, the Company and the Tower Company entered into a Share Subscription Agreement to acknowledge the number and price of the shares issued by the Tower Company to the Company.

The Company realized a gain (subject to deduction of relevant expenses and taxes) from the tower assets disposal described above, which was calculated based on the surplus of the final consideration for the tower assets disposal over the book value of such assets as of the completion date. The total gain from the tower assets disposal was RMB7,231 million. As the Company holds 27.9% of the share capital of Tower Company following the completion of such tower assets disposal, 72.1% of the aforesaid gain has been recognized at the completion date of such tower assets disposal in the Company’s consolidated statement of comprehensive income for 2015 and the remaining 27.9% of the aforesaid gain is deferred over the remaining useful life of the tower assets. Upon completion of the disposal of tower assets by the Company to the Tower Company, the Company and Tower Company entered into the Lease Agreement on July 8, 2016 that sets forth the pricing and related arrangements in relation to the lease of telecommunications towers and related assets (including both acquired towers and new towers). On February 1, 2018, the Company and Tower Company entered into a supplemental agreement on the basis of the original Lease Agreement mainly to adjust the relevant pricing arrangement of tower products under the Lease Agreement and such adjustment was effective from January 1, 2018 and expiring on December 31, 2022.

In August 2018, the Tower Company completed its H shares global offering and was listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. As a result, our equity interest in the Tower Company is diluted from 27.9% to 20.5%.

The Tower Company is primarily engaged in the construction, maintenance and operation of telecommunications towers as well as ancillary facilities. The Tower Company will have a significant effect on the growth of our mobile business and our results of operations, please see “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—Our operations and further development of our mobile business is dependent on the Tower Company”. We have leveraged the rich towers resources of the Tower Company to promptly and effectively expand our 4G network coverage and density, and improve our network competitive strength; in the long term, we would benefit from the operations of the Tower Company in the following aspects: (i) we would enhance our long-term profitability by leveraging on the existing tower assets as well as the cooperation made possible by the Tower Company; and (ii) as one of the major shareholders of the Tower Company, we would benefit from its future earnings and value enhancement.

Disposal of Chengdu E-store Technology Co., Ltd. and Establishment of Tianyi Capital Holding Co., Ltd.

On September 25, 2017, the Company entered into a disposal agreement with Besttone Holding Co., Ltd., or Besttone Holding, a subsidiary of China Telecom Group, pursuant to which the Company agreed to sell to Besttone Holding the 100% equity interest in Chengdu E-store Technology Co., Ltd., or E-store for an initial consideration of RMB249 million, which was concluded based on the valuation of the equity interest in E-store as of March 31, 2017. In addition, an adjustment was made to the initial consideration to arrive at the final consideration based on the change in the book value of the net assets of E-store during the period from March 31, 2017 to the completion date of the disposal. The control of the equity interest in E-store was transferred to Besttone Holding on October 31, 2017. The final consideration was arrived at RMB251 million, among which the initial consideration amounting to RMB249 million was received by us on November 16, 2017.

On November 30, 2017, we set up a wholly-owned subsidiary, Tianyi Capital Holding Co., Ltd., or Tianyi Capital, which engages in capital investment activities and provision of consulting services. The registered capital of Tianyi Capital is RMB5,000 million.

Establishment of China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited

On November 30, 2018, we and China Telecom Global Limited jointly established China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited, which engages in telecommunications equipment procurement, financial leasing and related fund raising operations. The registered capital of China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited is RMB5,000 million with 75% and 25% equity interest held by us and China Telecom Global Limited, respectively.

Establishment of China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd.

On June 22, 2018, we, China Telecommunications Corporation and China Communications Services Corporation Limited (“CCS”, a subsidiary of China Telecommunications Corporation) entered into a capital contribution agreement to jointly establish China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd., or China Telecom Finance. China Telecom Finance, a non-banking financial institution legally established with the approval of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, is a limited liability company incorporated in the PRC on January 8, 2019 with the purpose of providing capital and financial management services to the member units of China Telecommunications Corporation. Pursuant to the capital contribution agreement, the registered capital of China Telecom Finance is RMB5,000 million. The Company, China Telecommunications Corporation and CCS respectively contributed RMB3,500 million, RMB750 million and RMB750 million, which respectively represent 70%, 15% and 15% of the total registered capital of China Telecom Finance. Upon its establishment, China Telecom Finance became a non-wholly owned subsidiary of the Company.

On February 1, 2019, China Telecom Finance entered into financial services framework agreements with the Company, China Telecommunications Corporation and CCS, respectively, pursuant to such agreements China Telecom Finance agreed to provide financial services, including deposit services, loan services and other financial services to the Company and its subsidiaries, China Telecommunications Corporation, its associates and its commonly held entity held with the Company and/or its subsidiaries (not including the Company, CCS and their subsidiaries themselves), and CCS and its subsidiaries.

Establishment of E-surfing Smart Home Technology Co., Ltd.

On February 1, 2019, we set up a wholly-owned subsidiary, E-surfing Smart Home Technology Co., Ltd., or Smart Home Company, which engages in e-Surfing HD, smart home, home gateway and Smart Home Networking services targeting the Smart Family Ecosphere. The registered capital of Smart Home Company is RMB1,000 million.

Establishment of E-surfing Internet of Things Technology Co., Ltd.

On February 2, 2019, we set up a wholly-owned subsidiary, E-surfing Internet of Things Technology Co., Ltd., or IoT Company, which engages in the Internet of Things (“IoT”) and Internet of Vehicles services targeting IoT Ecosphere. The registered capital of IoT Company is RMB1,000 million.

Delisting Proceedings of our ADSs

On January 6, 2021, the NYSE, following the reversal of a similar decision announced on December 31, 2020, announced that it had determined to commence delisting proceedings of our ADSs to comply with Executive Order signed by the then President of the United States. On January 20, 2021, we filed a written request with the NYSE for a review of its determination. See “Item 3. Key Information – Risk Factors – Risks Relating to Our Business – Transactions in and holdings of our ADSs and H shares by U.S. persons beyond specified dates are prohibited, and the continued listing of and trading in our ADSs are subject to significant uncertainty”.

Proposed A Share Offering

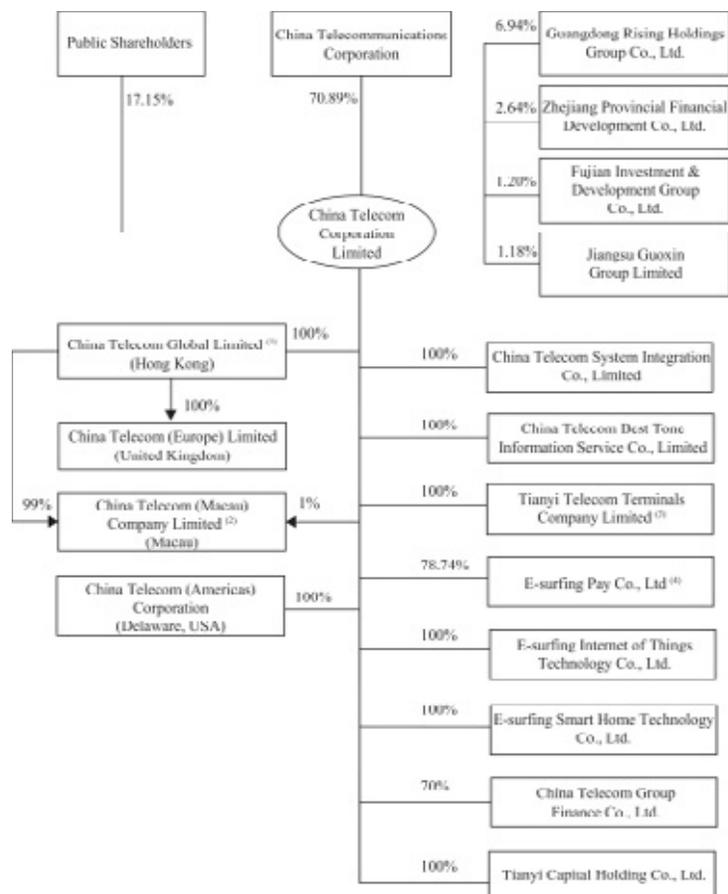
On March 9, 2021, the Board approved the proposal to apply for the offering and listing of our A shares on the Main Board of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, and a circular dated March 17, 2021 was sent to our shareholders. Subsequently, the proposal was proposed to and was approved by our respective shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting, the domestic shareholders’ class meeting and the H shareholders’ class meeting of the Company held on April 9, 2021, respectively. Subject to approvals from the CSRC and other relevant regulatory authorities, and compliance with the regulatory requirements of the place of listing including the minimum proportion of the issuance, the number of A shares to be publicly issued by the Company will be no more than 12,093,342,392 shares (namely no more than 13% of the total issued share capital of the Company upon the A share offering, and prior to the exercise of the over-allotment option) with a par value of RMB1.00.

Disposals of E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd and China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited

On March 26, 2021, we entered into agreements with China Telecommunications Corporation, pursuant to which we agreed to sell, and China Telecommunications Corporation agreed to purchase all the share capital in E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd with an investment amount of RMB500,000,000 held by us for a consideration of RMB3,897 million. On the same date, we and our wholly owned subsidiary, China Telecom Global Limited, entered into agreements with China Telecommunications Corporation and its subsidiary, Guang Hua Properties Limited, pursuant to which, we and China Telecom Global Limited respectively agreed to sell, and China Telecommunications Corporation and Guang Hua Properties Limited agreed to purchase, 75% and 25% of the share capital in China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited from us and China Telecom Global Limited for a consideration of RMB 131 million and RMB44 million, respectively. Please refer to Exhibits 4.88 and 4.89 to this annual report for more information.

Organizational Structure

Set out below is a chart illustrating our corporate structure and significant subsidiaries as of April 23, 2021:



- (1) Formerly known as China Telecom (Hong Kong) International Limited
 (2) Formerly known as China Unicom (Macau) Company Limited.
 (3) Formerly known as Unicom Huasheng Telecommunications Technology Company Limited
 (4) Formerly known as Bestpay Co., Ltd.

In addition, our Company has a branch in each of 22 provinces, five autonomous regions and four centrally administered municipalities in the PRC.

General Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 31 Jinrong Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, PRC 100033 and our telephone number is (+86-10) 5850-1508. Our website address is www.chinatelecom-h.com. The information on our website is not a part of this annual report. We have appointed CT Corporation System at 28 Liberty St., New York, New York 10005 as our agent for service of process in the United States.

Our U.S. public filings are available at the website maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov, which contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC.

B. Business Overview

We are an integrated intelligent information service provider in the PRC with full-service capabilities. We offer a comprehensive range of telecommunications services, including Internet services, information and application services, voice services, telecommunications network resource and equipment service and other related services. We aim to provide differentiated and innovative services to create value for customers by leveraging on our integrated resources.

In December 2013 and February 2015, the MIIT issued to China Telecom Group, our controlling shareholder, the permit to operate 4G business nationwide based on TD-LTE technology and LTE FDD technology, respectively. We have been authorized by China Telecom Group to operate 4G mobile business in the PRC.

In December 2018, China Telecom Group, our controlling shareholder, was granted the approval from the MIIT to permit China Telecom Group to utilize the 3400MHz-3500MHz spectrum nationwide to conduct fifth generation (5G) mobile communication pilot programs. We have been authorized by China Telecom Group to conduct 5G system scale trial in the PRC.

In June 2019, China Telecom Group, our controlling shareholder, was granted the permit from the MIIT to operate 5G digital cellular mobile service nationwide and we have been authorized by China Telecom Group to develop 5G business nationwide. In October 2019, we officially launched the 5G commercial services in 50 cities nationwide offering 5G services to individuals, households and government and enterprise customers.

In 2020, technologies such as 5G, cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) integrated to bring about fusion with robust development in digital economy. We built up new information infrastructure with 5G and cloud as the core, and stimulated increasing and diversified customer demand for integrated intelligent information services. In particular, we pioneered 5G standalone (SA) scale commercialization and rolled out customized 5G network to meet the differentiated demands from vertical industries for low latency, wide-area connectivity and network security, among others.

Our Operation Strategy

In 2020, we comprehensively implemented the “Cloudification and Digital Transformation” strategy, the essence of which is to be customer oriented while promoting cloud and network convergence based digital upgrade, and innovating digital products and services offering, in order to provide integrated intelligent information service for customers. We established the new development pattern from an all-round perspective and strived to enhance its market competitiveness and corporate vitality. In particular:

- Strengthening the landscape of cloud-network capabilities and building new infrastructure based on cloud-network integration: adhering to the strategic direction of “Cloud central, Network around, Network adaptive to cloud, Cloud and network as one”, we sped up the construction of new infrastructure based on cloud-network integration. We continued to promote 5G network co-building and co-sharing and conducted 4G network co-sharing at the same time. In line with the overall “2+4+31+X+O” deployment, we accelerated the construction of e-Surfing Cloud and IDC, and commenced the development of multi-access edge computing (MEC) and forged capabilities of cloud-edge coordination by leveraging our massive amount of exchange buildings at the edge.
- Building a digitalized platform to empower digital transformation: we strengthened the development of our digitalized platform to empower the internal and external digital transformation. Internally, we pushed forward the digitalization of our operation. We explored the potential demand for 5G and Smart Family by leveraging AI and Big Data, accelerated the construction of our new-generation cloud-network operating system to support the scale commercialization of 5G SA and enhance the efficiency of service activation and product loading, while optimizing our network quality and user experience. Externally, we propelled cloud migration, the use of data and intelligence injection for our customers, and built the technological foundation for digitalized platform. Supported by our digitalized platform, we aggregated our internal fundamental capabilities including communications, security, AI, Big Data and IoT, among others, while combining external digital ecology, to inject intelligence powered by data and provide endowment for products and services, so as to propel Industrial Digitalization and intelligent transformation.

- Promoting sci-tech innovation to accelerate the shift towards a sci-tech company: we pushed forward our research and development system reforms and stimulated vitality for sci-tech innovation. Focusing on the technological development objectives, we increased our investment in R&D, elevated the input and output efficiency of R&D resources, and strengthened our R&D teams in key areas such as cloud-network integration and security.
- Deepening reforms on all fronts to inspire corporate vitality and expanding cooperation to forge ecological competitiveness: we pushed forward deepened reforms on all fronts, sped up the establishment of a new customer-oriented institutional system and built a vertically integrated business group serving government and enterprise customers. We strengthened the planning of ecosystem, continued to expand our corporate boundaries and deepened cooperation of the whole industry chain. Leveraging our core capabilities and platform, we enriched the ecology for industries such as family informatization and vertical industries for government and enterprise customers. We also strengthened cooperation and eco-aggregation with capital financing, expanded innovative cooperation in emerging areas, and gradually created an industry chain ecology with a larger scope and at a higher level.

Subscribers and Service Usage

Our operating revenues depend largely on the size of our customer base, usage volume and the structure and level of our tariffs. The following table shows our selected operating data as of the dates and for the periods indicated.

	As of or for the year ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
Mobile subscribers (in millions)	303.0	335.6	351.0
Mobile voice usage (in billion minutes)	827.7	820.3	784.5
Handset data traffic (in kTB)	14,073.0	24,370.0	34,690.0
Wireline broadband subscribers (in millions)	145.8	153.1	158.5
Wireline telephone subscribers (in millions)	116.5	110.9	107.9
e-Surfing HD subscribers (in millions)	105.3	112.6	115.9
IoT connected devices (in millions)	106.9	157.4	237.6

Our Products and Services

In 2020, we accelerated the progress of cloudification and actively deployed digital transformation of our business, aiming at building a new information infrastructure embedded cloud-network integration.

Internet Services

Our Internet services consist of wireline Internet access services, including dial-up and broadband services, and mobile Internet services. Internet services have become increasingly important in our revenue structure. We offer Internet services through integrated and customizable service plans along with other various business models, which creates the synergy that benefits our Internet, mobile and other services.

In 2020, we adhered to proactive marketing strategy and strengthened precision marketing capabilities empowered by data capabilities. We strengthened terminal operation by fully leveraging our sales channels and sales points to meet consumers' demand for upgrading to 5G devices and to foster popularity of 5G terminals. As of December 31, 2020, the total number of our mobile subscribers was approximately 351.0 million with a net addition of almost 15.5 million for the full year, expanding our market share to 22.0%.

In addition, we created a new development mode of "5G + Privileges + Applications" to forge new edges in the area of individual informatization services. Leveraging "5G + e-Surfing Cloud" capabilities, we provided users with high-quality network experience and differentiated applications and services. We optimized our unique 5G member privilege system, cooperated with top application partners to launch eco-privileges and rolled out a number of applications featuring 5G, including e-Surfing Cloud Drive, e-Surfing Ultra HD, Color Ringback Tone with Video, e-Surfing Cloud VR and e-Surfing Cloud Game. Furthermore, we took the lead in the industry by launching the 5G cloud mobile phone, namely "e-Surfing One", which leveraged the capabilities of cloud-network integration to break through performance bottlenecks for devices and facilitated the accelerating popularization of 5G devices. As of March 31, 2021, the number of 5G package subscribers was approximately 111.23 million, empowering the future growth of our mobile Internet services.

We focused on meeting the demand for digitalization and intelligentization from family customers and comprehensively upgraded family informatization services. With the “Triple-Gigabit” access service comprising 5G + Fiber Broadband + WiFi6, we enhanced the customer experience of family services by promoting convergence of 5G and family services and accelerating the speed upgrades of family broadband and WiFi services. Furthermore, we developed the DICT products and services portfolio for Smart Family and enriched the portfolio of terminals and applications in functional use cases such as home security surveillance, living space coziness, education and entertainment to meet the needs of family life scenes. See “—Information and Application Services” below for further details. As of December 31, 2020, the number of our wireline broadband subscribers reached 158.5 million, representing a net addition of 5.4 million from 153.1 million as of December 31, 2019.

In September 2019, in order to build a 5G network on an efficient basis and to rapidly create our 5G service capabilities, we entered into the 5G Cooperation Agreement with CUCL to leverage the mutually complementary advantages in network and spectrum resources and rolled out 5G network co-building and co-sharing, effectively saving costs on network construction, operation and maintenance while enhancing the market competitiveness of 5G network and business. For more details, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Network System—Co-building and co-sharing with China Unicom”. In 2020, we continued to promote 5G network co-building and co-sharing. By the end of 2020, the total number of 5G base stations in use exceeded 380,000. In June 2020, 5G Implementation Guidelines: SA Option 2, or the SA Guidelines, was released by GSMA which represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, including handset and equipment manufacturers, software companies, equipment suppliers and Internet companies, as well as organizations in adjacent industry sectors. The SA Guidelines which we have been taking the lead in drafting is the world’s first systematic guidance for large-scale 5G standalone (SA) deployment. We also took a global lead in achieving scale commercialization of 5G SA network, and launched customized 5G networks including “Wide-area”, “Adjacent” and “Wingspan” to meet the differentiated demand of vertical industry customers for features such as low latency, massive number of connections, network security and cloud-edge coordination. Meanwhile, we conducted 4G network co-sharing and activated approximately 170,000 co-shared 4G base stations throughout the year.

Information and Application Services

Our information and application services include Internet protocol TV, or IPTV (e-Surfing HD), Whole-home WiFi, Family Cloud, e-Surfing Webcam, IDC, cloud computing, content delivery networks, or CDN, Big Data, digital platform and system integration related services, as well as caller display, SMS, multimedia messaging services, or MMS, email services and music related content and applications services.

In 2020, we persisted to promote household informatization services, and promoted the “Triple-Gigabit” access service comprising 5G + Fiber Broadband + WiFi6 based on our five-in-one Smart Family product and service portfolio, combining Smart Broadband, Smart Home Platform, Smart Applications, Smart Security and Smart Services, continuing to upgrade our Smart Family product and service portfolio. The number of our e-Surfing HD subscribers reached 115.9 million as of December 31, 2020 from 112.6 million as of December 31, 2019. The Smart Family applications are becoming more enriched and delivering an increasing value contribution.

Capturing opportunities emerging from the digital transformation of the economy and society, we integrated emerging information technologies such as 5G and cloud, established a digitalized platform, re-packaged our fundamental capabilities to form new services, and accelerated our technological endowment. We pioneered 5G SA scale commercialization and rolled out customized 5G network to meet the differentiated demands from vertical industries for low latency, wide-area connectivity and network security, among others. Leveraging the technical features of 5G “Super Uplink” (UL Tx switching), edge cloud and the IoT, we built a series of benchmark projects for various vertical industries such as industrial Internet, smart energy, smart healthcare and smart parks, and gradually launched 5G innovative applications such as remote control, machine vision, and Automated Guided Vehicles (AGV). As of December 31, 2020, we had signed contracts with a total of nearly 1,900 customers for our 5G industry applications, with more than 1,100 use cases being launched. Furthermore, focusing on the scenario-based demands from enterprises’ cloud migration, we continued to optimize our resource deployment for IDC and cloud. Our IoT open platform supported mainstream IoT access protocols, enabling the rapid launch of partners’ application products, and the number of IoT connected devices reached 237.6 million as of December 31, 2020, representing an increase of 50.9% over that of December 31, 2019.

Voice Services

Our voice services include mobile voice services and wireline voice services.

Prior to September 1, 2017, our mobile voice services included local calls, domestic long distance calls, international long distance calls, intra-provincial roaming, inter-provincial roaming and international roaming. We ceased to charge mobile voice services subscribers the domestic long distance and intra-provincial and inter-provincial roaming fees on and from September 1, 2017. In 2018, we insisted on the multi-mode handset strategy, promoted industry chain development, and published the industry's first white paper on multi-mode AI handsets.

Amid the intense market competition in 2020, the number of our mobile subscribers grew from 335.6 million as of December 31, 2019 to 351.0 million as of December 31, 2020. The mobile voice usage decreased to 784.5 billion minutes in 2020 from 820.3 billion minutes in 2019.

Our wireline voice services include local wireline services, domestic long distance wireline services and international long distance wireline services. The total number of wireline telephone subscribers decreased to 107.9 million as of December 31, 2020 from 110.9 million as of December 31, 2019.

The decrease in the number of wireline telephone subscribers and wireline voice service usage was primarily attributable to the increasing penetration of alternative communication means, such as Over-the-Top messaging services and the migration of certain wireline telephone subscribers to our mobile services.

In addition, we continued to enhance the scale development of industry applications to attract government and enterprise subscribers.

Telecommunications Network Resource and Equipment Services

Our telecommunications network resource and equipment services primarily include services relating to our optic fiber and circuits, such as the use of optic fiber and circuit; virtual private network, or VPN, and use of bandwidth. We offer telecommunications network resource and equipment services as certain of our overall telecommunications solutions to large enterprise customers, including government authorities, large corporations and institutions. Many of these customers choose to use our circuits to form VPNs based on various technologies, and links their local area networks at different locations. We also collaborate with a number of international telecommunications service providers to provide global communications services for multinational corporations. In addition, we provide network equipment to large enterprise customers.

In 2020, we continued to focus on government, financial and large enterprise customers. Our marketing efforts focused on providing global one-stop services, tailored services and total solutions to these customers. These customers can enjoy a full range of consulting and technical support services by contacting any of our designated account managers.

Others

Our other services primarily include sales and repairs and maintenance of equipment, resale of mobile services and property rental.

Please see "Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects" for more discussion of the revenues from our products and services.

Our Customers and Brand Management

In 2020, we continued to promote our full-service brand names under the brand "China Telecom", and further enhanced the brand image of "China Telecom" as an integrated intelligent information service operator through, among others, promoting China Telecom broadband, e-Surfing Smart Family (including Whole-home WiFi, e-Surfing Webcam, Family Cloud and other products), Hello 5G and e-Surfing Cloud services and products. Through providing contents to our services on a multi-dimensional level and our coordinated marketing efforts, we continue to strengthen and enhance the brand recognition and market influence for "China Telecom".

Tariffs

Prior to May 2014, the levels and categorization of most of our current tariffs were subject to regulation by various government authorities. As a result of the governmental effort to gradually ease the regulations on the tariffs, the MIIT and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (the "NDRC") issued the Notice on Implementing the Market Based Tariffs for Telecommunications Services, pursuant to which, effective from May 10, 2014, telecommunications operators are permitted to set the tariffs of all telecommunications services based on the cost, customers' demand and market conditions. See "—Regulatory and Related Matters—Tariff Setting" included elsewhere under this Item.

Wireline Voice Services

For our local wireline telephone services, we charge usage fees based on call usage.

Currently, all domestic long distance wireline services using public switched telephone network (the “PSTN”), are charged at the unified rate with a discount rate during off-peak hours.

We offer international long distance wireline services through the international gateways of China Telecom Group. China Telecom Group negotiates bilateral settlement arrangements and rates based on the international settlement standards in the telecommunications industry, and we follow those settlement arrangements and rates.

Mobile Voice Services

Generally we charge subscribers of our mobile voice services the following categories of tariffs: local usage charges, long-distance call charges and roaming charges. However, in 2016, we waived domestic long distance call charges and roaming charges for voice services in our new 4G subscription plans. By the end of 2016, we stopped offering subscription plans with separate billing for long distance call charges and roaming charges, and all new plans had nationally uniform prices for voice services domestically. In addition, we ceased to charge handset subscribers domestic long distance and roaming fees on and from September 1, 2017.

With respect to international roaming of our mobile voice services, we provide roaming services to our customers and determine the roaming charges in accordance with roaming agreements between China Telecom Group and the international operators.

Internet Services and Information and Application Services

We determine tariffs for these services according to market conditions. In addition, pursuant to the policy requirements of the PRC government regarding network speed upgrade and tariff reduction, in 2019, we rolled out corresponding measures in due course to meet the policy requirements, including: (i) starting January 1, 2019, we reduced out-of-package data tariff; (ii) we enhanced the promotion of large data traffic packages, enabling more subscribers to enjoy data traffic with lower unit tariff; (iii) we launched discounted traffic packages to serve the needs for specific subscribers; and (iv) starting May 1, 2019, we further reduced the tariff of Internet dedicated line access, and carried out free speed upgrade programs for qualified small and medium enterprise subscribers. In 2020, we likewise implemented corresponding measures in due course to meet such policy requirements, including (i) carrying out optical fiber transformation and tariff discounts for our broadband subscribers that are small and medium enterprises, manufacturing enterprises and dedicated line subscribers, and (ii) implementing free speed upgrade actions for our qualified subscribers.

Telecommunications Network Resource and Equipment Services

We determine the tariffs for our telecommunications network resource and equipment services according to market conditions. We generally charge a fee for installation of our telecommunications network resource services and a fixed monthly fee. We offer various promotion discounts for our customers who wish to upgrade to higher bandwidth services. These promotion discounts have stimulated demand for our telecommunications network resource services in recent years. Besides, the tariff for network equipment service have generally decreased in recent years. We provide different discounts and free experience services to our customers on a case-by-case basis.

Interconnection and Roaming Arrangements

Interconnection

Interconnection refers to various arrangements that permit the connection of our networks to other mobile, wireline networks or Internet backbone networks. These arrangements provide for the sharing and settlement of revenues from the base usage charges and, if applicable, roaming charges and domestic and international long distance charges as well as the interconnection arrangement and settlement of Internet backbone networks.

China Telecom Group entered into interconnection settlement agreements with other telecommunications operators, including Unicom Group, China Mobile Group and China Transport Telecommunication Information Group Co., Ltd. We entered into an interconnection settlement agreement, as amended, with China Telecom Group, which allows our networks to interconnect with China Telecom Group's networks as well as networks of the other telecommunications operators, with whom China Telecom Group had interconnection arrangements. Our interconnection arrangements with China Telecom Group and other telecommunications operators enable our subscribers to communicate with the subscribers of those operators and to make and receive local, domestic and international long distance calls and to access the Internet backbone networks. All interconnection and settlement arrangements among public wireline telephone, mobile, and Internet networks in the PRC are governed by the Telecommunications Regulations promulgated by the State Council and the Telecommunications Regulations and the Administrative Rules on Interconnection between the Public Telecommunications Networks promulgated by the MIIT. See “—Regulatory and Related Matters—Interconnection” included elsewhere under this Item.

International Roaming

We provide international roaming services to our subscribers, which allow them to access mobile telecommunications services and use voice, SMS and data services while they are physically outside of their registered service area but in the coverage areas of other mobile telecommunications networks in other countries and regions with which we or our roaming provider have roaming arrangements.

As of December 31, 2020, subscribers of our mobile services can roam on mobile networks in more than 200 countries and regions based on international roaming agreements between China Telecom Group and the local operators or roaming service providers. A mobile service subscriber using international roaming services is charged at our roaming usage rates for both incoming and outgoing calls, plus applicable long distance tariffs. We settle roaming revenues and expenses with international telecommunications operators in accordance with roaming agreements between China Telecom Group and the international operators. China Telecom Group has also agreed to our participation in the negotiation of its future international roaming agreements.

Marketing, Sales, Distribution and Customer Services

Marketing, Sales and Distribution

Our marketing strategy is to establish our image as an intelligent full-service telecommunications service provider and utilize our comprehensive services platform and nationwide marketing and distribution network. We have devoted substantial efforts in advertisements to promote recognition of and loyalty to our products and services. Fully leveraging the advantages arising from corporate informatization, we expedited digital transformation, leading to continual improvement of the quality and efficiency of operations and management.

By pursuing the digital transformation of customer operations, we built customer operation teams comprising relevant talents, strengthened data modelling for different business scenarios, improved data-driven insight capabilities and utilized artificial intelligence for sales and marketing activities to match customer needs with high precision. By pursuing the digital transformation of sale channel operation, we took advantage of online and offline integration, accelerated the construction of a marketing service system that embedded full integration of all channels, covering all use cases and engaging the full cooperation of all ecologies.

In particular, we have adopted various sales and marketing approaches and initiatives, such as customer experience, customer relationship management, SMS, telesales, sales plans and joint promotion with our business partners such as Internet portal companies and software development companies, to promote our products and services, in particular, our information and application services.

Customer Service

In 2020, we continued to transform our physical outlet network to operate with chain store-like and experience-oriented approach, providing a continuously improving customer service perception on scenario-based experience. By pursuing the digital transformation of customer services, we established a cloud-based platform for customer service staff to provide service at home, promoted remote video service counters and fully utilized intelligent voice navigation and online service contact points to assure service quality throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our customer services typically include service inquiries, service applications, customers' complaints, product and service promotions, service initiation and termination, payment reminder services and emergency services. Through establishing and implementing our customer full-service standard, we have significantly improved our basic customer services capability, such as service processing time, request responding time and providing service related and other information to customers through text messages.

Insisting on the customer-oriented principle, we continued to enhance service quality. In 2020, the evaluation system of “whether service is good or not, subscribers have the final say” was established. We applied indicators such as subscribers satisfaction, product recommendation net score and contact service satisfaction rate, and regarded customer reputation as a service evaluation criterion to promote the improvement of service quality. We established a sound customer perception experience and evaluation mechanism to recognize problems in network, products and services from the perspective of subscribers. In respect of broadband network, we have closely tracked and analyzed the problems identified in customer satisfaction surveys, customer complaints, malfunction and complaints throughout the year, and implemented policies and promoted the rectification of problems in different provinces. In respect of mobile network, we have carried out improvement and upgrading actions for the benchmarking experience of critical scenes in key areas and neighborhoods with weak communication quality to enhance user perception and experience. In respect of cloud-network key perception, we have promoted standard optimization, perception evaluation and targeted improvement of service capabilities. Adhering to the principle of “wherever the subscriber is, the service is”, we continued to promote the digital transformation of services and improve the smart service capabilities. During the year of 2020, we deployed and promoted the “home customer service” mode to ensure that customers could process services easily and without leaving home.

In 2020, we continued to maintain leading position in the industry in terms of overall user satisfaction according to the assessment conducted by the MIIT.

Information Technology System

We employ our information technology, or IT, system to support our voice services and other services. In recent years, through continuous upgrading, our IT system has the capability to offer full service support to our wireline, mobile and other services on an integrated basis and to support other services related operations such as account opening, billing and customer services.

Network System

Our network has extensive coverage and scale and employs a variety of advanced technologies and suitable architecture. It offers comprehensive functions and operates in a stable and reliable manner. In addition, it supports a comprehensive range of end-to-end telecommunications services and enables customized products to be delivered for a variety of telecommunications needs. Our network system is managed and operated by our experienced network management and maintenance teams and is supported by our strong research and development capabilities. In light of future advances in technology, we have formulated viable plans to migrate our network system efficiently to the next generation. Furthermore, we procure our network equipment and related maintenance and technical support mainly from a number of PRC and overseas telecommunications network equipment manufacturers and suppliers including Huawei Technologies, Ericsson, Nokia and ZTE Corporation, among others.

In addition, adhering to the strategic direction of “Cloud central, Network around, Network adaptive to cloud, Cloud and network as one”, we sped up the construction of new infrastructure based on cloud-network integration. In line with the overall “2+4+31+X+O” deployment plan (meaning two super-large data center parks and public cloud nodes in Inner Mongolia and Guizhou serving our global business; data center clusters and cloud resource pools in four key regions including Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, Yangtze River Delta, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau, Shaanxi-Sichuan-Chongqing; provincial data centers and cloud nodes deployed in 31 provinces; edge data centers and cloud nodes widely distributed and deployed at the level closest to users; and overseas data centers and cloud nodes) we accelerated the construction of e-Surfing Cloud and IDC. Endeavoring to build a wide-coverage, low-latency and intelligent carrying network with cloud/IDC, we promoted the upgrade of gigabit fiber broadband networks in 280 cities, built five major regional reconfigurable optical add-drop multiplexer (ROADM) transmission backbone networks covering 31 provinces across China, and expanded the coverage of our superior optical transport network for government and enterprise customers.

Network Architecture

Our network system consists of access networks, data networks, core networks, transport networks, service networks and support networks.

- Access networks: Access networks include wireline access network based on optic fibers and wireless access network, which are directly connected to customers to provide wireline and wireless data and voice services.
- Data networks: Data networks include Internet network and basic data network, and provide network support for all telecommunications services based on IP.
- Core networks: Core networks include our wireline telephone network, mobile core network, and support our basic telecommunications services.
- Transport networks: Transport networks provide electronic transmission of various service signals for access networks, data networks and core networks.
- Service networks: The service networks provide the platform and ancillary systems for a variety of value-added services and application products.

- Support networks: Support networks include signaling networks, digital synchronous networks and various network management systems, in order to support the safe, stable and effective operation of our networks and services at all levels.

Co-building and co-sharing with China Unicom

In September 2019, following market principles, we entered into the 5G Cooperation Agreement with CUCL. Pursuant to the 5G Cooperation Agreement, we will cooperate with CUCL to jointly co-build one 5G access network nationwide and co-share 5G spectrum and network resources. Each party will continue to operate its business and branding independently. In respect of settlement under the 5G Cooperation Agreement, based on the principle that parties shall not make a profit from such settlement, we and CUCL will formulate a reasonable and precise settlement arrangement, following fair and equitable market practices, to maximize the benefits of cooperation for both parties and maintain a sustainable cooperation. In 2020, we continued to promote 5G network co-building and co-sharing. We believe that the cooperation is beneficial to the efficient construction of 5G network and the reduction of network construction investment as well as operation and maintenance costs while enhancing efficiency in network and assets operation, which enables us to rapidly create 5G service capability and strengthen network quality and business experience so as to achieve a win-win situation for both parties. As of December 31, 2020, the number of 5G base stations in use exceeded 380,000.

In addition, in 2020, we carried out resources co-sharing with China Unicom of 4G network and collectively activated approximately 170,000 co-shared 4G base stations throughout the year, which further optimized the 4G network coverage, as well as achieved savings in investment and operations and maintenance costs. At the same time, working with industry partners, we have been actively exploring co-building, co-sharing and co-maintenance cooperation in various projects including transmission network, communication equipment rooms, emergency response and international submarine cables.

Equipment procurement

We purchase most of our network equipment from leading international and domestic suppliers. We purchase a variety of network equipment from domestic suppliers, such as transmission equipment and local switches. We make most of our purchases through competitive tenders negotiation primarily based on product and service quality, system compatibility and price of the suppliers.

Purchases from our five largest suppliers of telecommunications equipment accounted for approximately 29.2% of our total amount of annual purchases in 2020. Purchases from our single largest supplier of telecommunications equipment accounted for approximately 15.7% of our total amount of annual purchases in 2020.

Competition

Following the industry restructuring in 2008, China Unicom and our Company have full-service capabilities and compete with each other in both wireline and wireless telecommunications services. China Mobile continues to be the leading provider of mobile telecommunications services in the PRC and competes with us in mobile telecommunications services and other telecommunications services. In June 2019, the MIIT granted the 5G permit to China Telecom Group, China Mobile Group, Unicom Group and China Broadcasting Network. In December 2013 and May 2016, China Mobile and China Broadcasting Network, respectively, received a license from the MIIT to operate fixed-line businesses, leading to intensified competition in this sector. Currently, we compete against China Unicom, China Mobile and China Broadcasting Network in terms of fixed-line voice and broadband services.

Since the PRC's accession to The World Trade Organization (the "WTO"), foreign operators have been permitted to gradually increase their investments in the telecommunications industry in the PRC. Like domestic service providers, foreign operators are subject to the licensing requirements of the MIIT. In addition, investments by foreign operators may not exceed limits set forth in the relevant laws and regulations with respect to the amount of investment and percentage of total ownership interests that foreign operators are permitted to make in telecommunications enterprises in the PRC. For example, the foreign ownership in basic telecommunications services shall be no more than 49.0%, and the foreign ownership in value-added telecommunications services (other than e-commerce services, domestic multi-party communication services, storage and forwarding services, and call center services) shall be no more than 50.0% except in the pilot free trade zones in China. See "—Regulatory and Related Matters—Licensing" included elsewhere under this Item.

We also face increasing competition from other competitors outside the telecommunications industry, in particular, from Internet services providers and mobile software and application developers, such as Over-the-Top messaging or voice services providers who offer contents and services on the Internet without their proprietary telecommunications network infrastructure. These competitors are competing with us in information and application or voice services. In recent years, the PRC Government has taken various initiatives to encourage competition in the telecommunications industry, such as the policy encouraging private capital to enter the industry, in addition to a series of guidance to such effect. Specifically, in May 2010, the PRC State Council issued Certain Opinion on Encouraging and Guiding the Sound Development of Private Investment, encouraging private investment in industry sectors that are mainly state-owned, such as basic telecommunications services. In June 2012, the MIIT issued Opinions on Encouraging and Guiding Private Investment in the Telecommunications Industry, encouraging private-sector investment in the telecommunications industry. On April 28, 2018, the MIIT issued the Circular on Commercialization of Mobile Telecommunications Resale Business, pursuant to which the MIIT granted commercial operation approval to the mobile communications resale business, effective from May 1, 2018. As of December 31, 2020, among the 26 mobile virtual network operators who signed pilot agreements with us, 25 of them had been granted commercial resale licenses, and there were a total of approximately 19 million users of mobile virtual network through resale business in cooperation with us. In December 2019, the Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Creating a Better Development Environment to Support the Reform and Development of Private Enterprises proposed to liberalize competitive businesses in key industries and fields such as telecommunications, further introduce market competition mechanisms, and support private enterprises to carry out basic telecommunications operations in the form of equity participation.

On November 11, 2019, the MIIT promulgated the Notice of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Printing and Publishing the Regulations on the Management of Mobile Number Portability Service. The Regulations on the Management of Mobile Number Portability Service (the “Portability Provisions”) became effective on December 1, 2019. The Portability Provisions specify that cellular mobile communication users (excluding the IoT users) within the same local network may apply to change the contracted fundamental service operator by keeping the same mobile numbers and users switched to the network have equal rights under the same conditions. By the end of 2020, we had net inflow of subscribers since the implementation of mobile number portability service in China. In an effort to further encourage private-sector investment in the broadband network construction and business operation, as well as encourage private capital to enter into the telecommunications market through equity investment, the State Council issued the Notice on the “Broadband China” Policy and the Implementation Plan on August 1, 2013 and Certain Opinion on Promoting Information Consumption and Stimulating Domestic Demand on August 8, 2013, and the MIIT also issued the Informatization Development Plan on September 29, 2013, the Notice on Opening the Broadband Access Market to Private Capital on December 25, 2014 and three more Notices on Further Broadening the Scope of Trial Opening of the Broadband Access Business on September 23, 2015, October 13, 2016 and September 27, 2017, respectively. By the end of 2020, the broadband access market opened up to private capital in a majority of provinces in China on a province-wide basis and also in many pilot cities.

In addition, our cloud services and IDC business compete with domestic and international cloud service providers and IDC operators, respectively. In the field of Industrial Digitalization, we compete with telecommunications operators, Internet companies, software companies, equipment manufacturers, etc.

As a result, the competitive landscape in the PRC telecommunications industry may further diversify, causing more intensified competition.

Trademarks

We conduct our business under the “China Telecom” brand name and logo. Currently, China Telecom Group owns certain trademarks in the PRC, some of which have been registered with the former Trademark Office of the PRC State Administration for Industry and Commerce, or the Trademark Office, and some of which are in the process of being registered with the Trademark Office. China Telecom Group has executed a trademark license agreement with us. Under this agreement, China Telecom Group agreed to grant to us and our subsidiaries the right to use these trademarks upon the completion of the registration on a royalty-free basis until December 31, 2021, which is automatically renewable for three more years as the parties may agree. See “Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—B. Related Party Transactions—Ongoing Related Party Transactions between Us and China Telecom Group and Its Affiliated Companies—Trademark License Agreement”.

Regulatory and Related Matters

Overview

The PRC’s telecommunications industry is subject to extensive government regulation. A number of central government authorities have regulatory responsibilities for various aspects of the telecommunications industry. These authorities primarily include:

- The MIIT, which is responsible for, among other things:
 - formulating and enforcing industry policies and regulations as well as technical standards;
 - granting telecommunications service licenses;
 - supervising the operations and quality of service of telecommunications service providers;
 - allocating and administering telecommunications resources such as spectrum and numbers;

- together with other relevant regulatory authorities, including the NDRC, regulating tariff charging mechanisms for telecommunications services;
 - formulating interconnection and settlement arrangements between telecommunications networks; and
 - maintaining fair and orderly market competition among service providers.
- Provincial communications administrations under the MIIT, which oversee the implementation of the Ministry's regulations and exercise regulatory authorities delegated by the Ministry within their respective provinces, autonomous regions and centrally administered municipalities.
 - The NDRC approves investment and finance projects exceeding certain capital expenditure amounts as well as foreign investment projects exceeding certain investment amounts.

In order to provide a uniform regulatory framework to encourage the orderly development of the telecommunications industry, the PRC government is in the process of drafting a telecommunications law. We expect that, if and when the telecommunications law is adopted by the National People's Congress or its Standing Committee, the highest state legislative body in the PRC, it will become the basic telecommunications statute and provide a regulatory framework for the telecommunications industry in the PRC.

On June 1, 2017, the Cyber Security Law came into force. It stipulates relevant rules for personal data security protection, new types of cybercrime and network real name system; it specifies the principle of cyberspace sovereignty, the security obligations of network products and services providers as well as the security obligations of network operators; and it further enhances the protection of personal data, establishes the framework for the protection of critical information infrastructure facilities, and establishes rules regulating cross-border transmission of key data via critical information infrastructure facilities. In addition, it provides for the punishment for foreign organizations and individuals that attack and destroy China's critical information infrastructure facilities and establishes a system for monitoring, early warning and emergency response. Telecom operators shall comply with the requirements under the Cyber Security Law in respect of network operating security and network information security. In addition, the Cyber Security Review Measures became effective on June 1, 2020. It repealed the Interim Security Review Measures for Network Products and Services and further refined the relevant provisions therein, requiring critical information infrastructure operators to make declaration when procuring network products and services that affect or may affect national security. It further clarifies the standards and procedures of review and stipulates that if the reviewers fail to be objective and fair, or are unable to undertake the obligation to retain the confidentiality of the information received during the review, the operators or network product and service providers may report this to the Cyber Security Review Office or other relevant departments.

The Cyber Security Law and the Cyber Security Review Measures require procurement of network products and services by operators in key industries and critical information infrastructure facilities that may have national security concerns to go through a cyber security review. The security review may be initiated by the enterprises or by the relevant government authorities. The security review would focus on the security and controllability of network products and services. Operators of critical information infrastructure facilities use network products or services that have not been subject to the security review or have not passed the security review, would be subject to a fine of no less than one but no more than ten times of the amount of purchase. According to the Cyber Security Law, the CAC has a central role in planning, coordination, supervision, and management of network security measures while the MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and other relevant authorities are in charge of network security protection, supervision and management within the scope of their respective responsibilities. Several related regulations, including the Measures for the Security Review of Network Products and Services (for Trial Implementation) and the Provisions for the Administration of Internet News Information Services, published by the CAC came into effect on the same day as the Cyber Security Law. The PRC government may amend the relevant regulations or promulgate new regulations to clarify and further implement the Cyber Security Law. Although we expect that the Cyber Security Law will have a positive effect on the overall development of the telecommunications industry and enhance information protection in the PRC, we currently cannot predict the scope of any specific requirements that may be imposed on us and their implications for our operations under the Cyber Security Law and relevant regulations.

On January 1, 2018, the Measures for Monitoring and Management of Public Internet Cyber Security Threat issued by the MIIT came into force. It provided for the definition of public Internet cyber security threats, the relevant governing authorities, working principles and remedial measures in connection with the monitoring and management of public Internet cyber security threats. Telecom operators are required to strengthen the monitoring and management of public Internet cyber security threats, notify the governing authorities in a timely manner after discovery of cyber security threats, and provide technical assistance to governing authorities in relation to inquiries into IP address attribution and domain name registration.

On May 1, 2018, the national standard on personal information protection, Information Security Technology—Personal Information Security Specification GB/T 35273-2017, came into force. It provides specific examples on the scope and types of personal information and sensitive personal information; stipulates the basic principles on personal information security and regulates the collection, retention, use, sharing, transfer and public disclosure of personal information. It puts forward specific requirements on the methods and measures to handle personal information security incidents by personal information controllers, as well as the organization and management of personal information controllers. In addition, it provides implementation methods and privacy policy forms for the right of informed consent to be exercised. On October 1, 2020, the revised Information Security Technology—Personal Information Security Specification (信息安全技术个人信息安全规范) which superseded the previous specification published in 2018 was formally implemented, adding provisions with respect to “autonomous selection of multiple business functions”, “convergence and integration of personal information collected for different business purposes”, “usage restrictions of user portraits”, “third-party access management”, “personal information security project”, “personal information processing activity records”, etc. It also revised “exceptions for authorization and consent”, “personal information subject cancellation accounts”, etc., which provides more privacy protection with respect to the collection, utilization and retention of personal information.

Telecommunications Regulations

The PRC’s State Council promulgated the Telecommunications Regulations, which became effective as of September 25, 2000 and were amended on July 29, 2014 and February 6, 2016, respectively, by the Decision of the State Council on Amending Certain Administrative Regulations. The Telecommunications Regulations are substantially consistent with, and are primarily intended to streamline and clarify, the then existing rules and policies for the telecommunications industry. The Telecommunications Regulations provide the primary regulatory framework for the PRC’s telecommunications industry in the interim period prior to the adoption of the telecommunications law.

The Telecommunications Regulations are intended to develop a transparent and fair regulatory environment to encourage fair and orderly competition and development in the telecommunications industry. The Telecommunications Regulations address all key aspects of telecommunications operations, including, among others, entry into the telecommunications industry, network interconnection, telecommunications resource allocation, tariffs and service standards.

Licensing

The Telecommunications Regulations adopt the existing regulatory distinction between basic and value-added telecommunications services, which are subject to different licensing requirements. On December 28, 2015, the MIIT promulgated the Telecommunications Service Catalog (2015 edition) which took effect on March 1, 2016 and was amended on June 6, 2019. Basic telecommunications services include, among others, wireline communications services, cellular mobile communications services, satellite communications services, data communications services, IP telephone services, trunking communications services, wireless paging services, network access facilities services, domestic communications facilities services and network hosting services. Value-added telecommunications services include, among others, IDC services, content distribution network services, domestic Internet virtual private network services, Internet access services, online data processing and transaction processing services, domestic multi-communication services, storage and forwarding services, call center services, information services and coding and procedures conversion services.

Providers of any basic telecommunications services as well as providers of value-added services in two or more provinces, autonomous regions and centrally administered municipalities in the PRC must apply for licenses from the MIIT. In accordance with the approval of the MIIT, we derive our exclusive rights to operate basic telecommunications business from our status as a subsidiary controlled by China Telecom Group, which holds the licenses required for operating the relevant telecommunications business. In December 2013, China Telecom Group, Unicom Group and China Mobile Group received permits from the MIIT to operate 4G services nationwide based on TD-LTE technology. We have been authorized by China Telecom Group to operate 4G services nationwide based on TD-LTE technology. On February 27, 2015, China Telecom Group was granted by the MIIT the permit, and authorized us, to provide 4G services based on LTE FDD technologies nationwide. In June 2019, China Telecom Group, our controlling shareholder, was granted the permit from MIIT to operate 5G digital cellular mobile service nationwide, and we have been authorized by China Telecom Group to develop 5G business nationwide.

After its accession to the WTO in December 2001, the PRC promulgated the Administrative Regulations on Telecommunications Companies with Foreign Investment, which became effective on January 1, 2002 and were subsequently amended in 2008 and 2016, implementing its commitments to the WTO. Those commitments include the gradual reduction of foreign ownership restrictions in the telecommunications industry and the step-by-step opening of the telecommunications market in the PRC to foreign operators. According to those regulations, enterprises with foreign investment may operate basic and value-added telecommunications services subject to the approval of the MIIT and the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China (formerly the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of the People’s Republic of China). Certain limitations have been placed on the total registered capital of, and maximum foreign shareholdings in, such enterprises. However, the presence or absence of foreign investments in an applicant for telecommunications licenses will presumably bear no direct relation to the decision on whether to issue licenses, inasmuch as the issuance of new licenses is governed by a separate set of rules and regulations. In recent years, the PRC gradually fulfilled the market-opening commitments it made to the WTO and lifted many restrictions for foreign investors and service providers in respect of telecommunications services.

The remaining restrictions regarding mobile services, value-added telecommunications services and fixed-line services are as follows:

- For mobile voice and data services:
 - there is no longer any geographic restriction and the foreign ownership shall be no more than 49.0%.
- For value-added telecommunications services (other than e-commerce services, domestic multi-party communication services, storage and forwarding services, and call center services):
 - there is no longer any geographic restriction and the foreign ownership generally shall be no more than 50.0%.
- For fixed-line services:
 - there is no longer any geographic restriction and the foreign ownership shall be no more than 49.0%.

The MIIT has promulgated the Administrative Measures for the Licensing of Telecommunications Business, which aims to strengthen the administration of licensing of telecommunications operations permits and became effective on September 1, 2017. It provides for the establishment of an integrated management platform for telecommunications business, the promotion of online application, approval and management of business license as well as publication, queries and co-sharing of related information, and enhancement of credit management by including credit conditions as a precondition to being granted a business license. The annual business license inspection system would be adjusted to a system of publication of annual reports and announcements. An illegal operations and dishonesty list for telecommunications operators would be established and maintained and the operators on such list would be subject to enhanced supervision from relevant telecommunications regulatory bodies. If a telecommunications business operator is requested by relevant telecommunications regulatory body to suspend operations, its business license is revoked or there are certain other circumstances as stipulated by the MIIT, such operator would be included in the dishonesty list and may not apply for telecommunications business license.

Pursuant to the Circular on the Framework Plan for the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone issued by the State Council on September 18, 2013, qualified foreign investment enterprises will be permitted to provide certain value-added telecommunications services in specific form in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, subject to protections on Internet information security and approval by the State Council is required in case of a breakthrough in the limitations provided for under the administrative regulations. In April 2014, to further promote the pilot program of the value-added telecommunications business in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, the MIIT issued the Administrative Measures for the Pilot Operation of the Value-added Telecommunications Business by Foreign Investors in China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

Tariff Setting

Prior to May 10, 2014, under the Telecommunications Regulations, telecommunications tariffs were categorized into government fixed tariffs, government guidance tariffs and market based tariffs. The telecommunications providers were permitted to set tariffs for certain services provided the tariff levels were below the tariff ceilings set by the MIIT and the NDRC.

As a result of the governmental effort to gradually ease the regulations on the tariffs, on May 5, 2014, the MIIT and the NDRC issued the Notice on Implementing the Market Based Tariffs for Telecommunications Services. Pursuant to this Notice, effective from May 10, 2014, the government fixed tariffs and the government guidance tariffs were abolished and telecommunications operators are permitted to set the tariffs of all telecommunications services based on the cost and market conditions. The Telecommunications Regulations were subsequently amended on July 29, 2014 by the Decision of the State Council on Amending Certain Administrative Regulations to reflect this policy change as well as other amendments.

On May 20, 2015, the office of the State Council promulgated the Guidance Opinions Regarding Expediting the Development of the High-Speed Broadband Network and Promoting the Speed Upgrade and Tariff Reduction, calling for the telecommunications operators to reduce the data tariffs. In addition, the Government Work Report in 2017 calls for the deepening of speed upgrade and tariff reduction, the cancellation of domestic long distance and roaming fee for handsets users, the reduction of the tariff of Internet dedicated line access for small and medium enterprises and international long distance calls. Furthermore, the Government Work Report in 2018 calls for a further promotion of network speed upgrade and tariff reduction. We were encouraged to further reduce the average tariff of broadband for small and medium enterprise subscribers and the average data tariff of mobile network to a greater extent in 2019.

On August 23, 2018, the MIIT promulgated the Notice of Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Further Regulating Marketing Activities for Telecommunications Tariff Schemes which became effective from August 23, 2018. The Notice encourages fundamental telecommunications enterprises to provide a tiered discount pricing formula for tariff plans according to the usage amount of the users and simplify the structure of tariff packages. In formulating and implementing the tariff plans of bundled packages, the tariff plans for each respective service should also be provided, and the tariff rates disclosure policy should be improved. When promoting the tariff plans, the telecommunications enterprises shall fulfill their obligation to remind the users with respect to matters they shall pay attention to, including the restrictive conditions, the validity period and the charging principles. The same type of users with the same transaction conditions should be guaranteed with equal rights to select the tariff plans.

On May 9, 2020, the MIIT and the NDRC promulgated the Notice on Cancelling the Notification Mechanism of Telecommunication Services Tariff. Since the promulgation date of such notice, the notification requirements before the implementation of the tariff plan in the Notice on Implementing the Market Based Tariffs for Telecommunications Services will be cancelled. Telecommunications operators are no longer required to notify the MIIT and NDRC of tariff plans across the country or across provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, or to notify the telecommunications administrations in provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities level and the corresponding pricing authorities of other tariff plans. In addition, telecommunications operators should further improve the telecommunications service tariff publicity system, and publicize all tariff plans available in the public market in the form of a list through manuals or electronic display screens at business premises. The publicity and promotion of tariff plans should be comprehensive, accurate and easy to understand, and the content of the promotion should be consistent with the tariff publicity plan. When formulating a package sales tariff plan, separate tariff plans for different services that involve basic telecommunication needs should be provided at the same time for users to choose independently. For new users converted from our mobile number portability services, telecommunications operators shall ensure these users can independently choose the tariff plan available for sale in the public market.

Interconnection

Under the Telecommunications Regulations and the Administrative Rules on Interconnection between the Public Telecommunications Networks promulgated by the MII in May 2001, as amended in September 2014, major telecommunications operators in the PRC cannot refuse requests for interconnection and must enter into interconnection agreements upon request by other service providers. Telecommunications operators must ensure the smooth interconnection pursuant to the interconnection agreements as well as the applicable regulations and may not unilaterally terminate the interconnection.

The Telecommunications Regulations further provide that the technical standards and settlement methods for network interconnections be formulated by the MIIT. In accordance with these regulations, China Telecom Group has entered into various interconnection agreements with other telecommunications service providers, including China Mobile and China Unicom.

On December 30, 2013, the MIIT issued the Guidance Opinions on Building New National Internet Backbone Interconnection Points, pursuant to which seven new backbone interconnection points altogether have been built in Chengdu, Wuhan, Xi'an, Shenyang, Nanjing, Chongqing and Zhengzhou, in addition to the three existing backbone interconnection points in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. The operations of these new backbone interconnection points have significantly improved the quality and speed of interconnection between the telecommunications networks. On November 9, 2016, the MIIT approved the addition of new national Internet backbone interconnection points in Hangzhou, Fuzhou and Gui'an of Guiyang, achieving 13 Internet backbone interconnection points upon completion of such three new additions in June 2017. On December 30, 2019, the MIIT approved the addition of new Internet backbone interconnection point in Hohhot and as of December 2020, its construction had been completed.

The MIIT issued the Notice on Public Telecommunications Network Interconnection Settlement and Relay Fees Allocation in October 2003 and two Notices on Adjustment to Settlement Standards for Interconnection Fees of Wireline Local Telephone Networks in October 2006 and April 2009, respectively, which provided for interconnection settlement arrangement standards for local inter-district calls between wireline local telephone operators as well as public telecommunications network. In November 2009, the MIIT issued the Notice on Adjustment to Settlement Standards for Interconnection Fees of Public Telecommunications Network and the Notice on the Settlement Standards for Interconnection Fees of TD-SCDMA, which provided for adjustments to certain interconnections settlement standards between telecommunications operators. Effective from January 1, 2010, when a China Mobile's TD-SCDMA 157 and 188 prefix numbers user initiated a call to a user of our Company or China Unicom within the scope of local network, China Mobile would pay a settlement charge of RMB0.012 per minute to our Company or China Unicom. Effective from June 1, 2010, when a wireline user of a basic telecommunications operator initiated a call to a mobile user of another basic telecommunications operator, the settlement charge was set uniformly at a rate of RMB0.001 per minute payable by the basic telecommunications operator originating the call to the basic telecommunications operator receiving the call. Effective from January 1, 2014, some of the settlement standards have been further adjusted pursuant to the Notice on Adjustment to Settlement Standards for Interconnection Fees of Public Telecommunications Network issued by the MIIT on December 17, 2013. Prior to January 1, 2014, when a mobile user of a basic telecommunications operator (excluding China Mobile's TD-SCDMA 157 and 188 prefix numbers users) initiated a call to a mobile user of another basic telecommunications operator, the settlement charge was set uniformly at a rate of RMB0.06 per minute payable by the basic telecommunications operator originating the call to the basic telecommunications operator receiving the call. With effect from January 1, 2014, when a mobile users of our Company or China Unicom initiates a call to a mobile user of China Mobile (not including TD-SCDMA 157 and 188 prefix numbers users), the interconnection settlement charges payable by our Company or China Unicom to China Mobile is adjusted from then prevailing rate of RMB0.06 per minute to RMB0.04 per minute. Other existing voice interconnection settlement standards remain unchanged. Meanwhile, the SMS interconnection settlement standard is adjusted from RMB0.03 per message to RMB0.01 per message, and the MMS interconnection settlement standard is adjusted from RMB0.10 per message to RMB0.05 per message. In June 2020, the MIIT promulgated the Notice on Adjusting the TD-SCDMA Voice Inter-Network Settlement Policy, pursuant to which effective from July 1, 2020, when a China Mobile's TD-SCDMA 157 and 188 prefix numbers user initiated a call to a user of our Company or China Unicom within the scope of local network, China Mobile would pay a settlement charge of RMB0.06 per minute to our Company or China Unicom.

The following table sets forth selected interconnection revenues sharing and settlement arrangements for local calls and domestic long distance calls:

Network from Which Calls Originated	Network at Which Calls Terminated	Current Main Settlement Arrangement
Mobile operator	Wireline local operator or transferred through mobile operator's long distance network to wireline local operator	(1) Mobile operator collects the cellular usage charge from its subscribers (2) Mobile operator pays RMB0.06 per minute to wireline operator (3) Between January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2020, mobile operator (China Mobile) pays RMB0.012 per minute to wireline operator for calls originated from TD-SCDMA "157" or "188" prefix phone numbers in local areas. Starting July 1, 2020, mobile operator (China Mobile) pays RMB0.06 per minute to wireline operator for calls originated from TD-SCDMA "157" or "188" prefix phone numbers in local areas
Wireline local operator	Mobile local operator	(1) Wireline operator collects the usage charge from its subscribers (2) No revenue sharing or settlement prior to June 1, 2010. Wireline operator pays RMB0.001 per minute to mobile operator after June 1, 2010
Wireline operator	Transferred through wireline operator's long distance network to mobile operator	(1) Wireline operator collects the usage charge from its subscribers (2) Wireline operator pays RMB0.06 per minute to mobile operator

<u>Network from Which Calls Originated</u>	<u>Network at Which Calls Terminated</u>	<u>Current Main Settlement Arrangement</u>
Wireline local operator A	Wireline local operator B	(1) Operator A collects the usage charge from its subscribers (2) In the case of local calls from operator A not using operator B's local inter-district trunk circuit, operator A pays 50.0% of usage charge to operator B (3) In the case of local inter-district calls from operator A using operator B's local inter-district trunk circuit, operator A pays no more than RMB0.06 per minute to operator B
Mobile operator A	Mobile local operator B or transferred through mobile operator A's long distance network to mobile operator B	(1) Mobile operator A collects the cellular usage charge from its subscribers (2) Mobile operator A pays RMB0.06 per minute to mobile operator B. (3) Starting January 1, 2014, mobile operator A (China Telecom or China Unicom) pays RMB0.04 per minute to mobile operator B (China Mobile) for calls originated from a mobile user of operator A (China Telecom or China Unicom) to a mobile user of operator B (China Mobile) (not including TD-SCDMA 157 and 188 prefix numbers) (4) Between January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2020, mobile operator A (China Mobile) pays RMB0.012 per minute to mobile operator B for calls originated from TD-SCDMA "157" or "188" prefix phone numbers users in local areas. Starting July 1, 2020, mobile operator A (China Mobile) pays RMB0.06 per minute to mobile operator B for calls originated from TD-SCDMA "157" or "188" prefix phone numbers users in local areas

The following table sets forth selected current main interconnection revenues sharing and settlement arrangements for PSTN international long distance calls, including calls originated from and terminated in any international region:

<u>Network from Which Calls Originated</u>	<u>Network at Which Calls Terminated</u>	<u>Current Main Settlement Arrangement</u>
Domestic wireline local or mobile operator A	Without using the carrier identity code of operator B, through the domestic and international long distance network of operator B	(1) Operator A collects the tariff from the subscribers (2) Operator A retains RMB0.06 per minute, and operator B gets the rest of the international long distance tariff.
	Using the carrier identity code of operator B, through the domestic and international long distance network of operator B	(1) Operator B collects the tariff from the subscribers (2) Operator B pays operator A RMB0.06 per minute

<u>Network from Which Calls Originated</u>	<u>Network at Which Calls Terminated</u>	<u>Current Main Settlement Arrangement</u>
International long distance operator	Operator B through domestic long distance network of operator C and international gateway of domestic operator A	(1) Operator A pays not more than RMB0.54 per minute to operator C, operator C pays not more than RMB0.06 per minute to operator B, where operator A and operator C, or operator B and operator C can be the same operator

The following table sets forth selected current main interconnection revenues sharing and settlement arrangements for SMS:

<u>Network from Which SMS Originated</u>	<u>Network at Which SMS Terminated</u>	<u>Current Main Settlement Arrangement</u>
Wireline or mobile operator A	Wireline or mobile operator B	(1) Operator A collects the tariff from its subscribers (2) Starting January 1, 2014, operator A pays RMB0.01 per SMS to operator B

The following table sets forth selected current main interconnection revenues sharing and settlement arrangements for MMS:

<u>Network from Which MMS Originated</u>	<u>Network at Which MMS Terminated</u>	<u>Current Main Settlement Arrangement</u>
Mobile operator A	Mobile operator B	(1) Operator A collects the tariff from its subscribers (2) Starting January 1, 2014, operator A pays RMB0.05 per MMS to operator B

The interconnection settlement arrangement for the Internet backbone networks in China is the interconnection settlement through the network access points, or the NAPs, and backbone interconnection points. The price of NAP settlement is determined by the MIIT, and the price of backbone interconnection points is decided by the Internet backbone networks participants with reference to the NAP settlement standards. Since 2013, the MIIT reduced the interconnection settlement charges for the Internet backbone networks each year and the interconnection settlement charges for the NAPs was reduced by the MIIT to RMB80,000 per gigabyte per month starting from November 1, 2018. The one-way payment of interconnection settlement charges for the Internet backbone networks between China Mobile Group and China Telecom Group or Unicom Group will be ceased and replaced by a peer-to-peer interconnection arrangement without settlement charges from July 1, 2020.

The MII promulgated the Measures on the Supervision and Administration of Quality of Service of the Public Telecommunications Networks, or the Measures on Quality of Service, effective August 1, 2005. The Measures on Quality of Service provide the supervision and administration of services of public telecommunications networks, including, among others, wireline local telephone networks, domestic long distance telephone networks, international telephone networks, IP telephone networks, land cellular mobile communication networks, satellite mobile communication networks, Internet backbone networks (access) and other telecommunications networks regulated by the MII. Under the Measures on Quality of Service, telecommunications operators are required to set up interconnection-related working units to be responsible for the management of quality of services of the public telecommunications networks.

Technical Standards

The MIIT sets industry technical standards for telecommunications terminal and interconnection related equipment used in the public telecommunications networks. A network access license from the MIIT and other relevant regulatory authorities is required for all such equipment. Most of the standards set by the MIIT conform to standards recommended by the International Telecommunications Union and other international telecommunications standards organizations.

Telecommunications Resources

The MIIT is responsible for the administration and allocation of telecommunications resources in the PRC, including radio frequencies and telecommunications network numbers. The use of these resources by telecommunications service providers is subject to the approval of the MIIT or the relevant provincial communications administrations and a usage fee for telecommunications resources payable to the PRC government.

In 2020, we paid approximately RMB109 million of usage fees for the telecommunications network numbers and approximately RMB1,513 million of frequency usage fees, respectively.

Quality of Service

Under the Telecommunications Regulations, the MIIT and the relevant provincial communications administration have the responsibility of supervising and monitoring the quality of services provided by telecommunications service providers in the PRC. Under the Telecommunications Regulations, customers of telecommunications service providers have the right to submit complaints to the MIIT and the relevant provincial communications administration or other relevant government authorities.

On March 13, 2005, the MII promulgated the Telecommunications Services Standards which were amended in September 2014. The Telecommunications Services Standards aim to protect the rights of the customers of telecommunications services and sets forth minimum quality requirements for telecommunications services provided by telecommunications operators.

Under the PRC Consumer Protection Law, Consumers' Associations can participate in the inspection and examination of goods and services by relevant governmental authorities; and customers can lodge their complaints with Consumers' Associations, which can investigate the goods or services involved in the complaints, and mediate the complaints.

On December 28, 2016, the MIIT promulgated the Notice on Matters Relating to the Regulating of Telecommunications Services Agreements, effective on February 1, 2017, which specifies the standard of signing and record-keeping of telecommunication services agreements and emphasizes that the telecommunications operators should inform the subscribers and carry out remedial work when some or all of the terms under the telecommunications services agreements could not be observed due to force majeure or adjustment of national policies.

Universal Services

Under the Telecommunications Regulations, telecommunications service providers in the PRC are required to fulfill universal service obligations in accordance with relevant regulations promulgated by the PRC government, and the MIIT has been given authority by the PRC government to delineate the scope of its universal service obligations. The MIIT, together with other regulatory authorities, is also responsible for formulating administrative rules relating to the establishment of a universal service fund and compensation schemes for universal services. The State Council issued the Notice on the "Broadband China" Policy and the Implementation Plan on August 1, 2013, which included the provision of broadband services to villages as part of the universal service obligations of telecommunications service providers and mentioned improving the compensation scheme for the expenses incurred in the "Broadband China" projects undertaken by telecommunications service providers in the villages. In addition, the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China, or the MOF and the MIIT jointly issued the Notice of Implementation of Telecommunications Universal Services Pilot Work in December 2015, which provided that the telecommunications universal services should take a market-oriented approach and that the telecommunications universal services providers should be selected through a public bidding process. This notice sets up certain goals for the telecommunications operators, including broadband coverage in 98% of the administrative villages and over 12Mbps broadband access capacity in rural villages, by 2020. Pursuant to the notice, the central government subsidies will be granted to the pilot areas determined by the MOF and the MIIT and the universal services providers will be selected through an open bidding process.

The PRC government used financial resources to compensate the expenses incurred in the universal services related projects before the implementation of universal services pilot projects in 2016. We, together with other telecommunications operators, have undertaken the "Coverage to All Villages" project since 2004. Since 2016, we have undertaken universal services pilot projects in accordance with the requirements of the Chinese government and initially in aggregate won the bids to undertake and completed the construction of broadband networks in approximately 50,000 administrative villages. Since 2018, the PRC government included 4G network coverage into the scope of pilot projects for universal services. By the end of 2019, we had won the bids to undertake 4G base stations constructions in approximately 12,000 administrative villages in remote rural areas. We have continuously promoted the construction of communication networks in rural areas and remote rural villages and strive to improve the fixed-line and wireless broadband Internet access capacities in rural areas. In addition, we have set up local service points for rural villages, actively promoted the development of e-commerce in rural areas, and strived to contribute to the informatization upgrade and revitalization of rural areas in various regions. The compensation from the PRC government may not be sufficient to cover all of our expenses for providing the telecommunications universal services. However, we believe the expenses for such operation and maintenance will not have a material effect on our financial condition.

State-Owned Assets Supervision

Under the PRC Company Law, PRC Enterprise State-Owned Assets Law, Interim Measures for the Supervision and Administration of State-Owned Assets of the Enterprises, and other administrative regulations, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, or the SASAC, among others, supervises the preservation of the value of state-owned assets, guides the reform and restructuring of state-owned enterprises, and evaluates the performance of management executives of state-owned enterprises through legal procedures. Our controlling shareholder, China Telecom Group, is a state-owned enterprise owned by the SASAC and subject to the SASAC's supervision.

Three-Network Convergence Policy

In January 2010, the PRC government announced its decision to accelerate the advancement of convergence of telecommunications, television broadcast and Internet access networks to realize interconnection and resource co-sharing among the three networks and further develop the provision of voice, data, television and other services. Specifically, the three-network convergence policy would be initially carried out on a trial basis in selective geographic locations during the period from 2010 to 2012 and further implemented across-the-board in the following three years. In June 2010, the State Council issued the Trial Plan for Three-Network Convergence and called for 12 regions (cities) and enterprises for the first trial. Following the completion of the first trial in December 2011, the State Council announced 42 additional regions (cities) for the second phase of the trial. In September 2012, we received the Information Network Communicated Audio-Video Program License from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (the "SARFT", formerly, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television). In August 2015, the General Office of the State Council issued the Notice of Plan of Furthering the Three-Network Convergence, which marked the completion of the trial plan of the three-network convergence and called for further promotion of the three-network convergence nationwide.

Mobile Telecommunications Resale Business

On May 17, 2013, the MIIT issued the Trial Plan of Resale of Mobile Telecommunications Services, pursuant to which the MIIT would grant qualified companies mobile telecommunications resale business approvals on a pilot basis which would allow them to purchase mobile telecommunications services in bulk from mobile networks operators or resell such services to customers. On January 6, 2016, the MIIT issued the Guidance on the Wholesale Price Adjustments of Mobile Telecommunications Resale Business (关于移动通信转售业务批发价格调整的指导意见), pursuant to which the MIIT required that the wholesale price for resale of mobile telecommunications services should be lower than the per unit price (or package price) for similar services of the mobile networks operators. On April 28, 2018, the MIIT issued the Circular on Commercialization of Mobile Telecommunications Resale Business, pursuant to which the MIIT granted commercial operation approval to mobile communication resale business, effective from May 1, 2018. For a series of government measures to encourage private capital to invest in telecommunications services that could compete with our services, see "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Competition".

VAT Reform Applicable to the Telecommunications Industry

On November 16, 2011, the MOF and the State Administration of Taxation of the People's Republic of China, or the SAT, introduced a pilot tax program under which the PRC business tax would be replaced with a value-added tax ("VAT"). On April 29, 2014, the MOF and the SAT announced that the pilot program would be extended to cover the telecommunications industry. Effective from June 1, 2014, the pilot tax rate for basic telecommunications services is 11% and the pilot tax rate for value-added telecommunications services is 6%. On March 18, 2016, the State Council standing committee meeting resolved to expand the VAT pilot program to all other industries which were previously subject to the PRC business tax starting from May 1, 2016. On March 23, 2016, the MOF and the SAT issued the Notice on Expanding the Pilot Program of Replacing the Business Tax with VAT, promulgating the relevant implementing rules. On April 4, 2018, the MOF and the SAT issued the Notice on Adjustment of VAT Rates pursuant to which the 11% VAT rate applicable to basic telecommunications services would be reduced to 10% and the 17% VAT rate applicable to sales of goods would be reduced to 16%, with effect from May 1, 2018. On March 20, 2019, the MOF, the SAT, the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China issued the Notice on Deepening the Policies Related to Value-Added Tax Reform, pursuant to which the 10% VAT rate applicable to basic telecommunications services would be reduced to 9% and the 16% VAT rate applicable to sales of goods would be reduced to 13%, with effect from April 1, 2019.

Sharing of Telecommunications Infrastructure

In April 2019, the MIIT and the SASAC jointly issued the 2019 Implementation Opinions of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Committee of the State Council on Promoting the Joint Construction and Sharing of Telecommunications Infrastructure, or the Opinions. The Opinions require that the supporting facilities for base stations, such as the telecommunications towers, and the passive indoor distribution systems for key areas of public transportation and buildings, shall generally be coordinated with respect to construction needs, constructed and delivered by the Tower Company, except that certain facilities may be constructed by a telecommunications operator if serving only such operators' demand. The Opinions also set forth the sharing requirements in the construction of Fiber To The Home (FTTH) infrastructure facilities. The construction of supporting facilities, such as transmission poles, pipelines, and equipment rooms, in newly-built residential and commercial properties must strictly observe the applicable national and local standards. Telecommunications operators are prohibited from entering into any agreement which contains exclusivity arrangement with commercial property owners, their agents and/or property management companies. Moreover, the existing telecommunications infrastructure (transmission poles, pipelines, base station sites, and equipment rooms, etc.) must be co-shared whenever conditions so allow, and new transmission poles or pipes covering the same operation routes must be jointly constructed by the operators.

Anti-Unfair Competition Law

On April 23, 2019, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (the "NPCSC") promulgated the amended Anti-Unfair Competition Law of the People's Republic of China (the "Anti-Unfair Competition Law"), which was formally implemented on the same day. The amendments to the Anti-Unfair Competition Law mainly involve the provisions regarding the trade secrets of intellectual property rights. First, the scope of trade secrets has been expanded through the incorporation of a catch-all description, which is no longer limited to "technical" or "business operation" information. Second, the scope of the trade secret infringer has been expanded. Apart from business operators, other natural persons, legal persons and non-legal entities have been included in the scope of the subject of liability for trade secret infringement. Third, given the practical situation of evolving infringement means and conducts, it has been clarified that misappropriation of trade secrets through electronic intrusion or indirect means, such as instigating, inducing and aiding others to acquire the right holder's trade secrets, will constitute trade secret infringement. Fourth, the penalty on trade secret infringement has been increased. Fifth, in relation to the allocation of burden of proof for trade secret infringement in the civil trial procedure, it stipulates that the right holder may only need to provide preliminary evidences which can prove that the right holder has taken confidentiality measures and can reasonably indicate that the trade secret has been infringed. The amendments to the Anti-Unfair Competition Law strengthened the protection of intellectual property rights in China and had a positive impact on the establishment of a fair market order and protection of the legitimate interests of the right holders.

Mobile Number Portability

On November 11, 2019, the MIIT promulgated the Notice of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Printing and Publishing the Regulations on the Management of Mobile Number Portability Service. The Regulations on the Management of Mobile Number Portability Service (the "Regulations") became effective on December 1, 2019. The Regulations expressly allow the cellular mobile telecommunication users (excluding the users of Internet of Things) to apply for a change of the contracted fundamental business operator within the same local network area whilst retaining their phone numbers unchanged. Telecommunications business operators should strictly implement the relevant provisions on the real-name registration of users of mobile number portability service and ensure that the users whose mobile numbers have been transferred from other networks should be entitled to the same rights under the same conditions. Providing an important basis for the supervision and inspection of the telecommunications regulators, the Regulations explicitly require that in the course of providing the mobile number portability service telecommunications business operators should not engage in nine types of prohibited conducts including to refuse, prevent or delay the provision of mobile number portability service to users without justifiable reasons, to restrict the users from switching to another network by means of expanding the scope of the agreement in relation to the terms of service, to affect the quality of telecommunications service provided to the mobile number portability service users through technical measures such as interception and restriction, to conduct a comparative promotion, fabricate or disseminate false or misleading information or discredit other telecommunication business operators when promoting the mobile number portability service and the relevant tariff plans, to design special tariff plans and marketing schemes for mobile number portability service users, continue to occupy the mobile numbers transferred-in while the users have exited the network and to hinder or disrupt the normal operation of mobile number portability service by means of handling the mobile number transfer maliciously on behalf of the users, making complaints maliciously on behalf of the users, etc.

E-Commerce Law

In August 2018, the NPCSC approved the E-Commerce Law of the People's Republic of China, which was formally implemented on January 1, 2019. The E-Commerce Law consists of seven chapters and 89 articles which further regulate e-commerce activities conducted by relevant parties including e-commerce platform operators ("e-commerce platforms"). The E-Commerce Law defines and confirms, for the first time, the obligation of e-commerce platforms to protect the consumers' security, and requires them to bear the corresponding responsibility when the obligation is breached. It further refines the regulation for the responsibility of intellectual property infringement on the e-commerce platforms, regulates the industrial and commercial registration and tax collection and management of e-commerce operators, requires e-commerce operators to publish information when terminating transactions at their own discretion, prohibits fabricating transactions and user comments to defraud and mislead consumers, prohibits the e-commerce platforms from abusing the dominant market position to exclude and restrict competition, regulates the rules of deposits collection and refund, requests the products participating in bidding ranking with the results marked therein.

Civil Code

On May 28, 2020, the third session of the 13th National People's Congress passed the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China (the "Civil Code"), which was formally implemented on January 1, 2021. The Civil Code, for the first time, codifies the right of privacy as an independent personality right, stipulates a series of specific rules and formulates a framework of fundamental rights and obligations between natural persons and information processors. When conducting businesses, enterprises shall effectively strengthen the awareness of privacy rights of natural persons and personal data protection and strictly adhere to the principles of legality, justification and necessity. Enterprises shall collect and process personal information in strict compliance with the conditions as stipulated by laws and definitive agreements with the data subject concerned, and shall not over collect or process the data. The Civil Code provides principle provisions on the protection of data and online virtual assets. The Company should continue to strengthen the protection of intangible assets such as proprietary data, online virtual assets and intellectual property and enhance the compliance on the usage of such intangible assets.

Disclosure of Iranian Activities under Section 13(r) of the Exchange Act

Section 219 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 added Section 13(r) to the Exchange Act, as amended. Section 13(r) requires an issuer to disclose in its annual or quarterly reports, as applicable, if it or any of its affiliates knowingly engaged in certain activities, transactions or dealings relating to Iran or with designated natural persons or entities involved in terrorism or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Disclosure is required even where the activities, transactions or dealings are conducted outside the U.S. by non-U.S. affiliates in compliance with applicable law, and whether or not the activities are sanctionable under U.S. law.

As of the date of this report, we are not aware of any activity, transaction or dealing by us or any of our affiliates in 2020 that requires disclosure in this annual report under Section 13(r) of the Exchange Act, as amended.

C. Organization Structure

See "—A. History and Development of the Company—Organizational Structure" included elsewhere under this Item.

D. Property, Plants and Equipment

Properties

Executive Offices

Our principal executive offices are located in Beijing and we obtained the right to occupy and use these offices pursuant to an agreement we entered into with China Telecom Group in September 2002 and supplemental agreements on October 26, 2003, April 13, 2004, December 15, 2005, December 26, 2007, March 31, 2008, August 25, 2010, August 22, 2012, September 23, 2015 and August 20, 2018, respectively. See "Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—B. Related Party Transactions—Ongoing Related Party Transactions between Us and China Telecom Group and Its Affiliated Companies—Centralized Services Agreement".

Properties

We conduct our business on land and premises either owned by ourselves or leased from China Telecom Group and/or its affiliates and third parties. As to our owned properties, land and building titles to very few of the properties are still registered in the name of China Telecom Group and/or its affiliates. China Telecom Group has agreed to indemnify us against any loss or damage incurred by us caused by or arising from any challenge to, or interference with, our right to use these properties. As to our leased properties, China Telecom Group has undertaken to us that it will indemnify us against any loss or damage caused by or arising from any challenge to, or interference with, such right. See "Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—B. Related Party Transactions—Ongoing Related Party Transactions between Us and China Telecom Group and Its Affiliated Companies—Property Leasing Framework Agreement".

Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments.

None.

Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects.

You should read the following discussion and analysis in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and their related notes included in this annual report, in each case included elsewhere in this annual report. Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS, as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The information included in the following discussion and analysis provides details on the information for the years ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019. Information related to the year ended December 31, 2018 has not been included and can be found on the Company's previously filed annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report reflect the establishment of China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited in 2018, and the establishments of China Telecom Finance, Smart Home Company and IoT Company in 2019, described under "Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Establishment of China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited", "—Establishment of China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd.", "—Establishment of E-surfing Smart Home Technology Co., Ltd." and "—Establishment of E-surfing Internet of Things Technology Co., Ltd."

Overview

We are an integrated intelligent information service provider in the PRC. We offer a comprehensive range of telecommunications services, including Internet services, information and application services, voice services, telecommunications network resource and equipment services and other related services. We will continue to leverage our full-service capabilities to further enhance our integrated and differentiated development of operation of wireline, mobile and Internet services to achieve steady growth of our business.

Financial Overview

Our operating revenues increased by 4.7%, from RMB375,734 million in 2019 to RMB393,561 million in 2020. The increase was mainly attributable to the increases of revenues from Internet services and information and application services. Our operating expenses increased by 5.3% from RMB346,664 million in 2019 to RMB364,921 million in 2020. The increase in operating expenses was primarily due to the increases in network operations and support expenses as well as impairment loss on property, plant and equipment. Our operating income in 2019 and 2020 was RMB29,070 million and RMB28,640 million, respectively. The profit attributable to equity holders of the Company increased by 1.6%, from RMB20,517 million in 2019 to RMB20,850 million in 2020.

The table below sets forth a breakdown of our operating revenues in terms of amount and as a percentage of our total operating revenues for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2019		2020	
	Amount	Percentage of Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage of Operating Revenues
	(RMB in millions, except percentage data)			
Operating Revenues:				
Voice services ⁽¹⁾	45,146	12.0%	40,866	10.4%
Internet services ⁽²⁾	197,244	52.5%	208,019	52.9%
Information and application services ⁽³⁾	87,623	23.3%	96,885	24.6%
Telecommunications network resource and equipment services ⁽⁴⁾	21,978	5.9%	22,623	5.7%
Others ⁽⁵⁾	23,743	6.3%	25,168	6.4%
Total operating revenues	375,734	100.0%	393,561	100.0%

(1) Represent the aggregate amount of voice usage fees, installation fees and interconnections fees charged to customers for the provision of telephony services.

(2) Represent amounts charged to customers for the provision of Internet access services.

(3) Represent primarily the aggregate amount of fees charged to customers for the provision of IDC service, digitalized platform services, Smart Family, caller ID service and short messaging service and etc.

(4) Represent amounts charged to other domestic telecommunications operators and enterprise customers for the provision of telecommunications network resource and equipment services.

(5) Represent primarily revenues from sales, and repair and maintenance of telecommunications equipment as well as the resale of mobile services (MVNO), and revenue from property rental and other revenues.

The following table sets forth a breakdown of our operating expenses in terms of amount and as a percentage of our total operating revenues for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2019		2020	
	Amount	Percentage of Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage of Operating Revenues
(RMB in millions, except percentage data)				
Operating Expenses:				
Depreciation and amortization	88,145	23.5%	90,240	22.9%
Network operations and support expenses	109,799	29.2%	119,517	30.3%
Selling, general and administrative expenses	57,361	15.3%	55,059	14.0%
Personnel expenses	63,567	16.9%	65,989	16.8%
Other operating expenses	27,792	7.4%	29,074	7.4%
Impairment loss on property, plant and equipment	—	—	5,042	1.3%
Total operating expenses	346,664	92.3%	364,921	92.7%

The following table sets forth our operating revenues, operating expenses, operating income and profit attributable to equity holders of the Company in terms of amount and as a percentage of our total operating revenues, and cash flows from operating activities for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2019		2020	
	Amount	Percentage of Operating Revenues	Amount	Percentage of Operating Revenues
(RMB in millions, except percentage data)				
Operating revenues	375,734	100.0%	393,561	100.0%
Operating expenses	346,664	92.3%	364,921	92.7%
Operating income	29,070	7.7%	28,640	7.3%
Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	20,517	5.5%	20,850	5.3%
Net cash flow from operating activities	112,600	—	132,260	—

Critical Accounting Policies

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations contained elsewhere in this annual report are based on our consolidated financial statements include elsewhere in this annual report which have been prepared in accordance with IFRS. Our reported financial condition and results of operations are sensitive to accounting methods, assumptions and estimates that underlie the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. We base our assumptions and estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable and which form the basis for making judgments about matters that are not readily apparent from other sources. On an ongoing basis, our management evaluates its estimates. Actual results may differ from those estimates as facts, circumstances and conditions change.

The selection of critical accounting policies, the judgments and other uncertainties affecting application of those policies and the sensitivity of reported results to changes in conditions and assumptions are factors to be considered when reviewing our financial statements. Our principal accounting policies are set forth in detail in Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. We believe the following critical accounting policies involve the most significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our financial statements.

Revenue from contract with customers

We recognize revenue when (or as) a performance obligation is satisfied, i.e., when “control” of the goods or services underlying the particular performance obligation is transferred to the customer.

A performance obligation represents a good or service (or a bundle of goods or services) that is distinct or a series of distinct goods or services that are substantially the same.

Control is transferred over time and revenue is recognized over time by reference to the progress towards complete satisfaction of the relevant performance obligation if one of the following criteria is met:

- the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by our performance as we perform;

- our performance creates and enhances an asset that the customer controls as we perform; or
- our performance does not create an asset with an alternative use to us and we have an enforceable right to payment for performance completed to date.

As such, revenues from contracts with customers of telecommunications services, including voice, Internet, information and application and telecommunications network resource and equipment services, resale of mobile services (MVNO) and repair and maintenance of equipment are generally recognized over time during which the services are provided to customers.

Otherwise, revenue is recognized at a point in time when the customer obtains control of the distinct good or service. As such, revenues from sales of equipment are recognized at a point in time when the equipment is delivered to the customers and when the control over the equipment have been transferred to the customers.

A contract asset represents our right to consideration in exchange for goods or services that we have transferred to a customer but the right is conditioned on our future performance. A contract asset is transferred to accounts receivable when the right becomes unconditional. A contract asset is assessed for impairment in accordance with IFRS 9. In contrast, a receivable represents our unconditional right to consideration, i.e. only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due.

A contract liability represents our obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which we have received consideration (or an amount of consideration is due) from the customer. When we receive an advance payment before the performance obligation is satisfied, this will give rise to a contract liability, until the operating revenues recognized on the relevant contract exceed the amount of the advance payment.

A contract asset and a contract liability relating to the same contract are accounted for and presented on a net basis.

Contracts with multiple performance obligations (including allocation of transaction price)

For contracts that contain more than one performance obligations, such as our direct sales of promotional packages bundling terminal equipment, e.g. mobile handsets, and the telecommunications services, we allocate the transaction price to each performance obligation on a relative standalone selling price basis.

The standalone selling price of the distinct good or service underlying each performance obligation is determined at contract inception. It represents the price at which we would sell a promised good or service separately to a customer. If a standalone selling price is not directly observable, we estimate it using appropriate techniques such that the transaction price ultimately allocated to any performance obligation reflects the amount of consideration to which we expect to be entitled in exchange for transferring the promised goods or services to the customer.

Over time revenue recognition: measurement of progress towards complete satisfaction of a performance obligation

The progress towards complete satisfaction of a performance obligation is generally measured based on output method, which is to recognize revenue on the basis of direct measurements of the value of the goods or services transferred to the customer to date relative to the remaining goods or services promised under the contract.

Principal versus agent

When another party is involved in providing goods or services to a customer, we determine whether the nature of our promise is a performance obligation to provide the specified goods or services ourselves (i.e. we are a principal) or to arrange for those goods or services to be provided by the other party (i.e. we are an agent).

We are a principal if we control the specified good or service before that good or service is transferred to a customer.

We are an agent if our performance obligation is to arrange for the provision of the specified good or service by another party. In this case, we do not control the specified good or service provided by another party before that good or service is transferred to the customer. When we act as an agent, we recognize revenue in the amount of any fee or commission to which we expect to be entitled in exchange for arranging for the specified goods or services to be provided by the other party.

Consideration payable to a customer

Consideration payable to a customer includes cash amounts that we pay, or expect to pay, to the customer, and also includes credit or other items that can be applied against amounts owed to us. We account for such consideration payable to a customer as a reduction of the transaction price and, therefore, of revenue unless the payment to the customer is in exchange for a distinct good or service that the customer transfers to us and the fair value of the good or service received from the customer can be reasonably estimated.

Certain subsidies payable to third party agent incurred by us in respect of customer contracts, which will be ultimately enjoyed by end customers, and other subsidies incurred by us directly payable to our customers, are qualified as consideration payable to a customer and accounted for as a reduction of operating revenues.

Incremental costs of obtaining a contract

Incremental costs of obtaining a contract are those costs that we incur to obtain a contract with a customer that we would not have incurred if the contract had not been obtained.

Certain commissions incurred by us paid or payable to third party agents, whose selling activities result in customers entering into sale agreements for our telecommunications services, are qualified as incremental costs. We recognize such costs as an asset, included in other assets, if we expect to recover these costs. The asset so recognized is subsequently amortized to profit or loss on a systematic basis that is consistent with the transfer to the customer of the goods or services to which the assets relate. The asset is subject to impairment review.

We apply the practical expedient of expensing all incremental costs to obtain a contract if these costs would otherwise have been fully amortized to profit or loss within one year.

Costs to fulfill a contract

When we incur costs to fulfill a contract, we first assess whether these costs qualify for recognition as an asset in terms of other relevant standards, failing which we recognize an asset for these costs only if they meet all of the following criteria:

- the costs relate directly to a contract or to an anticipated contract that we can specifically identify;
- the costs generate or enhance our resources that will be used in satisfying (or in continuing to satisfy) performance obligations in the future; and
- the costs are expected to be recovered.

The asset so recognized is subsequently amortized to profit or loss on a systematic basis that is consistent with the transfer to the customer of the goods or services to which the assets relate. The asset is subject to impairment review.

Accounting for goodwill and long-lived assets

Depreciation. Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets after taking into account their estimated residual value. The following estimated useful lives are used for depreciation purposes. These estimated useful lives are based on our historical experience with similar assets and take into account anticipated technological changes.

	Depreciable lives primarily range from
Buildings and improvements	8 - 30 years
Telecommunications network plant and equipment	5 - 10 years
Furniture, fixture, motor vehicles and other equipment	5 - 10 years

We review the estimated useful lives of the assets regularly in order to determine the amount of depreciation expense to be recorded during any reporting period. The depreciation expense for future periods is adjusted if there are significant changes from previous estimates.

Impairment. The carrying amounts of long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, right-of-use assets, intangible assets with finite useful lives, construction in progress and contract costs included in other assets are reviewed periodically in order to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. These assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their recorded carrying amounts may not be recoverable. For goodwill, the impairment testing is performed annually at each year end.

Before we recognize an impairment loss for assets capitalized as contract costs under IFRS 15, we assess and recognize any impairment loss on other assets related to the relevant contracts in accordance with applicable standards. Then, impairment loss, if any, for assets capitalized as contract costs is recognized to the extent the carrying amounts exceed the remaining amount of consideration that we expect to receive in exchange for related goods or services less the costs which relate directly to providing those goods or services that have not been recognized as expenses. The assets capitalized as contract costs are then included in the carrying amount of the cash-generating unit to which they belong for the purpose of evaluating impairment of that cash-generating unit.

The recoverable amount of an asset or a cash-generating unit is the greater of its fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. The recoverable amount of a tangible and an intangible asset is estimated individually. When an asset does not generate cash flows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash generating unit). In determining the value in use, expected future cash flows generated by the assets are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted. The goodwill arising from a business combination, for the purpose of impairment testing, is allocated to cash generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination.

An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognized as an expense in profit or loss. Impairment loss recognized in respect of cash-generating units is allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the units and then to reduce the carrying amounts of the other assets in the unit (group of units) on a pro rata basis.

We assess at the end of each reporting period whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognized for an asset in prior years may no longer exist. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favorable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. A subsequent increase in the recoverable amount of an asset, when the circumstances and events that led to the write-down cease to exist, is recognized as an income in profit or loss. The reversal is reduced by the amount that would have been recognized as depreciation and amortization had the write-down not occurred. An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. For the years presented, no reversal of impairment loss was recognized in profit or loss.

For the year ended December 31, 2020, provision for impairment losses of RMB5,042 million were made against the carrying value of long-lived assets mainly based on the impairment test on the 3G specific mobile network assets (“3G Assets”) on the basis of each individual asset. For the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, no provision for impairment losses were made against the carrying value of long-lived assets.

Provision of expected credit losses (“ECL”) for accounts receivable

We use provision matrix to calculate ECL for the accounts receivable. The provision rates are based on customer’s past history of making payments when due and current ability to pay by groupings of various debtors that have similar loss patterns. The provision matrix is based on our historical credit loss experience taking into consideration reasonable and supportable forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort. The historical loss rates are reassessed annually, and changes in the forward-looking information are considered. In addition, accounts receivable with significant balances and credit-impaired are assessed for ECL individually.

Recently Issued International Financial Reporting Standards

Up to the date of issue of our 2020 financial statements, the International Accounting Standards Board, or the IASB, has issued the following new and amendments to standards which are not yet effective and not early adopted for the annual accounting period ended December 31, 2020:

	Effective for accounting period beginning on or after
Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16 “ <i>Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2</i> ”	January 1, 2021
Amendments to IFRS 3, “ <i>Reference to the Conceptual Framework</i> ”	January 1, 2022
Amendments to IAS 16, “ <i>Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use</i> ”	January 1, 2022
Amendments to IAS 37, “ <i>Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract</i> ”	January 1, 2022
Amendments to IFRS Standards, “ <i>Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020</i> ”	January 1, 2022
IFRS 17, “ <i>Insurance Contracts and the related Amendments</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 1 “ <i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2, “ <i>Disclosure of Accounting Policies</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 8, “ <i>Definition of Accounting Estimates</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28, “ <i>Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture</i> ”	To be determined

We are in the process of making an assessment of the impact that will result from adopting the new and amendments to standards issued by the IASB, which are not yet effective for the accounting period ended on December 31, 2020. So far we believe that the adoption of these new and amendments to standards is unlikely to have a significant impact on our financial position and the results of operations.

A. Operating Results

Year Ended December 31, 2020 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2019

Operating Revenues

Our operating revenues increased by RMB17,827 million, or 4.7% from RMB375,734 million in 2019 to RMB393,561 million in 2020. This increase was primarily because our revenues from Internet services and information and application services increased, which was partially offset by the revenue decline in voice services.

Voice Services. Revenues from our voice services decreased by 9.5% from RMB45,146 million in 2019 to RMB40,866 million in 2020, representing 10.4% of our operating revenues in 2020. Among such revenues, revenues from our wireline voice services decreased by 13.0% from RMB18,425 million in 2019 to RMB16,034 million in 2020 and revenues from our mobile voice services decreased by 7.1% from RMB26,721 million in 2019 to RMB24,832 million in 2020. The decrease in revenue from our voice services was primarily due to the effect of the cannibalization of our mobile Internet services, in combination with alternative means of communication such as Over-the-Top messaging services.

Internet Services. Revenues from our Internet services increased by 5.5% from RMB197,244 million in 2019 to RMB208,019 million in 2020, representing 52.9% of our operating revenues in 2020. This increase was primarily due to our achievement of a valuable scale expansion in the mobile subscriber market leveraging the promising start for our 5G consumer services. The number of our mobile subscribers continued to rise. As of December 31, 2020, the number of our mobile subscribers increased to 351 million, representing a net addition of 15.5 million and expanding its market share to 22.0%. The revenue attributable to handset Internet access was RMB130,655 million in 2020, representing an increase of 6.0% from 2019. In addition, the number of our wireline broadband subscribers increased to 158.5 million as of December 31, 2020, representing an increase of approximately 5.4 million, or 3.5%, from 153.1 million as of December 31, 2019. Due to our comprehensive promotion of the upgrade of family informatization services, and reshaping of the value of broadband access business, the wireline broadband revenue was RMB71,872 million in 2020, representing an increase of 5.1% from RMB68,413 million in 2019.

Information and Application Services. Revenues from our information and application services increased by 10.6% from RMB87,623 million in 2019 to RMB96,885 million in 2020, representing 24.6% of our operating revenues in 2020. This increase was primarily due to the rapid growth of our emerging businesses such as IDC, Industry Cloud, Smart Family and Internet Finance.

Telecommunications Network Resource and Equipment Services. Revenues from our telecommunications network resource and equipment services increased by 2.9% from RMB21,978 million in 2019 to RMB22,623 million in 2020, representing 5.7% of our operating revenues in 2020. This increase was primarily due to the growth in revenues from cloud dedicated lines and IP-VPN service.

Others. Other revenues increased by 6.0% from RMB23,743 million in 2019 to RMB25,168 million in 2020, representing 6.4% of our operating revenues in 2020. The increase in other revenues was primarily due to the increase in the scale of mobile terminals sold.

Operating Expenses

Our operating expenses increased by 5.3% from RMB346,664 million in 2019 to RMB364,921 million in 2020. The increase in operating expenses was primarily due to increases in network operations and support expenses as well as impairment loss on property, plant and equipment, which were partially offset by the decrease in selling, general and administrative expenses.

Depreciation and Amortization. Our depreciation and amortization expenses increased by 2.4% from RMB88,145 million in 2019 to RMB90,240 million in 2020. The depreciation and amortization expenses as a percentage of our operating revenues decreased from 23.5% in 2019 to 22.9% in 2020. The increase in our depreciation and amortization expenses is primarily attributable to our increase in capital expenditure in order to support the scale construction of 5G network and constantly strengthen our competitive advantages in network.

Network Operations and Support Expenses. Our network operations and support expenses increased by 8.9% from RMB109,799 million in 2019 to RMB119,517 million in 2020. This is mainly attributable to our continuous optimization in network quality while improving user perception, actively providing support for 5G and Industrial Digitalization (which primarily includes Industry Cloud, IDC, digitalized platform, Network Dedicated Line, IoT and other services) service, and appropriately increasing the deployment in network operation expenditures.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Our selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by 4.0% from RMB57,361 million in 2019 to RMB55,059 million in 2020. The selling expenses were RMB45,447 million in 2020, representing an increase of 6.2% from 2019, primarily due to our persistent high-quality development, acceleration of the transformation of our sales model and the online and offline synergistic development, enhancement in channel management and precision marketing capabilities and continuous improvement in the input efficiency of marketing resources. Our general and administrative expenses were RMB9,612 million in 2020, representing an increase of 8.1% from 2019, primarily due to our active promotion of sci-tech innovation, accelerated transformation to a sci-tech company and increase in the expenditure in research and development.

Personnel Expenses. Personnel expenses increased by 3.8% from RMB63,567 million in 2019 to RMB65,989 million in 2020, primarily due to our continued introduction of high-tech talents and increased incentives for front-line employees and high performance team, so as to enhance employees' vitality. Increase in personnel expenses is in line with our transformation towards a sci-tech company in the future. The personnel expenses as a percentage of our operating revenues remained stable at 16.8% in 2020 compared to 16.9% in 2019.

Other Operating Expenses. Our other operating expenses primarily consist of interconnection charges, cost of goods sold, donations and other expenses. Our other operating expenses were RMB29,074 million in 2020, which increased by 4.6% from RMB27,792 million in 2019. The increase was primarily due to the increase in the scale of mobile terminals sold.

Impairment loss on property, plant and equipment. Following the network evolution and the full coverage of 4G and 5G scale deployment, the data traffic carried by our 3G network was rapidly shrinking and the cash flow from the continual use of 3G Assets is expected to be so small and even become negligible. Given we have made a commitment in the year to gradually terminate our use of 3G Assets in the near future, in accordance with the relevant requirements of IFRS, we conducted an impairment test on the 3G Assets on the basis of each individual asset, and recognized an impairment loss of RMB5,042 million at the end of 2020. The impairment loss on property, plant and equipment as a percentage of our operating revenues was 1.3% in 2020.

Net Finance Costs

Our net finance costs decreased by 17.2% from RMB3,639 million in 2019 to RMB3,014 million in 2020. This is primarily attributable to our implementation of low-cost financing and reduction in financing costs, continuous improvement in the capability of funds management, sophisticated management on financing, and competent control of the scale of indebtedness by seizing favorable market opportunities.

The net exchange loss was RMB163 million in 2020, compared to a net exchange loss of RMB41 million in 2019, which was primarily due to fluctuation of the Renminbi exchange rate against the U.S. dollars in 2020. According to the exchange rates published by the People's Bank of China on December 31, 2020, the exchange rate of Renminbi appreciated by 6.5% against the U.S. dollars from December 31, 2019.

Income Tax

In 2020, our income tax expense was RMB6,307 million with an effective tax rate of 23.0%. Our expected income tax expense at our statutory tax rate of 25.0% in 2020 would be RMB6,847 million. The difference between our effective income tax rate and the statutory income tax rate was primarily due to the low tax rates enjoyed by some subsidiaries and some branches located in the western region of China and the preferential income tax policies enjoyed by us such as additional tax deduction on expenses for research and development proactively implemented by us. Furthermore, our income from investments in associate company, Tower Company, is not subject to income tax in the current year. See Note 32 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report for further details in respect of the reconciliation of the expected tax expense with the actual tax expense.

Profit Attributable to Equity Holders of the Company

As a result of the foregoing, the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company was RMB20,850 million in 2020, representing an increase of 1.6% from the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company of RMB20,517 million in 2019.

B. Liquidity and Capital Resources

Cash Flows and Working Capital

The following table summarizes our cash flows for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended	
	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	(RMB in millions)	
Net cash flow from operating activities	112,600	132,260
Net cash used in investing activities	(77,214)	(87,077)
Net cash used in financing activities	(31,288)	(42,107)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>4,098</u>	<u>3,076</u>

Cash and cash equivalents increased by 13.9% from RMB20,791 as of December 31, 2019, of which 78.0% was denominated in RMB, to RMB23,684 million as of December 31, 2020, of which 73.0% was denominated in RMB. Our net cash inflow was RMB3,076 million in 2020, as compared with the net cash inflow of RMB4,098 million in 2019.

Our principal source of liquidity is net cash inflow from operating activities, which was RMB132,260 million in 2020, representing an increase of RMB19,660 million from RMB112,600 million of net cash inflow in 2019, primarily because we strengthened the management of accounts receivable and more subscribers applied the pre-paid method.

Net cash outflow used in investing activities increased by RMB9,863 million from RMB77,214 million in 2019 to RMB87,077 million in 2020, primarily attributable to the increase in capital expenditure on supporting the development of 5G and Industrial Digitalization service.

Net cash outflow used in financing activities was RMB42,107 million in 2020 compared to RMB31,288 million in 2019, primarily because we controlled the scale of indebtedness within a reasonable level, resulting in decline in the cash inflow from loans.

Our working capital (defined as current assets minus current liabilities) was a deficit of RMB187,126 million as of December 31, 2020, representing a decrease of deficit of RMB4,353 million, compared to a deficit of RMB191,479 million as of December 31, 2019.

We estimate that our current cash and cash equivalents, together with our existing credit facilities from domestic commercial banks, cash flows from operating activities, as well as funds available from short-term and long-term bank borrowings and debt financing, will be sufficient to satisfy our future working capital requirements and capital expenditures through the end of 2021. We have established and maintained high credit ratings in domestic major financing markets, which have facilitated our ability to obtain short-term and long-term credit on favorable terms to meet our financing requirements. As of December 31, 2020, we had unutilized credit facilities of RMB244,326 million with major domestic commercial banks, from which we can draw upon.

Indebtedness

Our indebtedness as of the dates indicated was as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2019	2020
	(RMB in millions)	
Short-term debt	42,527	27,994
Long-term debt maturing within one year	4,444	1,126
Long-term debt	<u>32,051</u>	<u>24,222</u>
Total debt	<u>79,022</u>	<u>53,342</u>

Our total debt decreased by RMB25,680 million from RMB79,022 million as of December 31, 2019 to RMB53,342 million as of December 31, 2020, primarily due to our continuous enhancement of funds management, improvement in the centralized funds management and appropriate control of the scale of indebtedness. Our debt-to-asset ratio (total debt divided by total assets) decreased from 11.2% as of December 31, 2019 to 7.5% as of December 31, 2020. We believe that our Company has maintained a solid capital structure.

Our short-term debt constituted 52.5% of our total debt as of December 31, 2020. The weighted average interest rate of our short-term debt was 2.8% as of December 31, 2020, representing a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from that as of December 31, 2019.

Our long-term debt (including current portion) decreased from RMB36,495 million as of December 31, 2019 to RMB25,348 million as of December 31, 2020.

Of our total debt as of December 31, 2020, 99.3%, 0.4% and 0.3% were denominated in Renminbi, U.S. dollars and Euros, respectively, and 90.1% and 9.9% were with fixed interest rate and floating interest rate, respectively.

Our short-term and long-term debt does not contain any financial covenants.

Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments

The following table sets forth our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2020:

	Payable in						After 2025
	Total	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
	(RMB in millions)						
Contractual Obligations⁽¹⁾:							
Short-term debt	27,994	27,994	—	—	—	—	
Long-term debt	25,348	1,126	17,081	3,009	984	2,196	
Lease liabilities	40,647	13,192	12,585	5,104	3,564	2,470	
Interest payable	6,129	1,964	1,535	664	506	466	
Capital commitments	20,199	20,199	—	—	—	—	
Total contractual obligations	120,317	64,475	31,201	8,777	5,054	6,922	

(1) See “Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk” for the contractual obligations relating to interest payments.

Capital Expenditure

The following table sets forth our historical and planned capital expenditure requirements for the periods indicated. Actual future capital expenditures for the period after December 31, 2020 may differ from the amounts indicated below.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2019	2020	2021 (Planned)
	(RMB in millions)		
Total capital expenditure	77,557	84,800	87,000

In 2020, we continually promoted the 5G network co-building and co-sharing, sped up investment in 5G network construction, and continuously improved 5G network coverage. Meanwhile, we accelerated the construction of e-Surfing Cloud and IDC. In 2020, our capital expenditure was RMB84,800 million, representing an increase of 9.3% from RMB77,557 million in 2019.

Our capital expenditure for 2021 is expected to be approximately RMB87,000 million. The investment in mobile networks will be mainly used for continuously expanding 5G network coverage, co-sharing and co-building 4G base stations as well as redeploying under-utilized 4G base stations to busy or blind-spot areas. The investment in broadband networks will be mainly used for modifying and constructing fiber-to-the-home ports, and adding new 10G passive optical networks ports. The investment in Industrial Digitalization, which primarily includes IDC, Industry Cloud, digitalized platform, Network Dedicated Line, IoT and other services, will be mainly used for building 100,000 servers and scale deployment of multi-access edge computing (MEC)/edge cloud business as well as focusing on four key regions of China to build 52,000 newly commissioned cabinets. The remaining budget is expected to be mainly used for the construction and upgrade of our operating systems, business platforms and infrastructure facilities.

Capital Resources

The main sources of our capital resources are cash generated from operating activities, bank borrowings and other indebtedness. Furthermore, we also plan to raise additional capital by publicly offering A shares. Please see “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Proposed A Share Offering” for more information. We expect that we will have sufficient funding sources to meet our capital resources requirements in the future.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2020, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements or guarantees.

C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, etc.

Our emphasis on research and development has contributed to the development of our advanced network, system, and the rollout of our new applications and services. Our research and development personnel focuses on cloud-network integration, cyber security, network planning and support, new technology trials, market evaluation, investment-related financial analysis and other key areas. Specific areas of research include 5G mobile communications technology, ultra-high-speed optic fiber transmission technology, cloud computing, Big Data, artificial intelligence technology, IoT, broadband access, operation and service support systems and development of value-added services.

D. Trend Information

Please refer to our discussion in each section of “—Overview” and “—A. Operating Results” included elsewhere under this Item.

E. Critical Accounting Estimates

Please refer to our discussion in each section of “—Overview—Critical Accounting Policies” included elsewhere under this Item.

Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees.

A. Directors and Senior Management

Directors and Senior Officers

Pursuant to our Articles of Association, our Directors must be elected by our shareholders at a general meeting. Our Directors are generally elected for a term of three years and may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. The term of office for the current seventh session of the Board is three years, starting from May 26, 2020 on which the Company’s annual general meeting for the year 2019, or 2019 AGM, was held until the date of the Company’s annual general meeting for the year 2022 expected to be held in the year 2023, upon which the eighth session of the Board will be elected. At the 2019 AGM, the shareholders of the Company approved the re-election of Mr. Ke Ruiwen, Mr. Chen Zhongyue, Mr. Liu Guiqing, Madam Zhu Min, Mr. Wang Guoquan and Mr. Chen Shengguang as Directors of the seventh session of the Board, and approved the re-election of Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius, Mr. Xu Erming, Madam Wang Hsuehming and Mr. Yeung Chi Wai, Jason as Independent Directors of the seventh session of the Board. Meanwhile, the shareholders of the Company approved the election of Mr. Li Zhengmao, the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company and Mr. Shao Guanglu as Directors of the seventh session of the Board at the 2019 AGM. As of December 31, 2020, the Board comprised eleven Directors with six Executive Directors, one Non-Executive Director and four Independent Non-Executive Directors. Our Board currently consists of ten Directors with five Executive Directors, one Non-Executive Director and four Independent Non-Executive Directors.

On January 17, 2020, Mr. Gao Tongqing resigned from his positions as an Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the Company due to change in work arrangement.

On March 23, 2020, Mr. Li Zhengmao was appointed as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company and on the same date, Mr. Ke Ruiwen, an Executive Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, ceased to act as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company.

On December 4, 2020, Mr. Wang Guoquan resigned from his positions as an Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the Company due to change in work arrangement.

On January 19, 2021, Mr. Chen Zhongyue resigned from his positions as an Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the Company due to change in work arrangement.

The following table sets forth certain information concerning our current Directors and executive officers. The business address of each of our Directors and executive officers is 31 Jinrong Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, PRC 100033.

Name	Age	Position
Ke Ruiwen	57	Executive Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Li Zhengmao	58	Executive Director, President and Chief Operating Officer
Shao Guanglu	57	Executive Director
Zhang Zhiyong	55	Executive Vice President
Liu Guiqing	54	Executive Director and Executive Vice President
Zhu Min	56	Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of the Board
Chen Shengguang	57	Non-Executive Director
Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius	73	Independent Non-Executive Director

Name	Age	Position
Xu Erming	71	Independent Non-Executive Director
Wang Hsuehming	71	Independent Non-Executive Director
Yeung Chi Wai, Jason	66	Independent Non-Executive Director

Ke Ruiwen, age 57, is an Executive Director, the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in May 2012. Mr. Ke obtained a doctorate degree in business administration (DBA) from the ESC Rennes School of Business. Mr. Ke served as Deputy Director General of Jiangxi Posts and Telecommunications Administration, Deputy General Manager of Jiangxi Telecom, Managing Director of the Marketing Department of the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation, General Manager of Jiangxi Telecom, Managing Director of the Human Resources Department of the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation, Executive Vice President, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, Vice President and President of China Telecommunications Corporation and the Chairman of Supervisory Committee of China Tower Corporation Limited. He is also the Chairman of China Telecommunications Corporation. Mr. Ke has extensive experience in management and the telecommunications industry.

Li Zhengmao, age 58, is an Executive Director, the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in May 2020. Mr. Li graduated from Sichuan University with a major in radio electronics and received a master degree in radio technology from Chengdu Telecommunications Engineering Institute and a doctorate degree in communication and electronic system of radio engineering from Southeast University. Mr. Li served as an Executive Director and Vice President of China Unicom Limited, a Director and Vice President of China United Telecommunications Corporation, a Vice President of China Mobile Limited which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, a Vice President and General Counsel of China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd. and a Director and Vice President of China Mobile Communication Co., Ltd., a Non-Executive Director of China Communications Services Corporation Limited which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE and a Vice Chairman of True Corporation Public Company Limited which is listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Mr. Li is also a Director and the President of China Telecommunications Corporation. Mr. Li has extensive experience in management and the telecommunications industry.

Shao Guanglu, age 57, is an Executive Director of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in May 2020. Mr. Shao is a professor-level senior engineer. He graduated and received master degrees in engineering and economics from Harbin Institute of Technology and a doctorate degree in management from Nankai University. Mr. Shao served as a Deputy General Manager of China United Network Communications Group Company Limited, an Executive Director and Senior Vice President of China Unicom (Hong Kong) Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, a Senior Vice President of China United Network Communications Limited, which is listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, a Director and Senior Vice President of China United Network Communications Corporation Limited, a Non-Executive Director of China Communications Services Corporation Limited, China Tower Corporation Limited and PCCW Limited, all of which are listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, a member of the board of directors of Open Networking Foundation, a member of the strategy committee of GSM Association and a Vice President of China Information Technology Industry Federation. Mr. Shao is currently a Director of China Telecommunications Corporation and a Deputy Director of Communications Science and Technology Committee of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China. Mr. Shao has extensive experience in management and the telecommunications industry.

Zhang Zhiyong, age 55, was appointed as an Executive Vice President of the Company on July 10, 2018. Mr. Zhang is a senior engineer. He graduated from the Changchun Institute of Posts and Telecommunications with a bachelor degree in radio engineering. He also received a master degree in control engineering from Yanshan University and a master of management degree from BI Norwegian School of Management. Mr. Zhang served as Managing Director of the Sideline Industrial Management Department of China Telecommunications Corporation, President and Executive Director of China Communications Services Corporation Limited which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, General Manager of Xinjiang branch and Beijing branch of China Telecom Corporation Limited. He is also a Vice President and Chief Network Security Officer of China Telecommunications Corporation, the Chairman of the board of directors and an Executive Director of China Communications Services Corporation Limited and a Non-Executive Director of China Tower Corporation Limited, both of which are listed on the Main Board of the HKSE. Mr. Zhang has extensive experience in management and the telecommunications industry.

Liu Guiqing, age 54, is an Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in August 2019. Mr. Liu is a professor-level senior engineer. He received a doctorate degree in engineering science from National University of Defense Technology. Mr. Liu served as Deputy General Manager and General Manager of China Unicom Hunan branch and General Manager of China Unicom Jiangsu provincial branch. He is also a Vice President of China Telecommunications Corporation, a Deputy Director General of China Institute of Communications and a Director of Global System for Mobile communications Association (GSMA). Mr. Liu has extensive experience in management and the telecommunications industry.

Zhu Min, age 56, is an Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of the Board of the Company. She joined the Board of the Company in October 2018. Madam Zhu is a senior accountant. She received a master degree in system engineering from the Faculty of Management Engineering at the Beijing Institute of Posts and Telecommunications and a doctorate degree in business administration from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Madam Zhu served as Managing Director of Finance Department of China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited, Managing Director of Finance Department of China Mobile (Hong Kong) Group Limited, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Managing Director of Finance Department of China Mobile Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, Director General of Finance Department of China Mobile Communications Corporation, Deputy Chief Accountant and Director General of Finance Department of China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd. and a Director of Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Co., Ltd., which is listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. She is currently the Chief Accountant of China Telecommunications Corporation. Madam Zhu has extensive experience in finance, management and the telecommunications industry.

Chen Shengguang, age 57, is a Non-Executive Director of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in May 2017. Mr. Chen graduated from Zhongnan University of Economics with a major in finance and accounting, and obtained a postgraduate degree in economics from Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences and a master degree in business administration (MBA) from Lingnan College of Sun Yat-sen University. Mr. Chen is currently the Director and General Manager of Guangdong Rising Holdings Group Co., Ltd. (one of the domestic shareholders of the Company). Mr. Chen served as the Manager of Finance Department and Deputy General Manager of Guangdong Foreign Trade Import & Export Corporation, Head of Finance Department, Assistant to General Manager and Chief Accountant of Guangdong Guangxin Foreign Trade Group Co., Limited, a Director of FSPG Hi-Tech Co., Ltd. which is listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, a Non-Executive Director of Xingfa Aluminium Holdings Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, a Director of Guangdong Silk-Tex Group Co., Ltd., the Chief Accountant and Deputy General Manager of Guangdong Guangxin Holdings Group Ltd. Mr. Chen has extensive experience in finance and corporate management.

Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius, age 73, is an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in September 2005. Mr. Tse is currently an Independent Non-Executive Director of CNOOC Limited, China Huarong Asset Management Co., Ltd. (which Mr. Tse sent a letter of resignation on March 23, 2021 and shall continue to perform his duties until the commencement of term of office of a new Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board), Sinofert Holdings Limited and SJM Holdings Limited, all of which are listed on the Main Board of the HKSE. Mr. Tse is also an Independent Non-Executive Director of OCBC Wing Hang Bank Limited (formerly known as “Wing Hang Bank Limited”, which was listed on the Main Board of the HKSE until October 2014). From 2004 to 2010, he was an Independent Non-Executive Director of China Construction Bank Corporation, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE. From 2005 to 2016, Mr. Tse was also an Independent Non-Executive Director of Daohe Global Group Limited (formerly known as “Linmark Group Limited”), which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE. Mr. Tse was appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of CCB International (Holdings) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of China Construction Bank Corporation in March 2013. He is also a member of the International Advisory Council of the People’s Municipal Government of Wuhan. Mr. Tse is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”). Mr. Tse is a past President and a former member of the Audit Committee of the HKICPA. He joined KPMG in 1976, became a partner in 1984 and retired in March 2003. Mr. Tse was a Non-Executive Chairman of KPMG’s operations in China and a member of the KPMG China advisory board from 1997 to 2000. Mr. Tse is a graduate of the University of Hong Kong.

Xu Erming, age 71, is an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in September 2005. Professor Xu is a Vice Chairman of the Chinese Enterprise Management Research Association. He is entitled to the State Council’s special government allowances. Professor Xu served as a professor, Ph.D. supervisor of the Graduate School and Dean of Business School at the Renmin University of China, a professor and Dean of Business School of Shantou University, and was an Independent Supervisor of Harbin Electric Company Limited and an Independent Non-Executive Director of Comtec Solar Systems Group Limited, both of which are listed on the Main Board of the HKSE. Over the years, Professor Xu has conducted research in areas related to strategic management, innovation and entrepreneurship management, and has been responsible for research on many subjects put forward by the National Natural Science Foundation, the National Social Science Foundation, and other authorities at provincial and ministry level. He has received many awards such as the Ministry of Education’s Class One Excellent Higher Education Textbook Award, the State-Level Class Two Teaching Award and the National Excellent Course Award. Professor Xu has been awarded the Fulbright Scholar of U.S.A. twice and the visiting scholar of McGill University, Canada. Professor Xu was previously a lecturer at the New York State University at Buffalo, U.S.A., the University of Scranton, U.S.A., the University of Technology, Sydney, the Kyushu University, Japan, Panyapiwat Institute of Management, Thailand and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Wang Hsuehming, age 71, is an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company. She joined the Board of the Company in May 2014. Madam Wang received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Massachusetts and attended Columbia University. She was a Senior Advisor and former Chairman of BlackRock China. She was also the former Chairman of China at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. She joined Goldman Sachs in 1994, became a Partner in 2000 and an Advisory Director from 2010 to 2011. With nearly 30 years of experience in financial services, she participated in pioneering efforts in China’s economic reform and development. She was instrumental in advising Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Ministry of Information Industry (now known as Ministry of Industry and Information Technology) in the privatizations and listings of its mobile and fixed-line businesses. She also participated in advising appropriate operators in strategic investments by international telecom companies. The early cross-border financings of aircraft and other capital equipment in China’s aviation sector, as well as the separate listings of national airlines, and important provincial and municipal credit restructurings also formed part of Madam Wang’s understanding of China’s economic growth in the past three decades.

Yeung Chi Wai, Jason, age 66, is an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company. He joined the Board of the Company in October 2018. Mr. Yeung is currently the Group Chief Compliance and Risk Management Officer of Fung Holdings (1937) Limited and its listed companies in Hong Kong, an Independent Non-Executive Director of Bank of Communications Co., Ltd, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE and the Shanghai Stock Exchange and a member of Hospital Authority Board of Hong Kong. Mr. Yeung has extensive experience in handling legal, compliance and regulatory matters and previously worked in the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, law firms and enterprises practising corporate, commercial and securities laws. Mr. Yeung served as a Director and the General Counsel of China Everbright Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE and was also a partner of Woo, Kwan, Lee, & Lo. He acted as the Board Secretary of BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE, from 2001 to 2011 and concurrently acted as the Board Secretary of Bank of China Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE and the Shanghai Stock Exchange, from 2005 to 2008. He also served as the Deputy Chief Executive (Personal Banking) of Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited from April 2011 to February 2015. Mr. Yeung received a bachelor degree in social sciences from the University of Hong Kong. He then graduated from The College of Law, United Kingdom and received a bachelor degree in law and a master degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

There is no family relationship between any of our Directors or executive officers.

Supervisors

The PRC Company Law requires a joint stock company with limited liability to establish a supervisory committee. Our Supervisory Committee has five Supervisors. Two members of our Supervisory Committee are employee representatives elected by our employees. The remaining members are appointed by shareholders at a general meeting. Our Supervisors are generally elected for a term of three years and may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. The term of office for the seventh session of our Supervisory Committee is three years, starting from May 26, 2020 until the annual general meeting of the Company for the year 2022 to be held in the year 2023, upon which the eighth session of the Supervisory Committee will be elected. At the 2019 AGM, the shareholders of the Company approved the re-election of the current Shareholder Representative Supervisors, Mr. Sui Yixun and Mr. Xu Shiguang and the election of Mr. You Mingqiang as members of the seventh session of the Supervisory Committee. Due to their age, Mr. Yang Jianqing, an Employee Representative Supervisor, and Mr. Ye Zhong, a Shareholder Representative Supervisor, in each case of the sixth session of the Supervisory Committee, retired from their positions as Supervisors of the Company upon the expiry of their term of office at the 2019 AGM. Meanwhile, Mr. Zhang Jianbin and Mr. Dai Bin have been elected by the employees of the Company democratically as the Employee Representative Supervisors of the seventh session of the Supervisory Committee.

The following table sets forth certain information concerning our current Supervisors:

Name	Age	Position
Sui Yixun	57	Supervisor (Chairman of the Supervisory Committee and Shareholder Representative)
Zhang Jianbin	55	Supervisor (Employee Representative)
Dai Bin	52	Supervisor (Employee Representative)
Xu Shiguang	41	Supervisor (Shareholder Representative)
You Mingqiang	47	Supervisor (Shareholder Representative)

Sui Yixun, age 57, is a Shareholder Representative Supervisor and the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of the Company. He joined the Supervisory Committee of the Company in May 2015. Mr. Sui is currently a Supervisor of Tianyi Telecom Terminals Company Limited and a Supervisor of China Tower Corporation Limited, which is listed on the Main Board of the HKSE. Mr. Sui received a bachelor degree from Beijing Institute of Posts and Telecommunications and a master degree in business administration from Tsinghua University. Mr. Sui served as Deputy General Manager of China Telecom Shandong branch, Deputy General Manager of the Northern Telecom of China Telecommunications Corporation, General Manager of China Telecom Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region branch and the Managing Director of audit department of the Company. Mr. Sui is a senior economist and has extensive experience in operational and financial management in the telecommunications industry.

Zhang Jianbin, age 55, is an Employee Representative Supervisor of the Company. He joined the Supervisory Committee of the Company in October 2012. Mr. Zhang is currently the Deputy Managing Director of the Legal Department (Compliance Management Department) of the Company and the Deputy General Counsel of China Telecommunications Corporation. Mr. Zhang graduated from the Law School of Peking University in 1989 and received a LL.M. degree. He also had an EMBA degree from the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University in 2006. He previously worked at the Department of Policy and Regulation of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (“MPT”) and the Directorate General of Telecommunications of the MPT. Mr. Zhang has extensive experience in corporate legal affairs.

Dai Bin, age 52, is an Employee Representative Supervisor of the Company. He joined the Supervisory Committee of the Company in May 2020. Mr. Dai serves as the Vice Chairman of the Labour Union of China Telecommunications Corporation. Mr. Dai is a senior economist. He graduated from Xiamen University and received a bachelor degree in Chinese language and literature. He also obtained an EMBA degree from the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University. He served as a Deputy Managing Director of the Office of the Board of Directors of the Company and the Deputy Managing Director of the General Affairs Office (Office of the Board of Directors and Security Department) of China Telecommunications Corporation. Mr. Dai has extensive experience in operational management in the telecommunications industry.

Xu Shiguang, age 41, is a Shareholder Representative Supervisor of the Company. He joined the Supervisory Committee of the Company in October 2018. Mr. Xu is currently the Deputy General Manager of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region branch of the Company. Mr. Xu received a bachelor degree in auditing and a master degree in accounting from the Nankai University. Mr. Xu served at various positions in internal control and auditing at China Telecommunications Corporation for many years and was the Director of general office of audit department of the Company. Mr. Xu is a member of the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a Certified Internal Auditor with extensive experience in internal control and auditing.

You Minqiang, age 47, is a Shareholder Representative Supervisor of the Company. He joined the Supervisory Committee of the Company in May 2020. Mr. You serves as a Deputy Director of the Organisation Department (Human Resources Department) of Zhejiang Provincial Financial Development Co., Ltd. (one of the domestic shareholders of the Company) and the Supervisory Chairman of Zhejiang Nongdu Agricultural Products Co., Ltd.. Mr. You is a senior economist. He graduated from Hangzhou University and received a bachelor degree in education. Mr. You served in Armed Police Hangzhou Command School and Zhejiang Provincial Financial Holdings Co., Ltd.. He has extensive experience in the field of human resources.

B. Compensation

Compensation of Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Company and its subsidiaries, directly or indirectly, including Directors, Supervisors and Executive Vice Presidents of the Company and its subsidiaries. The aggregate amount of compensation we paid to our key management personnel was approximately RMB9.355 million for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Our Directors and Supervisors receive compensation in the form of fees, salaries, allowances and benefits in kind, including our contribution to the pension plans for our Directors and Supervisors. The aggregate amount of compensation we paid to our Directors and Supervisors as a group for the year ended December 31, 2020 was approximately RMB8.512 million. The following table sets forth the compensation received or receivable by our Company’s Directors and Supervisors⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾:

	<u>Directors’/ supervisors’ fees</u>	<u>Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind</u>	<u>Discretionary bonuses⁽³⁾</u>	<u>Share- based payments</u>	<u>Retirement scheme contributions</u>	<u>Total</u>
	RMB thousands					
2020						
<i>Executive Directors</i>						
Ke Ruiwen	—	221	527	—	73	821
Li Zhengmao ⁽⁴⁾	—	129	434	—	48	611
Shao Guanglu ⁽⁵⁾	—	116	436	—	46	598
Liu Guiqing	—	197	464	—	59	720
Zhu Min	—	197	464	—	52	713
Chen Zhongyue ⁽⁶⁾	—	199	468	—	71	738
Wang Guoquan ⁽⁷⁾	—	181	447	—	42	670

	Directors'/ supervisors' fees	Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	Discretionary bonuses ⁽³⁾	Share- based payments	Retirement scheme contributions	Total
	RMB thousands					
Gao Tongqing ⁽⁸⁾	—	17	16	—	8	41
<i>Non-Executive Director</i>						
Chen Shengguang	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Independent Non-Executive Directors⁽²⁾</i>						
Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius	477	—	—	—	—	477
Xu Erming	250	—	—	—	—	250
Wang Hsuehming	261	—	—	—	—	261
Yeung Chi Wai, Jason	261	—	—	—	—	261
<i>Supervisors</i>						
Sui Yixun	—	227	494	—	49	770
Zhang Jianbin	—	214	494	—	49	757
Dai Bin ⁽⁹⁾	—	110	202	—	26	338
Xu Shiguang	—	118	335	—	33	486
You Minqiang ⁽¹⁰⁾	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yang Jianqing ⁽¹¹⁾	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ye Zhong ⁽¹²⁾	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	<u>1,249</u>	<u>1,926</u>	<u>4,781</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>8,512</u>

- (1) The remuneration of all Directors and Supervisors was calculated based on their respective actual terms of office within this year. None of the Directors or Supervisors received any inducements for joining the Company or compensation for loss of office, or waived or agreed to waive any emoluments during this year.
- (2) The Independent Non-Executive Directors' remuneration was for their services as Directors of the Company.
- (3) The discretionary bonuses of the Executive Directors and Supervisors were determined based on the performance of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year.
- (4) Mr. Li Zhengmao was appointed as an Executive Director of the Company on May 26, 2020.
- (5) Mr. Shao Guanglu was appointed as an Executive Director of the Company on May 26, 2020.
- (6) Mr. Chen Zhongyue resigned as an Executive Director of the Company on January 19, 2021.
- (7) Mr. Wang Guoquan resigned as an Executive Director of the Company on December 4, 2020.
- (8) Mr. Gao Tongqing resigned as an Executive Director of the Company on January 17, 2020.
- (9) Mr. Dai Bin was elected as a Supervisor of the Company on May 26, 2020.
- (10) Mr. You Minqiang was appointed as a Supervisor of the Company on May 26, 2020.
- (11) Mr. Yang Jianqing retired as a Supervisor of the Company on May 26, 2020.
- (12) Mr. Ye Zhong retired as a Supervisor of the Company on May 26, 2020.

Discretionary Bonuses for Executive Directors

Compensation of our Executive Directors is determined pursuant to our director compensation plans thereof approved and adopted by the Board and the Remuneration Committee. Under the director compensation plan, Executive Directors receive discretionary bonuses subject to achievement of certain performance targets. The amounts of discretionary bonuses are reviewed and determined annually, with reference to certain financial indicators of the preceding year. Independent Non-Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors do not receive any discretionary bonus.

Discretionary Bonuses for Employee Supervisors

Certain of our Supervisors are also our employees. Mr. You Minqiang is a non-employee Supervisor. Such employee supervisors are entitled to receive discretionary bonuses under our compensation policies that are generally applicable to all employees. The amounts of such discretionary bonuses are determined with reference to the performance of the department in which an employee serves as well as his or her individual performance. The amounts of discretionary bonuses are reviewed and determined annually, based on the review of performance in the preceding year. Non-employee supervisors do not receive any discretionary bonus from our Company.

Share Appreciation Rights

We implemented a plan of share appreciation rights for members of our management in order to provide incentives for these employees. Under this plan, share appreciation rights were granted in units with each unit representing one H share. No shares will be issued under the share appreciation rights plan. Upon exercise of the share appreciation rights, a recipient will receive, subject to any applicable withholding tax, a cash payment in Renminbi, translated from the Hong Kong dollar amount equal to the product of the number of share appreciation rights exercised and the difference between the exercise price and market price of our Company's H shares at the date of exercise based on the applicable exchange rate between Renminbi and Hong Kong dollars at the date of the exercise. We recognize compensation expense of the share appreciation rights over the applicable vesting period.

In November 2018, we approved the granting of 2,394 million share appreciation right units to eligible employees. Under the terms of this grant, all share appreciation rights had a contractual life of five years from date of grant and an exercise price of HK\$3.81 per unit. A recipient of share appreciation rights may exercise the rights in stages commencing November 2020. As at each of the third, fourth and fifth anniversary of the date of grant, the total number of share appreciation rights exercisable may not in aggregate exceed 33.3%, 66.7% and 100.0%, respectively, of the total share appreciation rights granted to such person.

During the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, no share appreciation right units were exercised. For the year ended December 31, 2020, compensation expense of RMB101 million was reversed by us in respect of share appreciation rights. For the year ended December 31, 2019, compensation expense of RMB136 million was recognized by us in respect of share appreciation rights. As of December 31, 2020, the carrying amount of the liability arising from share appreciation rights was RMB65 million. As of December 31, 2019, the carrying amount of the liability arising from share appreciation rights was RMB166 million.

In March 2021, we approved the granting of approximately 2,412 million share appreciation right units to eligible employees. Under the terms of this grant, all share appreciation rights had a contractual life of five years from date of grant and an exercise price of HK\$2.686 per unit. A recipient of share appreciation rights may exercise the rights in stages commencing in March 2023.

C. Board Practices

General

Pursuant to our Articles of Association, our Directors must be elected by our shareholders at a general meeting. Our Directors are generally elected for a term of three years and may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. On May 26, 2020, election of members of the Board was conducted and this election generated the seventh session of the Board consisting of twelve Directors with seven Executive Directors, one Non-Executive Director and four Independent Non-Executive Directors. The term of office for the seventh session of the Board lasts for three years, starting from May 26, 2020 until the date of the Company's annual general meeting for the year 2022 expected to be held in the year 2023, upon which the eighth session of the Board will be elected. We determine the Directors' remuneration with reference to factors such as their respective responsibilities and duties in the Company, as well as their experiences and market conditions at the relevant time. None of the service contracts with our Directors provides benefits to them upon termination.

On December 4, 2020, Mr. Wang Guoquan resigned from his positions as an Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the Company due to change in work arrangement. On January 19, 2021, Mr. Chen Zhongyue resigned from his positions as an Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the Company due to change in work arrangement. Our Board currently consists of ten Directors with five Executive Directors, one Non-Executive Director and four Independent Non-Executive Directors.

The Board holds at least four meetings in each year. Additional Board meetings will be held in accordance with practical needs. In 2020, the Board played a pivotal role in the Company's operation, supervision, internal control, risk management and other significant decisions and corporate governance. Specifically, the Board reviewed matters including, but not limited to, our annual and interim financial statements, quarterly financial results, risk management and internal control implementation and assessment report, annual proposal for profit distribution, amendments to the Articles of Association, approval and authorization of the issuance of debentures, our budget for the years 2020 and 2021, review of the structure and operations of the Board, proposal for directors and senior management liabilities insurance, proposal for election or re-election of the Directors of the seventh session of the Board, election or re-election of the senior management, chairman and members of the Board Committees, remuneration proposal for the Directors of the seventh session of the Board, report on relevant situations under the global epidemic environment, re-appointment and remuneration of auditors, and the progress report on the preparation of the Environmental, Social and Governance Report. During the year, the Company convened four Board meetings and completed various written resolutions. In 2020, the Chairman held a meeting to independently communicate with Independent Non-Executive Directors (without the presence of any other Directors) to ensure their opinions can be fully expressed, further facilitating the exchange of different views within the Board.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was established in 2002. It currently consists of four members, Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius (as the Chairman), Mr. Xu Erming, Madam Wang Hsuehming and Mr. Yeung Chi Wai, Jason, all of whom are Independent Non-executive Directors. The Audit Committee is accountable to the Board and reports to it periodically. The Committee meets at least twice each year. The Charter of the Audit Committee was approved by our Board in March 2005 and amended in March 2009, in December 2011, in March 2015 and in December 2018, respectively, pursuant to which the principal responsibilities of our Audit Committee include supervision of our Company to ensure authenticity and completeness of our financial statements and effectiveness and completeness of the internal control and risk management system. The Audit Committee also supervises our internal audit department, and is responsible for the review and supervision of the qualifications, independence, selection and appointment of external independent auditors, and approval of services provided by the external independent auditors. In addition, the Audit Committee is responsible for ensuring that the management performs its duty to establish and maintain an effective risk management and internal control system including the adequacy of resources, qualifications and experience of staff fulfilling the accounting, internal control and financial reporting functions of the Company together with the adequacy of the staff's training programs and related budget. The Audit Committee has established a mechanism for receiving and handling complaints or anonymous reports in respect of our accounting, internal control and audit matters.

In 2020, the Audit Committee held four meetings and passed two written resolutions, in which it reviewed matters including but not limited to our annual and interim financial statements and quarterly financial results, assessment of the qualifications, independence and performance, appointments and remuneration of the external auditors, effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems, internal audit, implementation of continuing connected transactions, selection of external auditors, the progress work report of the change of external auditors, review of the operations in 2019 and the Charter of the Audit Committee, and the progress report on the preparation of the Environmental, Social and Governance Report. The Audit Committee reviewed the annual auditor's report, interim review report and quarterly agreed-upon procedures reports prepared by the external auditors, communicated with the management and the external auditors in regard to the regular financial reports and proposed them for the Board's approval after review and approval. The Audit Committee regularly received quarterly reports in relation to the internal audit and continuing connected transactions and provided guidance to the Internal Audit Department. Additionally, the Audit Committee reviewed the internal control assessment and the attestation report, followed up with the implementation procedures of the recommendations proposed by the external auditors, reviewed the U.S. annual report, and communicated independently with the external auditors twice a year.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee was established in 2003, and currently consists of three members, Mr. Xu Erming (as the Chairman), Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius and Madam Wang Hsuehming, all of whom are Independent Non-Executive Directors. The Remuneration Committee is accountable to the Board and reports to it on its work periodically. The Remuneration Committee meets when necessary. The Charter of the Remuneration Committee was approved by our Board in March 2005 and amended in December 2011 and in December 2018, pursuant to which the Remuneration Committee's principal responsibilities include making recommendations to the Board on our overall remuneration policies and structure relating to compensation of Directors and senior management and the establishment of a formal and transparent procedure for developing remuneration policy, and determining, with delegated responsibility by the Board, the remuneration packages of individual Executive Directors and senior management including benefits in kind, pension rights and compensation payments (including any compensation payable for loss or termination of their office or appointment).

The Remuneration Committee held one meeting in 2020, in which it reviewed and discussed the remuneration proposals for the Directors of the seventh session of the Board.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee was established in 2005. It currently consists of three members, Madam Wang Hsuehming (as the Chairlady), Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius and Mr. Xu Erming, all of whom are Independent Non-Executive Directors. The Nomination Committee is accountable to the Board and regularly reports to the Board on its work. The Nomination Committee meets at least once a year. The Charter of the Nomination Committee was approved by our Board in September 2005 and amended in December 2011 and August 2013, respectively, pursuant to which the Nomination Committee's principal responsibilities include reviewing the structure, size, composition and diversity of the Board on a regular basis; identifying candidates and advising the Board with the appropriate qualifications for the position of Directors; reviewing the Board Diversity Policy as appropriate to ensure its effectiveness; assessing the independence of the Independent Non-Executive Directors; and making recommendations to the Board on the appointment or re-appointment of Directors and succession planning for Directors (especially Chairman and Chief Executive Officer).

The Nomination Committee held one meeting in 2020, where it performed a review of the structure and operations of the Board and considered the recommendation of the proposed candidates for the Directors of the seventh session of the Board.

Independent Board Committee

The Independent Board Committee consists of four Independent Non-Executive Directors. Meetings of the Independent Board Committee are convened to review certain connected transactions on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the Listing Rules.

The Independent Board Committee did not hold any meeting or pass any written resolution in 2020.

D. Employees

General

As of December 31, 2020, we had 281,192 employees. The table below sets forth the numbers of our employees according to their functions as of December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

	As of December 31,					
	2018		2019		2020	
	Number of Employees	Percentage of Total	Number of Employees	Percentage of Total	Number of Employees	Percentage of Total
Management, finance and administrative	45,045	16.0%	46,521	16.5%	47,743	17.0%
Sales and marketing	138,001	49.2%	135,797	48.3%	135,135	48.1%
Operations and maintenance	87,512	31.2%	87,943	31.3%	86,347	30.7%
Research and development	10,189	3.6%	10,954	3.9%	11,967	4.2%
Total	280,747	100.0%	281,215	100.0%	281,192	100.0%

The primary components of an employee's remuneration include basic salary, a performance-based bonus and compensation based on length of service. In addition, we also emphasize the importance of employee training and use various means of training to improve the quality and capability of our key employees. We have not been subjected to any material labor disturbances that have interfered with our operations, and we believe that the relationship between our management and the labor union of our Company is good.

E. Share Ownership

As of December 31, 2020, none of our Directors, Supervisors or other senior executives was a legal or beneficial owner of any shares of our share capital.

Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions.

A. Major Shareholders

The table below sets forth information regarding the ownership of our share capital as of April 23, 2021 by all persons who are known to us to be the beneficial owners of 5.0% or more of each class of our voting securities.

<u>Title of Shares</u>	<u>Identity of Person or Group</u>	<u>Amount Owned</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Percentage of the Respective Type of Shares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Shares</u>
Domestic shares	China Telecom Group	57,377,053,317	long position	85.57%	70.89%
Domestic shares	Guangdong Rising Holdings Group Co., Ltd.	5,614,082,653	long position	8.37%	6.94%

<u>Title of Shares</u>	<u>Identity of Person or Group</u>	<u>Amount Owned</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Percentage of the Respective Type of Shares</u> (1)	<u>Percentage of Total Shares</u> (1)
H shares	GIC Private Limited	1,394,433,475	long position	10.05%	1.72%

(1) The percentage figures above have been rounded down to the nearest second decimal place.

(2) Information disclosed hereby is based on the information available on the website of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange at www.hkexnews.hk.

China Telecom Group, located at 31 Jinrong Street, Xicheng District, Beijing, PRC 100033, is our controlling shareholder and is a state-owned enterprise. Guangdong Rising Holdings Group Co., Ltd., located at 50-58/F, The Pinnacle Plaza, 17 Zhujiang West Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, PRC, is a state-owned enterprise owned by the provincial governments in Guangdong Province. GIC Private Limited is located at 168 Robinson Road, Capital Tower #37-01, Singapore 068912.

None of our major shareholders has voting rights that differ from the voting rights of other shareholders. We are not aware of any arrangement which may at a subsequent date result in a change of control of our Company.

B. Related Party Transactions

The details of the related party arrangements are described below.

Ongoing Related Party Transactions between Us and China Telecom Group and Its Affiliated Companies

The following table sets out the amounts of ongoing related party transactions between our Company and China Telecom Group (as defined as China Telecom Group and its subsidiaries other than our Company under this section) for the year ended December 31, 2020:

<u>Transactions</u>	<u>Transaction Amounts</u> (RMB millions)
Net transaction amount of centralized services	268
Net expenses for interconnection settlement	69
Property lease income	45
Property lease related expenses	581
Addition to right-of-use assets	335
Interest expense on lease liabilities	16
Provision of IT services by China Telecom Group	2,653
Provision of IT services to China Telecom Group	556
Provision of supplies procurement services by China Telecom Group	3,567
Provision of supplies procurement services to China Telecom Group	2,070
Provision of engineering services by China Telecom Group	15,046
Provision of community services by China Telecom Group	3,682
Provision of ancillary telecommunications services by China Telecom Group	18,903
Provision of Internet applications channel services to China Telecom Group	73
Interest on loans from China Telecom Group	975
Others*	243
Net deposit by China Telecom Group with China Telecom Finance	5,728
Interest expense on the deposit by China Telecom Group with China Telecom Finance	82

* Represent usage of CDMA network facilities, usage of inter-provincial transmission optic fibers, and usage of land use rights from China Telecom Group.

Centralized Services Agreement

Pursuant to the centralized services agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on September 10, 2002 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Centralized Services Agreement”), centralized services include centralized business management and operational services provided by the Company to China Telecommunications Corporation in relation to key corporate customers, its network management center and business support center. Centralized services also include the provision of certain premises by China Telecommunications Corporation to the Company and the common use of international telecommunications facilities by both parties. The aggregate costs incurred by the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation for the provision of management and operation services will be apportioned between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on a pro rata basis according to the revenues generated by each party. Where the Company uses the premises provided by China Telecommunications Corporation, the Company will pay premises usage fees to China Telecommunications Corporation on a pro rata basis according to the apportioned actual area allocated to the Company. The premises usage fees shall be determined through negotiation between the two parties based on comparable market rates. When both parties use international telecommunications facilities provided by third parties and accept services by such third parties (for example, restoration maintenance costs, the annual utilization fee and related service costs) and when both parties use the international telecommunications facilities of China Telecommunications Corporation, the associated costs shall be shared on a pro rata basis according to volume of the inbound and outbound voice calls to and from international regions originating from each party divided by the proportion of the aggregate volume of the inbound and outbound voice calls to and from international regions originating from both parties. When the two parties use international telecommunications facilities provided by a third party and accept restoration maintenance costs, such fees shall be determined according to the actual utilization fee each year. The utilization fee associated with the shared use of the international telecommunications facilities provided by China Telecommunications Corporation shall be determined through negotiation between the two parties based on market rates. Market rates shall mean the rates at which the same or similar type of products or services are provided by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business and under normal commercial terms. When determining whether the transaction price for any transaction under the agreement represents market rates, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the rates of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with or carried out by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business in the corresponding period for reference.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Centralized Services Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Centralized Services Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Centralized Services Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Interconnection Settlement Agreement

Pursuant to the interconnection settlement agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on September 10, 2002 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Interconnection Settlement Agreement”), the telephone operator connecting a telephone call made to its local access network shall be entitled to receive from the operator from which the telephone call originated a fee prescribed by the MIIT of the PRC from time to time. Interconnection charges are currently RMB0.06 per minute for local calls originated from the Company to China Telecommunications Corporation. The interconnection settlement charges will be calculated according to the “Notice Concerning the Issue of the Measures on Interconnection Settlement between Public Telecommunications Networks and Sharing of Relaying Fees (Xin Bu Dian [2003] No. 454)” promulgated by the MIIT of the PRC. The MIIT of the PRC may, from time to time, take into account the relevant regulatory rules and market conditions, amend or promulgate new rules or regulations in respect of interconnection settlement which will be announced on its official website at www.miit.gov.cn. If the MIIT of the PRC amends the existing, or promulgates, new rules or regulations in respect of interconnection settlement, the parties shall apply such amended or new rules and regulations as acknowledged by both parties. The settlement regions include Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality, Hebei Province, Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province, Liaoning Province, Shanxi Province, Henan Province, Shandong Province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Xizang Autonomous Region.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Interconnection Settlement Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Interconnection Settlement Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Interconnection Settlement Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Property Leasing Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the property leasing framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on August 30, 2006 and the related supplemental agreement subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Property Leasing Framework Agreement”), the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates can lease properties from the other party for use as business premises, offices, equipment storage facilities and sites for network equipment installation. The rental charges under the Property Leasing Framework Agreement shall be determined according to comparable market rates. Market rates shall mean the rental charges at which the same or similar types of properties or adjacent properties are leased by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business and on normal commercial terms. When determining whether the rental charges for any property under the agreement represent market rates, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the rental charges of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with or carried out by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business in the corresponding period for reference. The rental charges are subject to review every three years.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation have entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Property Leasing Framework Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Property Leasing Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Property Leasing Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

IT Services Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the IT services framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on August 30, 2006 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “IT Services Framework Agreement”), the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates can provide the other party with information technology services, including office automation and software testing. Each of the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates is entitled to participate in bidding for the right to provide information technology services to the other party in accordance with the IT Services Framework Agreement. The charges payable for such services shall be determined by reference to the market rates. Market rates shall mean the rates at which the same or similar type of products or services are provided by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business and on normal commercial terms. When determining whether the transaction price for any transaction under the agreement represents market rates, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the rates of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with or carried out by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business in the corresponding period for reference.

In those circumstances where the relevant laws or regulations in the PRC specify that the prices and/or the fee standards for particular services to be provided pursuant to such agreement are to be determined by a tender process, the charges payable for such services shall be finally determined in accordance with the “Bidding Law of the PRC” and the “Regulations on the Implementation of the Bidding Law of the PRC” or the relevant tender procedures. The Company shall solicit at least three tenderers for the tender process. If the terms offered by the Company or China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates are no less favorable than those offered by an independent third-party provider, the Company or China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates may award the tender to the other party.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the IT Services Framework Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the IT Services Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the IT Services Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Community Services Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the community services framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on August 30, 2006 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Community Services Framework Agreement”), China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates provide the Company with community services such as culture, education, property management, vehicle service, health and medical care, hotel and conference service, community and sanitary service. The community services under the Community Services Framework Agreement are provided in accordance with the following pricing terms:

(1) market prices, which shall mean the prices at which the same or similar types of products or services are provided by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business and on normal commercial terms. When determining whether the transaction price for any transaction under the agreement represents market prices, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the prices of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with or carried out by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business over the corresponding period for reference;

(2) where there are no or it is not possible to determine the market prices, the prices are to be agreed between the parties based on the reasonable costs incurred in providing the services plus the amount of the relevant taxes and reasonable profit margin. For this purpose, “reasonable profit margin” is to be fairly determined by negotiations between the parties in accordance with the internal policies of the Company. When determining the relevant “reasonable profit margin” for any transaction under the agreement, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the profit margin of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with independent third parties in the corresponding period or the relevant industry profit margin for reference.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Community Services Framework Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Community Services Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Community Services Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the supplies procurement services framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on August 30, 2006 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement”), China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates and the Company provide each other with supplies procurement services, including the comprehensive procurement services, the sale of proprietary telecommunications equipment, resale of third-party equipment, management of tenders, verification of technical specifications, storage, transportation and installation services.

Where the procurement services are provided on an agency basis, the maximum commission for such procurement services shall be calculated at: (1) not more than 1% of the contract value for procurement of imported telecommunications supplies; or (2) not more than 3% of the contract value for the procurement of domestic telecommunications supplies and domestic non-telecommunications supplies.

The pricing basis of the services for the provision of supplies procurement other than on an agency basis under the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement is the same as those set out in the Community Services Framework Agreement.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Engineering Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the engineering framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on August 30, 2006 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Engineering Framework Agreement”), China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates, through bids, provide to the Company services such as construction, design, equipment installation and testing and/or engineering project supervision services. The charges payable for such engineering services shall be determined by reference to market rates. Market rates shall mean the rates at which the same or similar type of products or services are provided by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business and on normal commercial terms. When determining whether the transaction price for any transaction under the agreement represents the market rate, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the rates of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with or carried out by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business in the corresponding period for reference. The charges payable for the design or supervision of engineering projects with a value of over RMB1 million or engineering construction projects with a value of over RMB4 million shall be determined by the tender award price, which is determined in accordance with the “Bidding Law of the PRC” and the “Regulations on the Implementation of the Bidding Law of the PRC” or the final confirmed price in the relevant tender process. The Company shall solicit at least three tenderers for the tender process.

In the circumstances there are amended rules or regulations in respect of tender scope and scale of the engineering construction projects promulgated by PRC laws and regulations during the term of the agreement, both parties agreed to apply such amended rules and regulations and no amendment to the supplemental agreement is required. The Company does not accord any priority to China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates to provide such services, and the tender may be awarded to an independent third party. However, if the terms of an offer from China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates are at least as favorable as those offered by other tenderers, the Company may award the tender to China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Engineering Framework Agreement on the same terms for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, excepting the pricing terms updates. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Engineering Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Engineering Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the ancillary telecommunications services framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on August 30, 2006 and the related supplemental agreements subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement”), China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates provide the Company with certain repair and maintenance services, including repair of telecommunications equipment, maintenance of fire equipment and telephone booths, as well as other customer services. The pricing terms for such services are the same as those set out in the Community Services Framework Agreement.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement

The Company leases from China Telecom Group the inter-provincial transmission optic fibers in Shanghai Municipality, Guangdong Province, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, which the Company’s telecommunications services are dependent upon, under the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement dated September 10, 2002 and the related supplemental agreements (collectively, the “Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement”). The rent payable by the Company to China Telecom Group to lease the relevant parts of the inter-provincial transmission optic fibers will be based on negotiations between the parties with reference to the market price. Market rates shall mean the rental charge at which the same or similar type of properties or adjacent properties are leased by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business and on normal commercial terms. When determining the relevant market rates, to the extent practicable, management of the Company shall take into account the rental charges of at least two similar and comparable transactions entered into with or carried out by independent third parties in the ordinary course of business in the corresponding period for reference. In addition, The Company agreed to be responsible for the maintenance of these optic fibers within those service regions.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. The Company may renew the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement for such further periods as the parties may agree, by 30 days’ written notification to China Telecommunications Corporation.

Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement

Pursuant to the Internet applications channel services framework agreement signed between the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation on December 16, 2013 and the related supplemental agreement subsequently entered into between the two parties (collectively, the “Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement”), the Company provides Internet applications channel services to China Telecommunications Corporation and/or its associates. The channel services mainly include the provision of telecommunications channel and applications support platform, provision of billing and deduction services, coordination of sales promotion and development of customers services, etc. The pricing terms for such services are the same as those set out in the Community Services Framework Agreement.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. No later than 30 days prior to the expiry of the Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement, the Company is entitled to serve a written notice to China Telecommunications Corporation to renew the Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement, and the parties shall consult and decide on matters relating to such renewal.

Trademark License Agreement

China Telecommunications Corporation has registered a number of trademarks, and is in the process of registering other trademarks with the Trademark Office. Under the trademark license agreement, dated September 10, 2002, and the related supplemental agreements (collectively, the “Trademark License Agreement”), China Telecommunications Corporation has granted to the Company a right to use its registered trademarks and its trademarks pending registration on a royalty-free basis.

On August 20, 2018, the Company and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a supplemental agreement and renewed the Trademark License Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof for a further term of three years from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. The Company may renew the Trademark License Agreement for such further periods as the parties may agree, by 30 days' written notification to China Telecommunications Corporation.

Transactions between China Telecom Finance and the Parent Group and the CCS Group Respectively

On February 1, 2019, China Telecom Finance entered into the financial services framework agreement with China Telecommunications Corporation and CCS, respectively, pursuant to such agreements China Telecom Finance agreed to provide financial services, including deposit services, loan services and other financial services to (i) China Telecommunications Corporation, its associates and its commonly held entity held with our Company, excluding our Company and the CCS Group ("Parent Group"), and (ii) CCS and its subsidiaries ("CCS Group").

China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement Entered into between China Telecom Finance and China Telecommunications Corporation

On February 1, 2019, China Telecom Finance and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into a financial services framework agreement (the "China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement"), pursuant to which China Telecom Finance agreed to provide financial services, including deposit services, loan services and other financial services, to the Parent Group. The pricing policy under the China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement is set out below:

(i) Deposit Services

The deposit interest rates offered by China Telecom Finance to the Parent Group shall comply with the relevant requirements of the People's Bank of China and be with reference to the deposit benchmark interest rates promulgated by the People's Bank of China from time to time (if any) and the deposit interest rates of the same type of deposit services for the same period offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group and are conducted on normal commercial terms or better. The deposit interest rates offered shall be equivalent to or higher than those offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group. Under the same conditions, the interest rates and terms for the deposit services offered by China Telecom Finance to the Parent Group shall be the same as those interest rates and terms of the same type of deposit services for the same period offered by China Telecom Finance to other member units.

(ii) Loan Services

The loan interest rates offered by China Telecom Finance to the Parent Group shall comply with the relevant requirements of the People's Bank of China and be with reference to the loan benchmark interest rates promulgated by the People's Bank of China from time to time (if any) and the loan interest rates of the same type of loan services for the same period offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group and are conducted on normal commercial terms or better. The loan interest rates offered shall be equivalent to or lower than those offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group. Under the same conditions, the interest rates and terms for the loan services offered by China Telecom Finance to the Parent Group shall be the same as those interest rates and terms of the same type of loan services for the same period offered by China Telecom Finance to other member units.

The above loan services provided by China Telecom Finance to the Parent Group do not require the Parent Group to pledge any security over its assets or make other arrangements for the loan services as guarantee.

(iii) Other Financial Services

China Telecom Finance provides other financial services (other than deposit and loan services) including financial and financing advice, credit authentication, guarantees, acceptance of bills and discounted bills, internal fund transfer and settlement and designs of relevant settlement and clearance arrangement proposals to the Parent Group under the China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement.

The fees charged for other financial services provided by China Telecom Finance to the Parent Group mentioned above shall comply with the fees standard promulgated by regulatory departments including the People's Bank of China or China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (including its designated institution) ("CBIRC") (if applicable), and be with reference to the handling fees standard for the same type of other financial services charged by the major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group and are conducted on normal commercial terms or better. The handling fees standard shall be equivalent to or lower than those charged by the major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group. Under the same conditions, the fees standard charged to the Parent Group by China Telecom Finance shall be the same as those fees standard for the same type of other financial services charged by China Telecom Finance to other member units.

For the respective specific transactions under the China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement, under the same conditions, the Parent Group should, in principle, choose the services provided by China Telecom Finance. If the Parent Group considers it is appropriate and beneficial to the Parent Group, the Parent Group has the discretion to engage one or more major cooperative commercial banks of the Parent Group as its financial services providers.

The China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement became effective from February 1, 2019 and will expire on December 31, 2021. Subject to the compliance of relevant laws and regulations and relevant regulatory requirements, both parties will negotiate and agree on the renewal arrangement.

CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement Entered into between China Telecom Finance and CCS

On February 1, 2019, China Telecom Finance and CCS entered into a financial services framework agreement (the “CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement”), pursuant to which China Telecom Finance agreed to provide financial services, including deposit services, loan services and other financial services to the CCS Group. The pricing policy under the CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement is set out below:

(i) Deposit Services

The deposit interest rates offered by China Telecom Finance to the CCS Group shall comply with the relevant requirements of the People’s Bank of China and be with reference to the deposit benchmark interest rates promulgated by the People’s Bank of China from time to time (if any) and the deposit interest rates of the same type of deposit services for the same period offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group and are conducted on normal commercial terms or better. The deposit interest rates offered shall be equivalent to or higher than those offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group. Under the same conditions, the interest rates and terms for the deposit services offered by China Telecom Finance to the CCS Group shall be the same as those interest rates and terms of the same type of deposit services for the same period offered by China Telecom Finance to other member units.

(ii) Loan Services

The loan interest rates offered by China Telecom Finance to the CCS Group shall comply with the relevant requirements of the People’s Bank of China and be with reference to the loan benchmark interest rates promulgated by the People’s Bank of China from time to time (if any) and the loan interest rates of the same type of loan services for the same period offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group and are conducted on normal commercial terms or better. The loan interest rates offered shall be equivalent to or lower than those offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group. Under the same conditions, the interest rates and terms for the loan services offered by China Telecom Finance to the CCS Group shall be the same as those interest rates and terms of the same type of loan services for the same period offered by China Telecom Finance to other member units. The above loan services provided by China Telecom Finance to the CCS Group do not require the CCS Group to pledge any security over its assets or make other arrangements for the loan services as guarantee.

(iii) Other Financial Services

China Telecom Finance provides other financial services (other than deposit and loan services) including financial and financing advice, credit authentication, guarantees, acceptance of bills and discounted bills, internal fund transfer and settlement and designs of relevant settlement and clearance arrangement proposals to the CCS Group under the CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement.

The fees charged for other financial services provided by China Telecom Finance to the CCS Group mentioned above shall comply with the fees standard promulgated by regulatory departments including the People’s Bank of China or the CBIRC (if applicable), and be with reference to the handling fees standard for the same type of other financial services charged by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group and are conducted on normal commercial terms or better. The handling fees standard shall be equivalent to or lower than those charged by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group. Under the same conditions, the fees standard charged to the CCS Group by China Telecom Finance shall be the same as those fees standard for the same type of other financial services charged by China Telecom Finance to other member units.

For the respective specific transactions under the CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement, provided that it is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement, China Telecom Finance was appointed as one of the financial institutions providing financial services to the CCS Group. Prior to the signing of any specific agreement with China Telecom Finance in respect of respective transactions under the CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement, the CCS Group will compare the interest rates and terms or fees charged and other relevant transactions terms offered by China Telecom Finance with those interest rates and terms of the same type of deposit or loan services for the same period or fees charged and other relevant transaction terms for the same type of financial services offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group. Only when the interest rates and terms or fees charged or other relevant transactions terms offered by China Telecom Finance are equivalent to or better than those interest rates and terms offered or fees charged or other relevant transactions terms (e.g. transaction approval terms, procedures or time limit, etc.) offered by the major cooperative commercial banks of the CCS Group, the CCS Group has the discretion to enter into the transactions with China Telecom Finance. Under the circumstances which the CCS Group considers appropriate, the CCS Group may engage additional or other financial institutions other than China Telecom Finance to provide financial services.

The CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement became effective from February 1, 2019 and will expire on December 31, 2021. Subject to the compliance of relevant laws and regulations and relevant regulatory requirements, both parties will negotiate and agree on the renewal arrangement.

Our Transfer of Assets to and Tower Lease Arrangements with the Tower Company

See “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Establishment of the Tower Company and the Disposal and Lease of the Telecommunications Towers”. Furthermore, during 2016 and 2017, the SEC issued comment letters relating to the Company’s previously filed annual reports on Form 20-F for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015 and 2016. The comment letters inquired mainly about the background, execution process, and accounting treatment in relation to the Company’s disposal and lease of telecommunications towers and related assets with the Tower Company. The Company responded to these comment letters and was notified by the SEC in its letter dated October 20, 2017 that it has completed its review of such previously filed annual reports of the Company. The SEC did not in its October 2017 letter require us to make any amendment to those previously filed annual reports.

Disposal of E-store to Besttone Holding

See “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Disposal of Chengdu E-store Technology Co., Ltd. and Establishment of Tianyi Capital Holding Co., Ltd.”.

Establishment of China Telecom Finance

See “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Establishment of China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd.”.

Disposals of E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd and China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited

See “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company—Disposals of E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd and China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited”.

Our Borrowings from China Telecom Group

We from time to time borrow short-term unsecured loans from China Telecom Group to supplement our working capital needs. As of December 31, 2020, the aggregate outstanding principal amount of such loans was RMB11,164 million, which bear interest at a fixed rate of 3.1% per annum. On December 25, 2017, we obtained long-term unsecured loans from China Telecom Group to meet our long-term funding needs. As of December 31, 2020, the aggregate outstanding principal amount of such loans was RMB11,000 million, which bear interest at a fixed rate of 3.8% per annum and are payable within one to two years. See Note 19 to our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this report for details.

C. Interests of Experts and Counsel

Not applicable.

Item 8. Financial Information.

Our consolidated financial statements are set forth beginning on page F-1. No significant change has occurred since the date of the annual financial statements.

Legal Proceedings

On December 10, 2020, the FCC adopted an order (the “FCC Order”) that instituted proceedings to determine whether to revoke and/or terminate our 214 Authorizations. CTA has appealed the FCC Order in accordance with relevant laws, regulations and regulatory requirements to safeguard its legitimate rights. See “Item 3. Key Information – Risk Factors – Risks Relating to Our Business – Our authorizations to provide telecommunications services in the United States are subject to actions by the relevant authorities in the United States and we cannot assure you we will be able to maintain those authorizations in the future”.

On January 6, 2021, the NYSE, following reversal of a similar decision announced on December 31, 2020, announced that it had determined to commence delisting proceedings of our ADSs to comply with Executive Order signed by the then President of the United States. On January 20, 2021, we filed a written request with the NYSE for a review of its determination. See “Item 3. Key Information – Risk Factors – Risks Relating to Our Business – Transactions in and holdings of our ADSs and H shares by U.S. persons beyond specified dates are prohibited, and the continued listing of and trading in our ADSs are subject to significant uncertainty”.

We are the defendant in certain lawsuits and a named party in other legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. While the outcomes of such contingencies, lawsuits or other legal proceedings cannot be determined at present, we believe that the outcomes of such contingencies, lawsuits or other legal proceedings will not likely result in any material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Policy on Dividend Distributions

Pursuant to the shareholders’ approval at the annual general meeting held on May 26, 2020, a final dividend of RMB9,262 million (RMB0.114441 per share equivalent to HK\$0.125 per share, pre-tax) for the year ended December 31, 2019 was declared, all of which has been fully paid. Pursuant to a resolution passed at the Directors’ meeting on March 9, 2021, a final dividend of approximately RMB8,403 million (RMB0.10515 per share equivalent to HK\$0.125 per share, pre-tax) for the year ended December 31, 2020 was proposed for shareholders’ approval at the annual general meeting for the year of 2020.

The Company attaches great importance to the investment returns of shareholders, strives to maintain the continuity and stability of the dividend policy taking into the consideration the long-term interest and sustainable development of the Company. The following factors will be considered by the Company when formulating the dividend distribution plan:

- the operating results and cash flow level of the Company;
- the Company’s future business development position and the capital expenditure requirements;
- capital needs and gearing ratio;
- the expectation from shareholders and investors; and
- other factors that the Board deems appropriate.

Our Board is responsible for formulating the dividend distribution plan and will execute the relevant approval procedures in accordance with relevant laws, rules, regulations and Articles of Association of the Company before proceeding with the distribution. In the future, we will strive for improvement on profitability and at the same time continue to deliver favorable dividend return for the shareholders. Our Board will declare dividends, if any, with respect to our H shares and domestic shares on a per-share basis and will pay such dividends in Hong Kong dollars and in Renminbi respectively. Any final dividend for a fiscal year will be subject to shareholders’ approval. Under the PRC Company Law and our Articles of Association, all of our shareholders have equal rights to dividends and distributions. The holders of our H shares will share proportionately on a per-share basis in all dividends and other distributions declared by our Company.

The Bank of New York Mellon, as depositary, will convert the Hong Kong dollar dividend payment and distribute it to holders of ADSs in U.S. dollars, less related fees and expenses and any withholding tax.

Item 9. The Offer and Listing.

In connection with our initial public offering, our ADSs were listed and commenced trading on the NYSE on November 14, 2002 under the symbol “CHA”. Our H shares were listed and commenced trading on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on November 15, 2002 under the symbol “728”. Prior to these listings, there was no public market for our equity securities. The NYSE and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange are the principal host markets for our ADSs and H shares, which are not listed on any other exchanges in or outside the United States.

On January 6, 2021, the NYSE, following reversal of a similar decision announced on December 31, 2020, announced that it had determined to commence delisting proceedings of our ADSs to comply with Executive Order signed by the then President of the United States. See “Item 8. Financial Information – Legal Proceedings” and “Item 3. Key Information – Risk Factors – Risks Relating to Our Business – Transactions in and holdings of our ADSs and H shares by U.S. persons beyond specified dates are prohibited, and the continued listing of and trading in our ADSs are subject to significant uncertainty”.

As of December 31, 2020 and April 23, 2021, there were 13,877,410,000 H shares issued and outstanding. As of December 31, 2020 and April 23, 2021, there were, respectively, 30 and 28 registered holders of American depositary receipts evidencing 4,606,994 and 1,152,450 ADSs. Since certain of the ADSs are held by nominees, the above number may not be representative of the actual number of U.S. beneficial holders of ADSs or the number of ADSs beneficially held by U.S. persons. The depositary for the ADSs is The Bank of New York Mellon.

Item 10. Additional Information.

A. Share Capital

Not applicable.

B. Memorandum and Articles of Association

The following is a summary of certain provisions of our Articles of Association, as amended. Such summary does not purport to be complete. For further information, you and your advisors should refer to the text of our Articles of Association, as amended, and to the texts of applicable laws and regulations. A copy of our Articles of Association is filed as an exhibit to this annual report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Holders of our domestic shares and H shares are deemed to be shareholders of different classes for various matters, which affect their respective interests. For instance, if we propose an increase in domestic shares, holders of H shares would be entitled to vote on that proposal as a separate class. See “—Voting Rights and Shareholders’ Meetings” included elsewhere under this Item.

Objects and Purposes

We are a joint stock limited company established in accordance with the PRC Company Law, the State Council’s Special Regulations Regarding the Issue of Shares Overseas and the Listing of Shares Overseas by Companies Limited by Shares and other relevant laws and regulations of the State. We registered with the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People’s Republic of China. Article 14 of our Articles of Association provides that our scope of business includes, among other things, operation of basic and value-added telecommunications businesses.

Directors

Our Articles of Association provide that each of our Directors is obligated to each shareholder to act honestly in our Company’s best interests; not to exploit corporate assets for personal gain; and not to expropriate the rights of our shareholders.

Where a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company is materially interested, directly or indirectly, in a contract, transaction or arrangement (including any proposed contract, transaction or arrangement) with us, he or she shall declare the nature and extent of his or her interests to the Board at the earliest opportunity, whether or not such contract, transaction or arrangement is otherwise subject to the approval of the Board. A director shall not vote, and shall not be counted in the quorum of the meeting, on any resolution concerning any contract, transaction or arrangement where the director owns material rights or interests therein. A director is deemed to be interested in a contract, transaction or arrangement in which his or her associate (as defined in the Listing Rules) is interested.

Unless the interested director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company discloses his or her interests to the board and the contract, transaction or arrangement in which the director is materially interested is approved by the board of directors at a meeting in which the director neither votes nor is counted in the quorum, such contract, transaction or arrangement may be revoked by us except with respect to a bona fide party thereto who does not have notice of the breach of duty by the interested director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer.

Furthermore, we may not make loans or provide guarantees to a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company or of the Company’s holding company or any of their respective associates, except where such loan or guarantee is made or provided under a service contract as approved by shareholders at the shareholders’ general meeting and to meet expenditure requirements incurred or for the purpose of enabling the director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company to perform his or her duties properly or made in the ordinary course of business.

All decisions relating to the compensation of directors are made at shareholders' meetings.

There are no provisions under our Articles of Association which relate to:

- the retirement or non-retirement of directors under any age limit requirement;
- directors' borrowing power; or
- number of shares required for director's qualification.

Dividends

Our Board may propose dividend distributions at any time. Our Board may declare interim and special dividends under general authorization by a shareholders' ordinary resolution. A distribution of final dividends for any fiscal year is subject to shareholders' approval. Dividends may be distributed in the form of cash or shares. A distribution of shares, however, must be approved by special resolution of the shareholders.

We may only distribute dividends from our retained earnings as determined in accordance with the accounting principles of the PRC or IFRS, whichever is lower, after allowance has been made for:

- recovery of losses, if any;
- allocations to the statutory common reserve fund of 10.0% of our profit; and
- allocations to a discretionary common reserve fund if approved by the shareholders.

Our Articles of Association require us to appoint on behalf of the holders of H shares a receiving agent that is registered as a trust company under the Trustee Ordinance of Hong Kong to receive dividends declared by us in respect of the H shares on behalf of such shareholders. Our Articles of Association require that cash dividends in respect of H shares be declared in Renminbi and paid by us in Hong Kong dollars. The Bank of New York Mellon, as the ADS depository, will convert these proceeds into U.S. dollars and will remit the converted proceeds to holders of our ADSs after deduction of related fees and expenses and any withholding tax.

Dividends payments may be subject to the PRC withholding tax. See "—E. Taxation—People's Republic of China—Taxation of Dividends" included elsewhere under this Item.

Voting Rights and Shareholders' Meetings

Our Board will convene a shareholders' annual general meeting once every year and within six months from the end of the preceding fiscal year. Our Board must convene an extraordinary general meeting within two months of the occurrence of any of the following events:

- where the number of directors is less than the number stipulated in the PRC Company Law or two-thirds of the number specified in our Articles of Association;
- where our unrecovered losses reach one-third of the total amount of our share capital;
- where shareholder(s) holding 10.0% or more of our issued and outstanding voting shares so request(s) in writing;
- whenever our Board deems necessary or our supervisory committee so requests; or
- whenever two or more of our independent directors so request.

Resolutions proposed by shareholder(s) holding 3% or more of the total voting shares shall be included in the agenda for the relevant annual general meeting if they are within the functions and powers of shareholders in general meetings.

When the Company convenes a shareholders' general meeting, written notice of the meeting shall be given at least 20 clear business days before the date of the meeting in the case of an annual general meeting, or at least 10 clear business days or 15 days, whichever is longer, in the case of an extraordinary general meeting to notify all of the shareholders whose names appear in the share register of the matters to be considered and the date and place of the meeting.

Shareholders at meetings have the power, among other matters, to approve or reject our profit distribution plans, annual budget, financial statements, increases or decreases in share capital, issuances of debentures, mergers, liquidation and any amendment to our Articles of Association. In addition, the rights of a class of shareholders may not be modified or abrogated, unless approved by a special resolution of shareholders at a general shareholders' meeting and by a special resolution of shareholders of that class of shares at a separate meeting. Our Articles of Association enumerate various amendments which would be deemed to be a modification or abrogation of the rights of a class of shareholders, including, among others, increasing or decreasing the number of shares of a class disproportionate to increases or decreases of other classes of shares, removing or reducing rights to receive dividends in a particular currency or creating shares with voting or equity rights superior to those of shares of that class. There are no restrictions under PRC law or our Articles of Association on the ability of investors that are not PRC residents to hold H shares and exercise voting rights.

Each share is entitled to one vote on all matters submitted for vote at all shareholders' meetings, except for meetings of a special class of shareholders where only holders of shares of the affected class are entitled to vote on the basis of one vote per share of the affected class.

Shareholders are entitled to attend and vote at general meetings either in person or by proxy. Proxies must be in writing and deposited at our legal address or such other place as is specified in the meeting notice, not less than 24 hours before the time for holding the meeting at which the proxy proposes to vote or the time appointed for the passing of the relevant resolution(s). When the instrument appointing a proxy is executed by the shareholder's attorney-in-fact, such proxy when deposited must be accompanied by a notary-certified copy of the relevant power of attorney or other authority under which the proxy was executed.

Resolutions on any of the following matters must be approved by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by shareholders who are present in person or by proxy:

- an increase or decrease in our share capital or the issuance of shares, warrants and other similar securities;
- issuance of debentures;
- our division, merger, dissolution or liquidation as well as material acquisition or disposal;
- amendments to our Articles of Association;
- amendment of shareholders' rights of any class of shares; and
- any other matters resolved by way of an ordinary resolution by shareholders in general meeting which the shareholders consider may have a material impact on the Company and should be adopted by a special resolution.

All other actions taken by the shareholders will be approved by a majority of the voting rights held by shareholders.

Any shareholder resolution that is in violation of any PRC laws or regulations or the Articles of Association will be null and void.

Pursuant to the Reply of the State Council on the Adjustment of the Notice Period of the General Meeting and Other Matters Applicable to the Overseas Listed Companies (Guo Han [2019] No. 97) (《国务院关于调整适用在境外上市公司召开股东大会通知期限等事项规定的批覆》(国函〔2019〕97号)) to amend the requirements with respect to notice period, shareholders' proposal rights and convening procedures for general meetings applicable to joint stock companies incorporated in the People's Republic of China and listed overseas, the Board proposed to amend the relevant provisions of the Articles of Association regarding the procedures convening general meetings accordingly. At the 2019 AGM held on May 26, 2020, the shareholders of the Company approved the amendments to the Articles of Association. We filed a Form 6-K with the SEC on March 25, 2020 in relation to the proposed amendments and a Form 6-K with the SEC on May 27, 2020 in relation to poll results of the 2019 AGM and the amended Articles of Association.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of our liquidation, the H shares will rank *pari passu* with the domestic shares, and any of our assets remaining after payment (in order of priority) of (a) the costs of liquidation, (b) wages and social insurance fees payable to or for our employees, (c) outstanding taxes and (d) bank loans, and company bonds and other debts, will be divided among our shareholders in accordance with the class of shares and their proportional shareholdings.

Increases in Share Capital

Under our Articles of Association, issuance of new securities, including ordinary shares, securities convertible into ordinary shares, options, warrants or similar rights to subscribe for any ordinary shares or convertible securities, must be approved by votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders present at the shareholders meeting, votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the domestic shareholders present at the class meeting of domestic shareholders and votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the H shareholders present at the class meeting of H shareholders, respectively. No such approval is required if, but only to the extent that, we issue domestic shares and H shares, either separately or concurrently, in numbers not exceeding 20.0% of the number of domestic shares and H shares then outstanding, respectively, in any 12-month period, as already approved by votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders (including proxies) present at the shareholders meeting. New issues of shares must also be approved by relevant PRC authorities.

Shareholders are not liable to make any further contribution to the share capital other than according to the terms that were agreed upon by the subscriber of the relevant shares at the time of subscription.

Shareholders do not have preemptive rights with respect to new issues of shares of the Company.

Decrease in Share Capital and Repurchase

We may reduce our registered share capital only upon obtaining the approval of votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders (including proxies) present at the shareholders meeting and, in certain circumstances, of relevant PRC authorities. The number of H shares that may be repurchased is subject to the Takeovers Code.

Ownership Threshold

There are no provisions under our Articles of Association which relate to ownership thresholds above which shareholder ownership is required to be disclosed.

Restrictions on Large or Controlling Shareholders

Our Articles of Association define a controlling shareholder as any person who acting alone or in concert with others:

- is in a position to elect more than one-half of the Board;
- has the power to exercise, or to control the exercise of, 30.0% or more of our voting rights;
- holds 30.0% or more of our issued and outstanding shares; or
- has de facto control of us in any other way.

As of the date of this annual report, China Telecom Group, a state-owned enterprise, is our only controlling shareholder.

Our Articles of Association provide that, in addition to any obligation imposed by laws and administrative regulations or required by the Listing Rules, a controlling shareholder shall not exercise its voting rights in a manner prejudicial to the interests of all or some shareholders:

- to relieve a director or supervisor from his or her duty to act honestly in our best interests;
- to approve the appropriation by a director or supervisor (for his or her own benefit or for the benefit of any other person) of our assets in any way, including, without limitation, opportunities which may benefit us; or
- to approve the appropriation by a director or supervisor (for his or her own benefit or for the benefit of any other person) of the individual rights of any other shareholders, including, without limitation, rights to distributions and voting rights (except in accordance with a restructuring of our company which has been submitted for approval by the shareholders at a general meeting in accordance with our Articles of Association).

If a controlling shareholder exercises its voting rights in violation of the provisions set forth above, a shareholder can sue such controlling shareholder and enforce its rights through arbitration in the PRC or Hong Kong.

Sources of Shareholders' Rights

Currently, the primary sources of shareholders' rights are our Articles of Association, the PRC Company Law and the Listing Rules that, among other things, impose certain standards of conduct, fairness and disclosure on us, our directors and our controlling shareholder. Our Articles of Association have incorporated the provisions set forth in the Mandatory Provisions for the Articles of Association of Companies Listed Overseas, or the Mandatory Provisions, adopted in 1994, pursuant to the requirement of the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Any amendment to those provisions will only become effective after approval by the relevant governmental department authorized by the State Council and the China Securities Regulatory Commission. The Listing Rules of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange require a number of additional provisions to the Mandatory Provisions to be included in our Articles of Association.

The listing agreement between us and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange provides that we may not amend certain provisions of our Articles of Association that have been mandated by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. These provisions relate to:

- varying the rights of existing classes of shares;
- voting rights;
- our power to purchase our own shares;
- rights of minority shareholders; and
- liquidation procedures.

In addition, for so long as our H shares are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, we will be subject to the relevant ordinances, rules and regulations applicable to companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, including, among other things, the Listing Rules, the Securities and Futures Ordinance and the Takeovers Code.

Unless otherwise specified, all rights, obligations and protection discussed below are derived from our Articles of Association and the PRC Company Law.

Enforceability of Shareholders' Rights

Enforceability of our shareholders' rights may be limited. See "Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the People's Republic of China—The PRC legal system has inherent uncertainties that could limit the legal protections available to you".

Restrictions on Transferability and the Share Register

Under our Articles of Association, in order for any PRC shareholder to sell its domestic shares to persons outside the PRC who will receive H shares upon the sale, such sales must be approved by votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders present at the shareholders meeting, votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the domestic shareholders present at the class meeting of domestic shareholders and votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the H shareholders present at the class meeting of H shareholders. Such sales are also subject to approval by the SASAC, the China Securities Regulatory Commission and other relevant governmental authorities.

We are required to keep a register of our shareholders which shall be comprised of various parts, including one part which is to be maintained in Hong Kong in relation to holders of H shares. Shareholders have the right to inspect and, for a reasonable charge, to copy the share register. No change may be made to the register of shareholders as a result of a transfer of shares within 20 days prior to the date of a shareholders' general meeting or within five days before the record date for the Company's distribution of dividends. However, in the event that there is any other relevant provision applicable to the registration of changes of the Company's register of shareholders as promulgated and stipulated by the PRC laws, administrative regulations or the listing rules of the stock exchange on which the Company's shares are listed, such provision shall prevail.

We have appointed Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited to act as the registrar of our H shares. This registrar maintains our register of holders of H shares at our offices in Hong Kong and enters transfers of H shares in such register upon the presentation of the documents described above.

C. Material Contracts

See "Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company" and "Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—B. Related Party Transactions" for certain arrangements we have entered into with China Telecom Group and/or other entities.

In addition, we entered into the 5G Cooperation Agreement with CUCL in relation to the co-building and co-sharing of 5G network on September 9, 2019. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Network System—Co-building and co-sharing with China Unicom".

D. Exchange Controls

We conduct our business primarily in Renminbi, which is also our functional and reporting currency. The Renminbi is not a fully convertible currency. Under the existing PRC foreign exchange regulations, we will be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies without prior approval from SAFE by complying with certain procedural requirements. However, the PRC government may take measures at its discretion in the future to restrict access to foreign currencies for both current account transactions and capital account transactions if foreign currencies become scarce in the PRC. We may not be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies to our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs, if the PRC government restricts access to foreign currencies for current account transactions.

Foreign exchange transactions under our capital account, including but not limited to foreign currency-denominated borrowings from foreign banks, issuance of foreign currency-denominated debt securities and principal payments in respect of foreign currency-denominated obligations, continue to be subject to significant foreign exchange controls and require the approval of or registration with SAFE or certain banks designated by SAFE, as applicable. These limitations could affect our ability to obtain foreign exchange through debt or equity financing, or to obtain foreign exchange to meet our payment obligations under the debt securities or foreign exchange for capital expenditures.

There are no limitations on the right of non-resident or foreign owners to remit dividends or to hold or vote the ordinary shares or the ADSs imposed by Hong Kong law or by our Articles of Association or other constituent documents.

E. Taxation

The taxation of income and capital gains of holders of H shares or ADSs is subject to the PRC laws and practices and of jurisdictions in which holders of H shares or ADSs are resident or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current law and practice, is subject to change and does not constitute legal or tax advice.

The discussion does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an investment in the H shares or ADSs. In particular, the discussion does not address the tax consequences under state, local and other laws, such as non-U.S. federal laws. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax adviser regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the H shares and ADSs.

The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the date of this annual report, all of which are subject to change.

People's Republic of China

The following is a summary of certain PRC tax provisions relating to the ownership and disposition of H shares or ADSs held by the investors as capital assets. This summary does not purport to address all material tax consequences of the ownership of H shares, and does not take into account the specific circumstances of any particular investors. This summary is based on the PRC tax laws as in effect on the date of this annual report, as well as on the Agreement between the United States of America and the PRC for the Avoidance of Double Taxation, or the PRC-US Treaty, all of which are subject to change (or changes in interpretation), possibly with retroactive effect.

This discussion does not address any aspects of PRC taxation other than income taxation, capital taxation, stamp taxation and estate taxation. Prospective investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding Chinese, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H shares.

Taxation of Dividends

Individual Investors. According to the PRC Individual Income Tax Law and its implementing regulations, dividends paid by PRC companies are ordinarily subject to a PRC withholding tax levied at a flat rate of 20.0%. For a foreign individual who is not a PRC resident, the receipt of dividends from a PRC company is normally subject to a withholding tax of 20.0% unless reduced by an applicable tax treaty. For example, Hong Kong and Macau individual residents are subject to a withholding tax of 10.0% on dividends paid to them. According to the Notice on Taxation Policies for Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Pilot Program (Cai Shui [2014] No. 81) and Notice on Taxation Policies for Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Pilot Program (Cai Shui [2016] No. 127), the Company shall withhold individual income tax at the rate of 20.0% with respect to dividends received by the mainland individual investors for investing in our H shares through the Southbound Trading Link. The tax levied on dividends derived from the investment by mainland securities investment funds in our H shares through the Southbound Trading Link shall be ascertained by reference to the rules applicable to the individual investors. We are not required to withhold income tax on dividends derived by the mainland enterprise investors through the Southbound Trading Link, and such enterprises shall report the income and make tax payment by themselves.

Enterprises. According to the EIT Law and its implementing regulations, dividends paid by a PRC company to a foreign enterprise which is a “non-resident enterprise”, which is established under the law of a non-PRC jurisdiction and has no establishment or residence in the PRC or whose dividends from the PRC do not relate to its establishment or residence in the PRC, are subject to a 10.0% tax, unless reduced by an applicable tax treaty. A resident enterprise, including an enterprise which is established under the law of a non-PRC jurisdiction but whose “de facto management body” is located in the PRC, is not subject to any PRC withholding tax with respect to dividends paid to it by a PRC company.

Tax Treaties. Investors who do not reside in the PRC and reside in countries that have entered into double-taxation treaties with the PRC may be entitled to a reduction of the withholding tax imposed on the payment of dividends to investors of our Company who do not reside in the PRC. The PRC currently has double-taxation treaties with a number of other countries, which include but are not limited to:

- Australia;
- Canada;
- France;
- Germany;
- Japan;
- Malaysia;
- the Netherlands;
- Singapore;
- the United Kingdom; and
- the United States.

Under the PRC-US Treaty, the PRC may tax a dividend paid by us to an Eligible U.S. Holder up to a maximum of 10.0% of the gross amount of such dividend. It is arguable that under the PRC-US Treaty, the PRC may only tax gains from the sale or disposition by an Eligible U.S. Holder of H shares or ADSs representing an interest in the Company of 25.0% or more, but this position is uncertain and the PRC authorities may take a different position. For the purposes of this discussion, an “Eligible U.S. Holder” is a U.S. holder that (i) is a resident of the United States for the purposes of the PRC-US Treaty, (ii) does not maintain a permanent establishment or fixed base in the PRC to which H shares or ADSs are attributable and through which the beneficial owner carries on or has carried on business (or, in the case of an individual, performs or has performed independent personal services) and (iii) is not otherwise ineligible for benefits under the PRC-US Treaty with respect to income and gains derived in connection with the H shares or ADSs.

Taxation of Capital Gains

With respect to individual holders of H shares or ADSs, the PRC Individual Income Tax Law and its implementation regulations stipulate that gains realized on the sale of equity shares would be subject to income tax at a rate of 20.0%, and empower the MOF to draft detailed tax rules on the mechanism for collecting such tax subject to approval of the State Council. However, as of the date of this annual report, no such tax rules have been enacted and no income tax on gains realized on the sale of equity shares has been collected. Gains on the sale of shares issued by listed companies by individuals were temporarily exempted from individual income tax pursuant to notices issued by the SAT dated March 30, 1998. In the event this temporary exemption is withdrawn or ceases to be effective, individual holders of H shares or ADSs may be subject to capital gains tax at the rate of 20.0% unless such tax is reduced or eliminated by an applicable double-taxation treaty. If tax on capital gains from the sale of H shares or ADSs become applicable, it is arguable that under the PRC-US Treaty, the PRC may only tax gains from the sale or disposition by an Eligible U.S. Holder of H shares or ADSs representing an interest in our Company of 25.0% or more, but this position is uncertain and the PRC authorities may take a different position.

Under the EIT Law and its implementing regulations, capital gains realized by a foreign enterprise which is a “non-resident enterprise” upon the sale of the overseas-listed shares of a PRC company are subject to a 10.0% tax, unless reduced by an applicable double-taxation treaty. Capital gains realized by a resident enterprise, including an enterprise which is established under the law of a non-PRC jurisdiction but whose “de facto management body” is located in the PRC, are subject to the PRC enterprise income tax.

Additional PRC Tax Considerations

PRC Stamp Duty. PRC stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC publicly traded companies under the PRC Provisional Regulations Concerning Stamp Duty, or the Provisional Regulations, which became effective on October 1, 1988 and were amended on January 8, 2011, should not apply to the acquisition and disposal by non-PRC investors of H shares or ADSs outside of the PRC by virtue of the Provisional Regulations, which provide that PRC stamp duty is imposed only on documents executed or received within the PRC that are legally binding in the PRC and are protected under the PRC law.

Estate Tax. No liability for estate tax under PRC law will arise from non-PRC nationals holding H shares or ADSs.

Hong Kong

Tax on Dividends

Under the current practice of the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Department, no tax is payable in Hong Kong in respect of dividends paid by us.

Profits

No tax is imposed in Hong Kong in respect of capital gains from the sale of H shares. Trading gains from the sale of shares by persons carrying on a trade, profession or business in Hong Kong where such gains are derived from or arise in Hong Kong from such trade, profession or business will be chargeable to Hong Kong profits tax, which is currently (for the year of assessment 2008-2009 onwards) imposed at the rate of 16.5% on corporations and 15.0% on unincorporated businesses, unless such gains are chargeable under the respective half-rates of 8.25% and 7.5% that may apply for the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits for years of assessment beginning on or after April 1, 2018. Gains from sales of H shares effected on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange will be considered by the Hong Kong Inland Revenue Department to be derived from or arise in Hong Kong. Liability for Hong Kong profits tax would thus arise in respect of trading gains from sales of H shares realized by persons carrying on a business of trading or dealing in securities in Hong Kong. There is no tax treaty in effect between the United States and Hong Kong, and the PRC-US Treaty does not apply to Hong Kong.

There will be no liability for Hong Kong profits tax in respect of profits from the sale of ADSs, where purchases and sales of ADSs are effected outside Hong Kong, e.g., on the NYSE.

Stamp Duty

Hong Kong stamp duty will be payable by the purchaser on every purchase and by the seller on every sale of H shares registered on the Hong Kong branch register. The duty is charged at the ad valorem rate of 0.1% (subject to the completion of the legislative process to increase the stamp duty rate, the rate will be increased to 0.13% with effect from 1 August 2021) of the consideration for, or (if greater) the value of, the H shares transferred on each of the seller and the purchaser. In other words, a total 0.2% (subject to the completion of the legislative process to increase the stamp duty rate, the rate will be increased to 0.26% with effect from 1 August 2021) is currently payable on a typical sale and purchase transaction of H shares. In addition, a fixed duty of HK\$5 is currently payable on any instrument of transfer of shares.

The withdrawal of H shares upon the surrender of American Depositary Receipts, or ADRs, and the issuance of ADRs upon the deposit of H shares, will also attract stamp duty at the rate described above for sale and purchase transactions unless such withdrawal or deposit does not result in a change in the beneficial ownership of the H shares under Hong Kong law, in which case only a fixed duty of HK\$5 is payable on the transfer. The issuance of the ADRs upon the deposit of H shares issued directly to the Depository, as depository of the ADSs, or for the account of the Depository, will not be subject to any stamp duty. No Hong Kong stamp duty is payable upon the transfer of ADSs outside Hong Kong.

Estate Duty

No Hong Kong estate duty is currently payable.

United States

Material United States Federal Income Taxation

This section describes the material United States federal income tax consequences to a U.S. holder of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of H shares or ADSs. It applies to you only if you hold your H shares or ADSs as capital assets for United States federal income tax purposes. This discussion address only United States federal income taxation and does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to you in light of your individual circumstances, including foreign, state or local tax consequences, estate and gift tax consequences, and tax consequences arising under the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income or the alternative minimum tax. This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a special class of holders subject to special rules, including:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;
- a tax-exempt organization;
- an insurance company;
- a person that actually or constructively owns 10.0% or more of the combined voting power of our voting stock or of the total value of our stock;
- a person that holds H shares or ADSs as part of a straddle or a hedging or conversion transaction;
- a person that purchases or sells H shares or ADSs as part of a wash sale for tax purposes; or
- a person whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect, as well as the PRC-US Treaty. These authorities are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. In addition, this section is based in part upon the representations of the Depository and the assumption that each obligation in the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

You are a U.S. holder if you are a beneficial owner of H shares or ADSs and you are, for United States federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a domestic corporation;
- an estate whose income is subject to United States federal income tax regardless of its source; or
- a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If an entity or arrangement that is treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes holds the H shares or ADSs, the United States federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the tax treatment of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership that holds the H shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisor with regard to the United States federal income tax treatment of an investment in the H shares or ADSs.

You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the United States federal, state and local tax consequences of owning and disposing of H shares and ADSs in your particular circumstances.

In general, and taking into account the earlier assumptions, for United States federal income tax purposes, if you hold ADRs evidencing ADSs, you will be treated as the owner of H shares represented by those ADSs. Exchanges of H shares for ADRs, and ADRs for H shares, generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

The tax treatment of your H shares or ADSs will depend in part on whether or not we are classified as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for United States federal income tax purposes. Except as discussed below under “-PFIC Rules”, this discussion assumes that we are not classified as a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes.

Taxation of Dividends

The gross amount of any distribution we pay out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes), other than certain pro-rata distributions of our shares, will be treated as a dividend that is subject to United States federal income taxation. If you are a noncorporate U.S. holder, dividends that constitute qualified dividend income will be taxable to you at the preferential rates applicable to long-term capital gains, provided that you hold H shares or ADSs for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date and meet other holding period requirements. Dividends we pay with respect to H shares or ADSs generally will be qualified dividend income, provided that, in the year that you receive the dividend, we are eligible for the benefits of the PRC-US Treaty. We believe that we are currently eligible for the benefits of the PRC-US Treaty and we therefore expect that dividends on the shares and ADSs will be qualified dividend income, but there can be no assurance that we will continue to be eligible for the benefits of the PRC-US Treaty.

Furthermore, even if we are not eligible for the benefits of the PRC-US Treaty in a taxable year, dividends on the ADSs will nevertheless be treated as qualified dividend income if the ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. However, as discussed above in “Key Information—Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Business—Transactions in and holdings of our ADSs and H shares by U.S. persons beyond specified dates are prohibited, and the continued listing of and trading in our ADSs are subject to significant uncertainty”, our ADSs cannot currently be traded on the NYSE. As a result, as long as that is the case, dividends paid with respect to ADSs will only be qualified dividend income if we are eligible for the benefits of the PRC-U.S. Treaty.

You must include any PRC tax withheld from the dividend payment in this gross amount even though you do not in fact receive it. The dividend is taxable to you when you, in the case of H shares, or the depository, in the case of ADSs, receive the dividend, actually or constructively. The dividend will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to United States corporations in respect of dividends received from other United States corporations. Subject to certain limitations, the PRC tax withheld and paid over to the PRC will be creditable or deductible against your United States federal income tax liability. To the extent a refund of the tax withheld is available under PRC law or under the PRC-US Treaty, the amount of tax withheld that is refundable will not be creditable against your United States federal income tax liability. Special rules apply in determining the foreign tax credit limitation with respect to dividends that are subject to the preferential tax rates.

The amount of the dividend distribution that you must include in your income will be the U.S. dollar value of the Hong Kong dollar payments made, determined at the Hong Kong dollar/U.S. dollar spot rate on the date the dividend distribution is includible in your income, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. Generally, any gain or loss resulting from currency exchange fluctuations during the period from the date you include the dividend payment in income to the date you convert the payment into U.S. dollars will be treated as ordinary income or loss and will not be eligible for the preferential tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income. The gain or loss generally will be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for United States federal income tax purposes, will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of your basis in the H shares or ADSs and thereafter as capital gain. However, we do not expect to calculate earnings and profits in accordance with United States federal income tax principles. Accordingly, you should expect to generally treat distributions we make as dividends.

For foreign tax credit purposes, dividends will generally be income from sources outside the United States and will generally be “passive” income for purposes of computing the foreign tax credit allowable to you.

Taxation of Capital Gains

If you are a U.S. holder and you sell or otherwise dispose of your H shares or ADSs, you will recognize capital gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount that you realize and your tax basis, determined in U.S. dollars, in your H shares or ADSs. Capital gain of a noncorporate U.S. holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the property is held for more than one year. The gain or loss will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. Your ability to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations.

However, under the PRC-US Treaty, if PRC tax were to be imposed on any gain from the disposition of your H shares or ADSs (as discussed above in “People’s Republic of China—Taxation of Capital Gains”) in accordance with the PRC-US Treaty, then such gain will generally be treated as PRC source income if you are an Eligible U.S. Holder (as defined above in “People’s Republic of China—Taxation of Dividends—Tax Treaties”). Subject to certain limitations, any such PRC tax will be creditable against your United States federal income tax liability. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences if a PRC tax were to be imposed on a disposition of H shares or ADSs, including the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

Hong Kong Stamp Duty

Any Hong Kong stamp duty that you pay will not be a creditable tax for United States federal income tax purposes, but would generally increase your basis in your H Shares or ADSs (in the case of stamp duty paid in respect of a purchase) or reduce your amount realized (in the case of stamp duty paid in respect of a sale).

PFIC Rules

We believe that H shares and ADSs should not currently be treated as stock of a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes and we do not expect to become a PFIC in the foreseeable future. However, this conclusion is a factual determination that is made annually and thus may be subject to change. In general, if you are a U.S. holder, we will be a PFIC with respect to you if for any taxable year in which you held our ADSs or H shares:

- at least 75% of our gross income for the taxable year is passive income or
- at least 50% of the value, determined on the basis of a quarterly average, of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

“Passive income” generally includes dividends, interest, gains from the sale or exchange of investment property rents and royalties (other than certain rents and royalties derived in the active conduct of a trade or business) and certain other specified categories of income. If a foreign corporation owns at least 25% by value of the stock of another corporation, the foreign corporation is treated for purposes of the PFIC tests as owning its proportionate share of the assets of the other corporation, and as receiving directly its proportionate share of the other corporation’s income.

If we were to be treated as a PFIC, gain realized on the sale or other disposition of your H shares or ADSs would in general not be treated as capital gain. Instead, unless you elect to be taxed annually on a mark-to-market basis with respect to your H shares or ADSs, you would be treated as if you had realized such gain and certain “excess distributions” ratably over your holding period for the H shares or ADSs and would generally be taxed at the highest tax rate in effect for each such year to which the gain was allocated, together with an interest charge in respect of the tax attributable to each such year. With certain exceptions, your H shares or ADSs will be treated as stock in a PFIC if we were a PFIC at any time during your holding period in your H shares or ADSs. Dividends that you receive from us will not be eligible for the special tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income if we are a PFIC (or are treated as a PFIC with respect to you) either in the taxable year of the distribution or the preceding taxable year, but instead will be taxable at rates applicable to ordinary income.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents.

Not applicable.

G. Statement by Experts.

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display

You may read and copy documents referred to in this annual report on Form 20-F that have been filed with the SEC, at its public reference room located at 100 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms and their copy charges. The SEC maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the SEC.

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” the information we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this annual report on Form 20-F.

I. Subsidiary Information

Not applicable.

Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.

Our primary market risk exposures are fluctuations in exchange rates and interest rates.

Foreign Exchange Rate Risk

We conduct our business primarily in Renminbi, which is also our functional and reporting currency. The Renminbi is not a fully convertible currency. The value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies fluctuates and is affected by, among other things, changes in the PRC’s and international political and economic conditions. Fluctuations in exchange rates may adversely affect the value, translated or converted into United States dollars or Hong Kong dollars, of our net assets, earnings and any declared dividends. We cannot give any assurance that any future movements in the exchange rate of the Renminbi against the United States dollar or other foreign currencies will not adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. See “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the People’s Republic of China—Government restriction on currency conversion may adversely affect our financial condition” and “—Fluctuation of the Renminbi could materially affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows”. We are exposed to foreign currency risk primarily because we receive some of our revenue from our international operations and pay-related expenses in foreign currencies. As a result, our foreign currency exposure relates to our foreign currency-denominated debt and, to a limited extent, cash and cash equivalents denominated in foreign currencies.

The following tables provide information regarding our financial instruments that are sensitive to foreign exchange rates as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. For debt obligations, the tables present principal cash flows and related weighted average interest rates by expected maturity dates.

As of December 31, 2020:

	Expected Maturity						Total	Fair Value
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Thereafter		
(RMB equivalent in millions, except interest rates)								
Assets:								
Cash and cash equivalents								
United States dollars	5,004	—	—	—	—	—	5,004	5,004
Japanese yen	11	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Euro	53	—	—	—	—	—	53	53
Hong Kong dollars	833	—	—	—	—	—	833	833
Other currencies	490	—	—	—	—	—	490	490
Short-term bank deposits								
United States dollars	1,593	—	—	—	—	—	1,593	1,593
Liabilities:								
Debts in United States dollars								
Fixed rate	35	22	19	17	17	114	224	190
Average interest rate	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%		
Debts in Euro								
Fixed rate	26	26	26	11	10	53	152	134
Average interest rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%		

As of December 31, 2019:

	Expected Maturity						Total	Fair Value
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Thereafter		
(RMB equivalent in millions, except interest rates)								
Assets:								
Cash and cash equivalents								
United States dollars	3,055	—	—	—	—	—	3,055	3,055
Japanese yen	27	—	—	—	—	—	27	27
Euro	75	—	—	—	—	—	75	75
Hong Kong dollars	327	—	—	—	—	—	327	327
Other currencies	1,092	—	—	—	—	—	1,092	1,092
Short-term bank deposits								
United States dollars	2,724	—	—	—	—	—	2,724	2,724
Liabilities:								
Debts in United States dollars								
Fixed rate	48	37	24	20	18	141	288	235
Average interest rate	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%		
Debts in Euro								
Fixed rate	25	25	25	25	11	62	173	157
Average interest rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%		

Interest Rate Risk

The People's Bank of China has the sole authority in the PRC to establish the official interest rates for Renminbi-denominated loans. Financial institutions in the PRC set their effective interest rates within the range established by the People's Bank of China. Interest rates and payment methods on loans denominated in foreign currencies are set by financial institutions based on interest rate changes in the international financial market, cost of funds, risk levels and other factors.

We are exposed to interest rate risk resulting from fluctuations in interest rates on our short-term and long-term debts. Increases in interest rates will increase the cost of new borrowing and the interest expense with respect to outstanding floating rate debt. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, our debt consisted of fixed and variable rate debt obligations with maturities from 2020 to 2036 and from 2021 to 2036, respectively.

The following tables present cash flows and related weighted average interest rates by expected maturity dates of our interest rate sensitive financial instruments as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively.

As of December 31, 2020:

	Expected Maturity						Total	Fair Value
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Thereafter		
(RMB equivalent in millions, except interest rates)								
Liabilities:								
Debits in Renminbi								
Fixed rate	23,784	17,033	2,964	956	925	2,029	47,691	47,689
Average interest rate	2.8%	2.8%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%		
Variable rate	5,275	—	—	—	—	—	5,275	5,275
Average interest rate ⁽¹⁾	3.3%	—	—	—	—	—		
Debits in United States dollars								
Fixed rate	35	22	19	17	17	114	224	190
Average interest rate	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%		
Debits in Euro								
Fixed rate	26	26	26	11	10	53	152	134
Average interest rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%		

⁽¹⁾ The average interest rates for variable rate debts are calculated based on the rates reported as of December 31, 2020.

As of December 31, 2019:

	Expected Maturity						Total	Fair Value
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Thereafter		
(RMB equivalent in millions, except interest rates)								
Liabilities:								
Debits in Renminbi								
Fixed rate	33,393	1,016	25,983	920	911	2,833	65,056	64,410
Average interest rate	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%		
Variable rate	13,505	—	—	—	—	—	13,505	13,505
Average interest rate ⁽¹⁾	3.8%	—	—	—	—	—		
Debits in United States dollars								
Fixed rate	48	37	24	20	18	141	288	235
Average interest rate	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%		
Debits in Euro								
Fixed rate	25	25	25	25	11	62	173	157
Average interest rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%		

⁽¹⁾ The average interest rates for variable rate debts are calculated based on the rates reported as of December 31, 2019.

Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities.

The Bank of New York Mellon, as the depository of our ADSs, collects its fees for delivery and surrender of ADSs directly from investors depositing shares or surrendering ADSs for the purpose of withdrawal. The depository collects fees for making distributions to investors by deducting those fees from the amounts distributed or by selling a portion of distributable property to pay the fees. The depository may generally refuse to provide fee-attracting services until its fees for those services are paid.

ADR holders must pay:

- US\$5.00 (or less) per 100 ADRs (or portion thereof)
- US\$0.02 (or less) per ADR
- Registration or transfer fees (if applicable)
- Expenses of the depository
- Taxes and other governmental charges the depository or the custodian has to pay on any ADR or share underlying an ADR, for example, stock transfer taxes, stamp duty or withholding taxes
- Any other charge incurred by the depository or its agents (including the custodian) for servicing of the deposited securities

For:

- Each issuance of an ADR, including as a result of a distribution of shares or rights or other property
- Each cancellation of an ADR, including if the deposit agreement terminates
- Each distribution of securities, other than shares or ADRs, treating the securities as if they were shares for purpose of calculating fees
- Any cash distribution (not including cash dividend distribution)
- Transfer and registration of shares on the share register of our transfer agent and the registrar in Hong Kong from an ADR holder's name to the name of the depository or its agent when the ADR holder deposit or withdraw shares
- Conversion of foreign currency to U.S. dollars
- Cable, telex and facsimile transmission expenses
- As necessary
- As necessary

The Bank of New York Mellon has agreed to reimburse us annually for our expenses incurred in connection with administration and maintenance of the depository receipt facility. The amount of such reimbursements is subject to certain conditions and limits. From April 24, 2020 to April 23, 2021, with respect to certain expenses incurred by us in connection with our depository facility, including listing and legal fees and expenses related to our attendance at the annual ADR training seminar, we received from the Bank of New York Mellon a total of US\$70,000 reimbursement, net of withholding tax. The Bank of New York Mellon also waived certain costs of US\$110,556.19 in connection with the administration of the ADR program and other services provided to our registered shareholders for the year 2020.

PART II**Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies.**

None.

Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds.***Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders***

None.

Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

Item 15. Controls and Procedures.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this annual report. Based on this evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of the fiscal year covered by this annual report, our disclosure controls and procedures were designed, and were effective, to give reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC, and were also effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) and Rule 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and/or our Board; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

As of December 31, 2020, our management, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2020.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020 has been audited by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included herein.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the shareholders and the Board of Directors of China Telecom Corporation Limited:

Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of China Telecom Corporation Limited and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Tread way Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013) issued by COSO.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, of the Company, and our report dated March 9, 2021, expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements, and included an explanatory paragraph regarding the Company's change in its method of accounting for leases in 2019 due to the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard 16, "Leases".

Basis for Opinion

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China

March 9, 2021

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, there was no change to our internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert.

Our Audit Committee currently consists of four members, Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius, Mr. Xu Erming, Madam Wang Hsuehming and Mr. Yeung Chi Wai, Jason. They are all Independent Non-Executive Directors. See "Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees—C. Board Practices—Audit Committee". Our Board has determined that Mr. Tse Hau Yin, Aloysius, our Independent Non-executive Director, is qualified as an "audit committee financial expert", as defined in Item 16A of Form 20-F.

Item 16B. Code of Ethics.

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to the Chief Executive Officer, President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Vice Presidents, controllers and other senior officers of our Company. We have filed this code of ethics as an exhibit to our annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 and we hereby incorporate that exhibit into this annual report. The text of this code of ethics is also posted on our Internet website at <http://www.chinatelecom-h.com/en/cg/pdf/gaoguan.pdf>.

Item 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services.

The following table sets forth the aggregate audit fees, audit-related fees, tax fees of our principal accountants and all other fees billed for products and services provided by our principal accountants other than the audit fees, audit-related fees and tax fees for each of the fiscal years 2019 and 2020:

	<u>Audit Fees (including VAT)</u>	<u>Audit-Related Fees</u>	<u>Tax Fees</u>	<u>Other Fees</u>
2019	RMB81.46 million	RMB0.70 million	RMB1.70 million	RMB0.82 million
2020	RMB76.83 million	RMB0.72 million ⁽¹⁾	RMB1.50 million ⁽²⁾	RMB0.91 million ⁽³⁾

(1) Audit-related fees in the amount of RMB0.72 million were primarily paid for the advisory services provided to us regarding our internal control and the assurance service provided to us regarding our environmental, social and governance report.

(2) Tax fees in the amount of RMB1.50 million were primarily paid for profit tax filing assistance services.

(3) Other fees in the amount of RMB0.91 million were primarily paid for other operating advisory services.

Before our principal accountants were engaged by our Company or our subsidiaries to render audit or non-audit services, the engagements were approved by our Audit Committee.

Item 16D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees.

Not applicable.

Item 16E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers.

None.

Item 16F. Change in Registrant's Certifying Accountant.

On March 9, 2021, the Board resolved, as recommended by our Audit Committee, not to re-appoint our principal accountants, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, or Deloitte, after their completion of the audit of our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020. They will retire effective upon the close of the 2020 annual general meeting of the Company. On the same date, the Board resolved, pursuant to the open selection process and as recommended by our Audit Committee, to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP, as our new principal accountants, subject to the approval by our shareholders at the annual general meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on May 7, 2021. Such change in our principal accountants is due to the relevant regulations issued by the MOF and the SASAC, under which there are restrictions on the number of years of audit services that an accounting firm can continuously provide to a state-owned enterprise and its subsidiaries. The Company is a subsidiary of China Telecommunications Corporation, which is a state-owned enterprise under the supervision of the SASAC.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020, and the subsequent interim period through April 28, 2021, there were no:

(1) disagreements with Deloitte on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedures, which disagreements if not resolved to their satisfaction would have caused them to make reference in connection with their opinion to the subject matter of the disagreement (as defined in Item 16F(a)(1)(iv) of Form 20-F and related instructions to that item), or (2) reportable events (as defined in Item 16F(a)(1)(v) of Form 20-F).

The audit reports of Deloitte on the consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles. The audit reports of Deloitte on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 did not contain any adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope, or accounting principles.

We have provided Deloitte with a copy of the foregoing disclosure and have requested that Deloitte furnish to us a letter addressed to the SEC stating whether or not Deloitte agrees with such disclosure. A copy of the letter is filed as Exhibit 15.1 to this annual report on Form 20-F.

During the two fiscal years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020 and through April 28, 2021, neither we nor any person on our behalf consulted with PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP regarding either (i) the application of accounting principles to a specific completed or proposed transaction or regarding the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on our consolidated financial statements and no written or oral advice was provided that PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP concluded was an important factor considered by us in reaching a decision as to the accounting, auditing or financial reporting issues, or (ii) any matter being the subject of disagreement (as defined in Item 16F(a)(1)(iv) of Form 20-F and related instructions to that item) or reportable events (as defined in Item 16F(a)(1)(v) of Form 20-F).

Item 16G. Corporate Governance.

Our Company was incorporated under the PRC Company Law on September 10, 2002 as a joint stock company with limited liability. Our ADSs are listed on the NYSE. Our H shares are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. As a foreign private issuer, in respect of its listing on the NYSE, we are not required to comply with all corporate governance rules of Section 303A of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE. However, we are required to disclose the significant differences between our corporate governance practices and the listing standards followed by NYSE-listed U.S. companies.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 303A.01 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE, the Board of Directors of all NYSE-listed U.S. companies must be made up by a majority of independent directors. Under applicable PRC and Hong Kong laws and regulations, our Board is not required to be formed with a majority of independent directors. As a listed company on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, we need to comply with the Listing Rules, which require that at least one-third of the board of directors of a listed company in Hong Kong be independent non-executive directors. Our Board currently consists of ten Directors, of which four are Independent Directors, making the number of Independent Directors exceeds one-third of the total number of Directors on the Board, in compliance with the requirements of the Listing Rules. These independent directors satisfy the requirements on “independence” under the Listing Rules, which, however, differ from the requirements in Section 303A.02 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE.

Section 303A.03 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE provides that listed companies must schedule regular executive sessions in which non-management directors meet without management participation. As a listed company on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the Company is subject to the requirement under the Listing Rules that the chairman of the board should hold meetings at least annually with the independent non-executive directors without the presence of other directors. It has been our practice that our Chairman holds a meeting to communicate with Independent Non-Executive Directors without the presence of other Directors at least annually to ensure the views and opinions of Independent Non-Executive Directors are expressed. In addition, when a Board meeting considers a matter in which a substantial shareholder or a Director has a conflict of interest, the Independent Directors with no material interest in such matter must be present.

Section 303A.04 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE provides that a listed company must have a nominating/corporate governance committee that consists entirely of independent directors and the nominating/corporate governance committee of a listed company must have a written charter that addresses the committee’s purpose and responsibilities, which shall include, among others, the development and recommendation of corporate governance guidelines to the board of directors, and an annual performance evaluation of the committee. The Listing Rules also contain a code provision that the listed companies should establish a nomination committee which is chaired by the chairman of the board or an independent non-executive director and consists of a majority of independent non-executive directors. The Company’s Nomination Committee was established in 2005 with a written charter that specifies its duties and authorities. In addition, our Board is in charge of developing our corporate governance guidelines.

Section 303A.05 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE provides that a listed company must have a compensation committee that consists entirely of independent directors and the compensation committee must have a written charter that addresses the committee’s purpose and responsibilities and an annual performance evaluation of the compensation committee. The Listing Rules require that the listed companies should establish a remuneration committee which is chaired by an independent non-executive director and consists of a majority of independent non-executive directors. The Company’s Remuneration Committee has a written charter that specifies its duties and authorities.

Section 303A.07 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE also provides that if an audit committee member simultaneously serves on the audit committee of more than three public companies, and the listed company does not limit the number of audit committees on which its audit committee members serve to three or less, then, the board of directors of the listed company must determine that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the audit committee of the listed company and disclose such determination. The Company is not required, under applicable PRC laws or the Listing Rules to make such determination, and the Company has not made such determination.

Section 303A.10 of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE provides that listed companies must adopt and disclose a code of business conduct and ethics for directors, officers and employees. While the Company is not required to adopt any similar code under the applicable PRC laws or the Listing Rules, the Company, as required under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, has adopted a code of ethics that is applicable to the Chief Executive Officer, President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Vice Presidents, general managers, controller and other senior officers of the Company. We also adopted a code of ethics for our employees.

Section 303A.12(a) of the Listed Company Manual of the NYSE provides that each listed company's chief executive officer must certify to the NYSE each year that he or she is not aware of any violation by the company of NYSE corporate governance listing standards. The Chief Executive Officer of the Company is not required, under the applicable PRC laws or the Listing Rules, to make similar certifications.

Item 16H. Mine Safety Disclosure.

Not applicable.

Item 17. Financial Statements.

We have elected to provide the financial statements and related information specified in Item 18 in lieu of Item 17.

Item 18. Financial Statements.

See "Index to Consolidated Financial Statements" for a list of all financial statements filed as part of this annual report.

Item 19. Exhibits.

- (a) See Item 18 for a list of the financial statements filed as part of this annual report.
- (b) Exhibits to this annual report:

<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1	<u>Articles of Association (as amended) (English translation)</u>
2.1	Form of H Share Certificate. ^{(1)(P)}
2.2	Form of Deposit Agreement among the Registrant, the Bank of New York, as depository, and Owners and Beneficial Owners from time to time of American Depositary Shares evidenced by American Depositary Receipts issued thereunder, including the form of American Depositary Receipt. ^{(2)(P)}
2.3	We agree to provide the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, copies of instruments defining the rights of holders of our long-term debt.
2.4	<u>Description of rights of each class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.</u>
4.1	<u>Supplemental Trademark License Agreement, dated October 26, 2003, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽³⁾
4.2	<u>Sale and Purchase Agreement, dated October 26, 2003, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽³⁾
4.3	<u>Supplemental Connected Transactions Agreement, dated October 26, 2003, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽³⁾
4.4	<u>Form of Underwriting Agreement.</u> ⁽⁴⁾
4.5	<u>Supplemental Trademark License Agreement, dated April 13, 2004, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽⁵⁾
4.6	<u>Supplemental Connected Transactions Agreement, dated April 13, 2004, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽⁶⁾
4.7	<u>Conditional Sale and Purchase Agreement, dated April 13, 2004, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽⁷⁾
4.8	<u>Supplemental Conditional Sale and Purchase Agreement, dated June 9, 2004, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽⁸⁾
4.9	<u>Supplemental Centralized Services Agreement, dated December 15, 2005, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽⁹⁾
4.10	<u>Property Leasing Framework Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.11	<u>IT Services Framework Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.12	<u>Equipment Procurement Services Framework Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.13	<u>Engineering Framework Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.14	<u>Community Services Framework Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.15	<u>Ancillary Telecommunications Service Framework Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.16	<u>Strategic Agreement, dated August 30, 2006, between the Registrant and China Communications Services Corporation Limited (English summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.17	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Strategic Agreement, dated June 15, 2007, between the Registrant and the China Communications Services Corporation Limited (English Summary).</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.18	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Strategic Agreement, dated October 29, 2009, between the Registrant and the China Communications Services Corporation Limited (English Summary).</u> ⁽¹³⁾
4.19	<u>Master Agreement for sales and purchase of equity interests in China Telecom (Hong Kong) International Limited, China Telecom System Group Integration Co., Ltd. and China Telecom (USA) Corporation, dated June 15, 2007, between China Telecommunications Corporation and China Telecom Corporation Limited.</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.20	<u>Stock Purchase Agreement in respect of sales and purchase of shares in China Telecom (USA) Corporation, dated June 15, 2007, between China Telecommunications Corporation and China Telecom Corporation Limited.</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾

<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.21	<u>Share Purchase Agreement in respect of sales and purchase of shares in China Telecom (Hong Kong) International Limited, dated June 15, 2007, between China Telecommunications Corporation and China Telecom Corporation Limited.</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.22	<u>Share Transfer Agreement in respect of transfer of shareholdings in China Telecom System Integration Co., Limited, dated June 15, 2007, among China Telecommunications Corporation, China Huaxin Post and Telecommunications Economy Development Center and China Telecom Corporation Limited.</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾
4.23	<u>Agreement on the Transfer of the Entire Equity Interests in China Telecom Group Beijing Corporation, dated March 31, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English Translation).</u> ⁽¹¹⁾
4.24	<u>Form Merger Agreement, dated January 10, 2008, between the Registrant and each of certain subsidiaries wholly owned by the Registrant (English Translation).</u> ⁽¹¹⁾
4.25	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Centralized Services Agreement, dated December 26, 2007, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English Summary).</u> ⁽¹¹⁾
4.26	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Centralized Services Agreement, dated March 31, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English Summary).</u> ⁽¹¹⁾
4.27	<u>Framework Agreement for Transfer of CDMA Business, dated June 2, 2008, among the Registrant, China Unicom Limited and China Unicom Corporation Limited (English Summary).</u> ⁽¹¹⁾
4.28	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Interconnection Settlement Agreement, dated July 27, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.29	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the IT Services Framework Agreement, dated December 15, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.30	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, dated December 15, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.31	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Engineering Framework Agreement, dated July 27, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.32	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Community Services Framework Agreement, dated December 15, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.33	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, dated July 27, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.34	<u>CDMA Network Capacity Lease Agreement, dated July 27, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.35	<u>Agreement for Transfer of CDMA Business, dated July 27, 2008, between the Registrant, China Unicom Limited and China Unicom Corporation Limited (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.36	<u>Merger Agreement, dated November 14, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation Beijing Corporation (English translation).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.37	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement, dated July 10, 2008, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.38	<u>Underwriting Agreement regarding Medium Term Notes of China Telecom Corporation Limited in 2008, dated April 15, 2008, among the Registrant, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited and CITIC Securities Company Limited (English summary), and its Supplemental Agreement, dated December 15, 2008 (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.39	<u>Underwriting Agreement regarding the First Tranche of Short-Term Commercial Paper of China Telecom Corporation Limited in 2008, dated July 7, 2008, among the Registrant, Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. and China Development Bank (English summary).</u> ⁽¹²⁾
4.40	<u>Underwriting Agreement regarding the First Tranche of Medium Term Notes of China Telecom Corporation Limited in 2009, dated September 8, 2009 (as supplemented on September 9, 2009), among the Registrant, Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. and Agricultural Bank of China Limited (English summary).</u> ⁽¹³⁾

<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.41	<u>Underwriting Agreement regarding the Second Tranche of Medium Term Notes of China Telecom Corporation Limited in 2009, dated October 19, 2009 (as supplemented respectively on October 20, 2009 and December 4, 2009), among the Registrant, Agriculture Bank of China Limited and China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. (English summary).⁽¹³⁾</u>
4.42	<u>Underwriting Agreement regarding the Third Tranche of Medium Term Notes of China Telecom Corporation Limited in 2009, dated October 19, 2009 (as supplemented respectively on October 20, 2009 and December 4, 2009), among the Registrant, China Construction Bank Corporation and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd. (English summary).⁽¹³⁾</u>
4.43	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Centralized Services Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.44	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Interconnection Settlement Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.45	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Property Leasing Framework Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.46	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the IT services Framework Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.47	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Community Services Framework Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.48	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.49	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Engineering Framework Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.50	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.51	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the CDMA Network Capacity Lease Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.52	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Trademark License Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.53	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement, dated August 25, 2010, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁴⁾</u>
4.54	<u>Agreement on the Acquisition of CDMA Network Assets and Associated Liabilities, dated August 20, 2012, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)⁽¹⁵⁾</u>
4.55	<u>Agreement on the Disposal of Equity Interest in E-surfing Media Co., Ltd., dated April 26, 2013, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English Summary)⁽¹⁵⁾</u>
4.56	<u>Agreement on the Acquisition of China Telecom (Europe) Limited, dated December 16, 2013, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation⁽¹⁶⁾</u>
4.57	<u>Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement, dated December 16, 2013, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English Summary)⁽¹⁶⁾</u>

<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.58	<u>Promoters' Agreement for China Communications Facilities Services Corporation Limited (currently known as China Tower Corporation Limited) dated July 11, 2014, among the Registrant, China United Network Communications Corporation Limited and China Mobile Communication Company Limited</u> ⁽¹⁷⁾
4.59	<u>Agreement on Purchase of Stock Tower-related Assets by Issuance of Shares and Payment of Cash, dated October 14, 2015, among the Registrant, the Tower Company, CUCL, CMCL, CRHC and other parties thereto (English translation)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.60	<u>Share Subscription Agreement, dated January 29, 2016, between the Registrant and the Tower Company (English translation)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.61	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Centralized Services Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.62	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Interconnection Settlement Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.63	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Property Leasing Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.64	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the IT Services Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.65	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Community Services Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.66	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.67	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Engineering Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.68	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.69	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.70	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement, dated September 23, 2015, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽¹⁸⁾
4.71	<u>Lease Agreement, dated July 8, 2016, between the Registrant and the Tower Company (English translation)</u> ⁽¹⁹⁾
4.72	<u>Supplemental Lease Agreement, dated February 1, 2018, between the Registrant and the Tower Company (English translation)</u> ⁽²⁰⁾
4.73	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Centralized Services Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽²¹⁾
4.74	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Interconnection Settlement Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽²¹⁾
4.75	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Property Leasing Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary)</u> ⁽²¹⁾

<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.76	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the IT Services Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.77	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Community Services Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.78	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.79	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Engineering Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.80	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.81	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Internet Applications Channel Services Framework Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.82	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Optic Fiber Leasing Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.83	<u>Supplemental Agreement to the Trademark License Agreement, dated August 20, 2018, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.84	<u>China Telecommunications Corporation Financial Services Framework Agreement, dated February 1, 2019, between China Telecommunications Corporation and China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd. (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.85	<u>China Telecom Financial Services Framework Agreement, dated February 1, 2019, between the Registrant and China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd. (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.86	<u>CCS Financial Services Framework Agreement, dated February 1, 2019, between China Communications Services Corporation Limited and China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd. (English summary) ⁽²¹⁾</u>
4.87	<u>5G Network Co-Build and Co-Share Framework Cooperation Agreement, dated September 9, 2019, between the Registrant and China United Network Communications Corporation Limited (English translation)⁽²²⁾</u>
4.88	<u>Agreement on the Disposal of Equity Interest in E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd, dated March 26, 2021, between the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation (English Summary)</u>
4.89	<u>Agreements on the Disposal of Equity Interest in China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited, dated March 26, 2021, among the Registrant, China Telecom Global Limited, China Telecommunications Corporation and Guang Hua Properties Limited (English Summary)</u>
8.1	<u>List of Significant Subsidiaries of the Registrant as of December 31, 2020</u>
11.1	<u>Code of Ethics (English translation).⁽³⁾</u>
12.1	<u>Certification of CEO pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)</u>
12.2	<u>Certification of CFO pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)</u>
13.1	<u>Certification of CEO pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b)</u>
13.2	<u>Certification of CFO pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b)</u>
15.1	<u>Letter to SEC from Deloitte</u>

<u>Exhibits</u>	<u>Description</u>
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

- (1) Incorporated by reference to our Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-100042), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 5, 2002.
 - (2) Incorporated by reference to our Registration Statement on Form F-6 (File No. 333-100617), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to American Depositary Shares representing our H shares.
 - (3) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (4) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to our Form 6-K filed on April 29, 2004
 - (5) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.2 to our Form 6-K filed on April 29, 2004.
 - (6) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.3 to our Form 6-K filed on April 29, 2004.
 - (7) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.5 to our Form 6-K filed on April 29, 2004.
 - (8) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (9) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (10) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (11) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (12) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (13) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (14) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (15) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (16) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (17) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (18) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (19) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (20) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (21) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
 - (22) Incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019 (File No. 001-31517), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- (P) Paper filing.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of China Telecom Corporation Limited:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of China Telecom Corporation Limited and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2019 and 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2020, in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2020, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 9, 2021, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Changes in Accounting Policies

As discussed in Note 3(n) to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has changed its method of accounting for leases in 2019 due to adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard 16, “*Leases*”.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM (continued)

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of China Telecom Corporation Limited:

Critical Audit Matters

The critical audit matters communicated below are matters arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that were communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relate to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matters below, providing separate opinions on the critical audit matters or on the accounts or disclosures to which they relate.

Revenue Recognition—Refer to Notes 3(m) and 27 to the consolidated financial statements

Critical Audit Matter Description

Revenues from the provision of telecommunications services are, in general, recognized as performance obligations are satisfied. Fees for telecommunications packages are recognized for each service type in the packages. The data records are captured and the revenue transactions are recorded by the IT billing systems.

We identified revenue recognition as a critical audit matter because there is an inherent industry risk around the accuracy of revenue recorded by the IT billing systems given the complexity of the systems and the large volumes of data processed by the systems. This required an increased extent of effort, including the need for us to involve our IT specialists, to identify, test, and evaluate the Company's systems, software applications, and automated controls.

How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit

Our procedures in relation to revenue recognition, comprising both control testing and substantive procedures on a sample basis, included the following, among others:

- With the assistance of our IT specialist, we tested:
 - the IT environment in which the billing systems reside, including interface controls between different IT applications.
 - the key controls over the calculation of the amounts billed to customers and the capturing and recording of the revenue transactions.
 - the key controls over the authorization of the rate changes and the input of such rates to the billing systems.
 - the end-to-end reconciliations from data records to the billing systems and to the general ledger.
 - the material journals processed between the billing systems and the general ledger.
 - the accuracy of customer bill calculations and the respective revenue transactions recorded.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM (continued)

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of China Telecom Corporation Limited:

Critical Audit Matters (continued)

Impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets within the cash-generating unit—Refer to Notes 3(h), 12 and 43 to the consolidated financial statements

Critical Audit Matter Description

The Company's evaluation of cash-generating unit for impairment involves the comparison of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit, which is the greater of its value in use and fair value less costs of disposal, to its carrying value. In determining the value in use, expected future cash flows generated by the asset are discounted to their present value, which requires significant judgment relating to level of revenue, amount of operating costs and applicable discount rate. Changes in these estimates could have a significant impact on the carrying value of the assets and could result in additional impairment charge or reversal of impairment in future periods.

We identified the impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets within the cash-generating unit as a critical audit matter because the impairment assessment of cash-generating unit requires the management to exercise significant judgments. This required a high degree of auditor judgment and an increased extent of effort, including the need to involve our valuation specialists, when performing audit procedures to evaluate the reasonableness of management's estimates and assumptions related to the estimation of level of revenue, amount of operating costs and applicable discount rate.

How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit

Our procedures in relation to the impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets within the cash-generating unit included, among others:

- We tested the effectiveness of controls over management's impairment assessment of cash-generating unit, such as controls related to management's selection of the discount rate and key inputs to the projected cash flows, which include the number of subscribers, the average revenue per subscriber and amount of operating costs.
- With the assistance of our valuation specialists, we assessed the discount rate and assumptions used by the management in the value in use model and compared the discount rate used by the management to externally derived data and our own assessments of key inputs used in deriving the discount rate.
- With the assistance of our valuation specialists, we compared the key inputs to the projected cash flows, such as the number of subscribers, the average revenue per subscriber and amount of operating costs, with corresponding historical data to evaluate the reasonableness of the management's projections.
- We assessed and challenged the significant judgments and estimates used in the management's impairment assessment and evaluated the sensitivity analysis performed by the management.

/s/ Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China
March 9, 2021

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2013.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2020
(Amounts in millions)

	Notes	December 31, 2019 RMB	December 31, 2020 RMB
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	20,791	23,684
Short-term bank deposits and restricted cash		3,628	9,408
Accounts receivable, net	5	21,489	21,502
Contract assets	6	474	604
Inventories	7	2,880	3,317
Prepayments and other current assets	8	22,219	25,167
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		39	—
Income tax recoverable		1,662	334
Total current assets		73,182	84,016
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment, net	9	410,008	418,605
Construction in progress	10	59,206	48,425
Right-of-use assets	11	61,549	59,457
Goodwill	12	29,923	29,920
Intangible assets	13	16,349	18,508
Interests in associates	14	39,192	40,303
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		—	73
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	15	1,458	1,073
Deferred tax assets	16	7,577	8,164
Other assets	17	4,687	6,552
Total non-current assets		629,949	631,080
Total assets		703,131	715,096
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Current liabilities			
Short-term debt	19	42,527	27,994
Current portion of long-term debt	19	4,444	1,126
Accounts payable	20	102,616	107,578
Accrued expenses and other payables	21	48,516	56,775
Contract liabilities	22	54,388	63,849
Income tax payable		243	350
Current portion of lease liabilities	23	11,569	13,192
Current portion of deferred revenues	24	358	278
Total current liabilities		264,661	271,142
Non-current liabilities			
Long-term debt	19	32,051	24,222
Lease liabilities	23	30,577	27,455
Deferred revenues	24	1,097	861
Deferred tax liabilities	16	19,078	24,208
Other non-current liabilities		627	1,033
Total non-current liabilities		83,430	77,779
Total liabilities		348,091	348,921
Equity			
Share capital	25	80,932	80,932
Reserves	26	271,578	282,524
Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		352,510	363,456
Non-controlling interests		2,530	2,719
Total equity		355,040	366,175
Total liabilities and equity		703,131	715,096

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020
(Amounts in millions, except per share data)

	Notes	Year ended December 31,		
		2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Operating revenues	27	377,124	375,734	393,561
Operating expenses				
Depreciation and amortization		(75,493)	(88,145)	(90,240)
Network operations and support	28	(116,062)	(109,799)	(119,517)
Selling, general and administrative		(59,422)	(57,361)	(55,059)
Personnel expenses	29	(59,736)	(63,567)	(65,989)
Other operating expenses	30	(37,697)	(27,792)	(29,074)
Impairment loss on property, plant and equipment	9	—	—	(5,042)
Total operating expenses		<u>(348,410)</u>	<u>(346,664)</u>	<u>(364,921)</u>
Operating income		28,714	29,070	28,640
Net finance costs	31	(2,708)	(3,639)	(3,014)
Investment income		38	30	60
Income from investments in associates		2,104	1,573	1,701
Earnings before income tax		28,148	27,034	27,387
Income tax	32	(6,810)	(6,322)	(6,307)
Profit for the year		<u>21,338</u>	<u>20,712</u>	<u>21,080</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year				
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>				
Change in fair value of investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income		(324)	604	(385)
Deferred tax on change in fair value of investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income		82	(147)	97
		<u>(242)</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>(288)</u>
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>				
Exchange difference on translation of financial statements of subsidiaries outside mainland China		154	102	(312)
Share of other comprehensive income of associates		(7)	(2)	(4)
		<u>147</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>(316)</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		<u>(95)</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>(604)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>21,243</u>	<u>21,269</u>	<u>20,476</u>
Profit attributable to				
Equity holders of the Company		21,210	20,517	20,850
Non-controlling interests		128	195	230
Profit for the year		<u>21,338</u>	<u>20,712</u>	<u>21,080</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to				
Equity holders of the Company		21,115	21,074	20,244
Non-controlling interests		128	195	232
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>21,243</u>	<u>21,269</u>	<u>20,476</u>
Basic earnings per share	34	<u>0.26</u>	<u>0.25</u>	<u>0.26</u>
Number of shares (in millions)	34	<u>80,932</u>	<u>80,932</u>	<u>80,932</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020
(Amounts in millions)

	Attributable to equity holders of the Company									Non-controlling interests	Total Equity	
	Notes	Share capital	Capital reserve	Share premium	Surplus reserves	General risk reserve	Other reserves	Exchange reserve	Retained earnings			Total
		RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB
Balance as of January 1, 2018		80,932	17,126	10,746	74,599	—	414	(881)	145,906	328,842	829	329,671
Profit for the year		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,210	21,210	128	21,338
Other comprehensive income for the year		—	—	—	—	—	(249)	154	—	(95)	—	(95)
Total comprehensive income for the year		—	—	—	—	—	(249)	154	21,210	21,115	128	21,243
Disposal of investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income		—	—	—	—	—	(5)	—	5	—	—	—
Disposal of a subsidiary		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Contribution from non-controlling interests		—	680	—	—	—	—	—	—	680	265	945
Reduction of capital by non-controlling interests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(20)	(20)
Distribution to non-controlling interests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(177)	(177)
Dividends	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(7,568)	(7,568)	—	(7,568)
Appropriations to statutory surplus reserve	26	—	—	—	1,875	—	—	—	(1,875)	—	—	—
Balance as of December 31, 2018		80,932	17,806	10,746	76,474	—	160	(727)	157,678	343,069	1,030	344,099
Change in accounting policy		—	—	—	(243)	—	—	—	(2,197)	(2,440)	(3)	(2,443)
Balance as of January 1, 2019, as restated		80,932	17,806	10,746	76,231	—	160	(727)	155,481	340,629	1,027	341,656
Profit for the year		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,517	20,517	195	20,712
Other comprehensive income for the year		—	—	—	—	—	455	102	—	557	—	557
Total comprehensive income for the year		—	—	—	—	—	455	102	20,517	21,074	195	21,269
Contribution from non-controlling interests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500	1,500
Acquisition of non-controlling interests		—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	(11)	(8)
Distribution to non-controlling interests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(181)	(181)
Share of an associate's other changes in reserves		—	(305)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(305)	—	(305)
Dividends	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(8,891)	(8,891)	—	(8,891)
Appropriations to statutory surplus reserve	26	—	—	—	1,812	—	—	—	(1,812)	—	—	—
Appropriations to general risk reserve	26	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	(23)	—	—	—
Balance as of December 31, 2019		80,932	17,504	10,746	78,043	23	615	(625)	165,272	352,510	2,530	355,040
Profit for the year		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,850	20,850	230	21,080
Other comprehensive income for the year		—	—	—	—	—	(294)	(312)	—	(606)	2	(604)
Total comprehensive income for the year		—	—	—	—	—	(294)	(312)	20,850	20,244	232	20,476
Acquisition of non-controlling interests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	(1)
Distribution to non-controlling interests		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(42)	(42)
Share of associates' other changes in reserves		—	(36)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(36)	—	(36)
Dividends	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(9,262)	(9,262)	—	(9,262)
Appropriations to statutory surplus reserve	26	—	—	—	1,811	—	—	—	(1,811)	—	—	—
Appropriations to general risk reserve	26	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	(33)	—	—	—
Balance as of December 31, 2020		80,932	17,468	10,746	79,854	56	321	(937)	175,016	363,456	2,719	366,175

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020
(Amounts in millions)

	Notes	Year ended December 31,		
		2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Net cash from operating activities	(a)	99,298	112,600	132,260
Cash flows used in investing activities				
Capital expenditure		(83,835)	(82,853)	(88,748)
Payments for lease prepayments / right-of-use assets		(20)	(310)	(220)
Purchase of investments		(328)	(478)	(74)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		1,866	2,514	863
Proceeds from disposal of lease prepayments / right-of-use assets		45	115	24
Proceeds from disposal of investments		96	296	47
Net cash outflow from disposal of subsidiaries		(1)	—	—
Purchase of short-term bank deposits		(7,726)	(5,119)	(4,664)
Maturity of short-term bank deposits		3,949	8,621	5,695
Net cash used in investing activities		(85,954)	(77,214)	(87,077)
Cash flows used in financing activities				
Repayments of principal of finance lease obligations / lease liabilities		(73)	(10,699)	(12,738)
Proceeds from bank debt and other loans		97,829	103,315	81,049
Repayments of bank debt and other loans		(106,923)	(120,107)	(106,982)
Payment of the acquisition price of the Eighth Acquisition (Note 1)		(87)	—	—
Payment of dividends		(7,568)	(8,891)	(9,262)
Cash distributions to non-controlling interests		(177)	(181)	(42)
Payment for the acquisition of non-controlling interests		(119)	(8)	(1)
Contribution from non-controlling interests		855	1,590	—
Advanced payment received in respect of contribution from non-controlling interest		—	—	978
Net deposits with Finance Company	(b)	—	4,098	5,728
Increase in statutory reserve deposits placed by Finance Company	(b)	—	(405)	(837)
Reduction of capital by non-controlling interests		(20)	—	—
Net cash used in financing activities		(16,283)	(31,288)	(42,107)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents		(2,939)	4,098	3,076
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		19,410	16,666	20,791
Effect of changes in foreign exchange rate		195	27	(183)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		16,666	20,791	23,684

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018, 2019 AND 2020
(Amounts in millions)

(a) Reconciliation of earnings before income tax to net cash from operating activities

	Year ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Earnings before income tax	28,148	27,034	27,387
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortization	75,493	88,145	90,240
Impairment loss on property, plant and equipment	—	—	5,042
Impairment losses for financial assets and other items, net of reversal	2,050	1,695	1,512
Write down of inventories, net of reversal	66	61	35
Investment income	(38)	(30)	(60)
Income from investments in associates	(2,104)	(1,573)	(1,701)
Interest income	(306)	(492)	(582)
Interest expense	3,093	4,090	3,433
Net foreign exchange (gain) / loss	(79)	41	163
Net loss on retirement and disposal of long-lived assets	1,757	2,710	3,827
Increase in accounts receivable	(1,848)	(2,601)	(1,771)
Decrease / (increase) in contract assets	170	4	(132)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(622)	1,891	(474)
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments and other current assets	(1,412)	1,045	(116)
Decrease / (increase) in restricted cash	63	89	(6,097)
Decrease / (increase) in other assets	271	414	(2,971)
(Decrease) / increase in accounts payable	(3,181)	(2,657)	5,689
Increase in accrued expenses and other payables	9,842	614	1,934
(Decrease) / increase in contract liabilities	(6,414)	(1,412)	9,516
Decrease in deferred revenues	(138)	(90)	(55)
Cash generated from operations	<u>104,811</u>	<u>118,978</u>	<u>134,819</u>
Interest received	306	474	594
Interest paid	(3,094)	(4,200)	(3,524)
Investment income received	34	133	603
Income tax paid	(2,759)	(2,785)	(232)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>99,298</u>	<u>112,600</u>	<u>132,260</u>

(b) “Finance Company” refers to China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the Company established on January 8, 2019, providing capital and financial management services to the member units of China Telecommunications Corporation.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(All Renminbi amounts in millions, except per share data and except otherwise stated)

1. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Principal activities

China Telecom Corporation Limited (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries (hereinafter, collectively referred to as the “Group”) offers a comprehensive range of wireline and mobile telecommunications services including voice, Internet, telecommunications network resource and equipment services, information and application services and other related services. The Group provides wireline telecommunications services and related services in Beijing Municipality, Shanghai Municipality, Guangdong Province, Jiangsu Province, Zhejiang Province, Anhui Province, Fujian Province, Jiangxi Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Chongqing Municipality, Sichuan Province, Hubei Province, Hunan Province, Hainan Province, Guizhou Province, Yunnan Province, Shaanxi Province, Gansu Province, Qinghai Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China (the “PRC”). The Group also provides mobile telecommunications and related services in the mainland China and Macau Special Administrative Region (“Macau”) of the PRC. The Group also provides international telecommunications services, including network equipment services, international Internet access and transit, Internet data center and mobile virtual network services in certain countries and regions of the Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa, South America and North America. The operations of the Group in the mainland China are subject to the supervision by the PRC government and relevant regulations.

Organization

As part of the reorganization (the “Restructuring”) of China Telecommunications Corporation, the Company was incorporated in the PRC on September 10, 2002. In connection with the Restructuring, China Telecommunications Corporation transferred to the Company the wireline telecommunications business and related operations in Shanghai Municipality, Guangdong Province, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province together with the related assets and liabilities in consideration for 68,317 ordinary domestic shares of the Company. The shares issued to China Telecommunications Corporation have a par value of RMB1.00 each and represented the entire registered and issued share capital of the Company at that date.

On December 31, 2003, the Company acquired the entire equity interests in Anhui Telecom Company Limited, Fujian Telecom Company Limited, Jiangxi Telecom Company Limited, Guangxi Telecom Company Limited, Chongqing Telecom Company Limited and Sichuan Telecom Company Limited (collectively the “First Acquired Group”) and certain network management and research and development facilities from China Telecommunications Corporation for a total purchase price of RMB46,000 (hereinafter, referred to as the “First Acquisition”).

On June 30, 2004, the Company acquired the entire equity interests in Hubei Telecom Company Limited, Hunan Telecom Company Limited, Hainan Telecom Company Limited, Guizhou Telecom Company Limited, Yunnan Telecom Company Limited, Shaanxi Telecom Company Limited, Gansu Telecom Company Limited, Qinghai Telecom Company Limited, Ningxia Telecom Company Limited and Xinjiang Telecom Company Limited (collectively the “Second Acquired Group”) from China Telecommunications Corporation for a total purchase price of RMB27,800 (hereinafter, referred to as the “Second Acquisition”).

On June 30, 2007, the Company acquired the entire equity interests in China Telecom System Integration Co., Ltd. (“CTSIF”), China Telecom Global Limited (“CT Global”) and China Telecom (Americas) Corporation (“CT Americas”) (collectively the “Third Acquired Group”) from China Telecommunications Corporation for a total purchase price of RMB1,408 (hereinafter, referred to as the “Third Acquisition”).

On June 30, 2008, the Company acquired the entire equity interest in China Telecom Group Beijing Corporation (“Beijing Telecom”) or the “Fourth Acquired Company”) from China Telecommunications Corporation for a total purchase price of RMB5,557 (hereinafter, referred to as the “Fourth Acquisition”).

On August 1, 2011 and December 1, 2011, the subsidiaries of the Company, E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd (“E-surfing Pay”) and E-surfing Media Co., Ltd. (“E-surfing Media”), acquired the e-commerce business and video media business (collectively the “Fifth Acquired Group”) from China Telecommunications Corporation and its subsidiaries for a total purchase price of RMB61 (hereinafter, referred to as the “Fifth Acquisition”). The Company disposed the equity interest in E-surfing Media to China Telecommunications Corporation in 2013.

On April 30, 2012, the Company acquired the digital trunking business (the “Sixth Acquired Business”) from Besttone Holding Co., Ltd. (“Besttone Holding”), a subsidiary of China Telecommunications Corporation, at a purchase price of RMB48 (hereinafter, referred to as the “Sixth Acquisition”).

On December 31, 2013, CT Global, a subsidiary of the Company, acquired 100% equity interest in China Telecom (Europe) Limited (“CT Europe” or the “Seventh Acquired Company”), a wholly owned subsidiary of China Telecommunications Corporation, from China Telecommunications Corporation for a total purchase price of RMB278 (hereinafter, referred to as the “Seventh Acquisition”).

On October 31, 2017, the Company disposed of the 100% equity interest in Chengdu E-store Technology Co., Ltd (“E-store”), a subsidiary of the Company, to Besttone Holding. The final consideration for the disposal of the equity interest in E-store amounted to RMB251, among which RMB249 was received on November 16, 2017 and the remaining balance of RMB2 was received in 2018.

In December 2017, the Company acquired the satellite communications business (the “Satcom Business”) from China Telecom Satellite Communication Co., Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of China Telecommunications Corporation, at a purchase price of RMB70. In the same month, E-surfing Pay acquired a 100% interest in Shaanxi Zhonghe Hengtai Insurance Agent Limited (currently known as Orange Insurance Agent Limited (“Orange Insurance”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Shaanxi Communications Services Company Limited (“Shaanxi Comservice”, a company ultimately held by China Telecommunications Corporation), from Shaanxi Comservice, at a purchase price of RMB17. The acquisitions of the Satcom Business and Orange Insurance (collectively referred to as the “Eighth Acquired Group”) are two separate transactions, which are collectively referred to as the “Eighth Acquisition”. The total final consideration of the Eighth Acquisition was paid by June 30, 2018.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(All Renminbi amounts in millions, except per share data and except otherwise stated)

1. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)

Organization (continued)

Hereinafter, the First Acquired Group, the Second Acquired Group, the Third Acquired Group, the Fourth Acquired Company, the Fifth Acquired Group, the Sixth Acquired Business, the Seventh Acquired Company and the Eighth Acquired Group are collectively referred to as the “Acquired Groups”.

Basis of presentation

Since the Group and the Acquired Groups are under common control of China Telecommunications Corporation, the Group’s acquisitions of the Acquired Groups have been accounted for as a combination of entities under common control in a manner similar to a pooling-of-interests. Accordingly, the assets and liabilities of these entities have been accounted for at historical amounts and the consolidated financial statements of the Group prior to the acquisitions are combined with the financial statements of the Acquired Groups. The considerations for the acquisition of the Acquired Groups are accounted for as an equity transaction in the consolidated statement of changes in equity.

Merger with subsidiaries

Pursuant to the resolution passed by the Company’s shareholders at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on February 25, 2008, the Company entered into merger agreements with each of the following subsidiaries: Shanghai Telecom Company Limited, Guangdong Telecom Company Limited, Jiangsu Telecom Company Limited, Zhejiang Telecom Company Limited, Anhui Telecom Company Limited, Fujian Telecom Company Limited, Jiangxi Telecom Company Limited, Guangxi Telecom Company Limited, Chongqing Telecom Company Limited, Sichuan Telecom Company Limited, Hubei Telecom Company Limited, Hunan Telecom Company Limited, Hainan Telecom Company Limited, Guizhou Telecom Company Limited, Yunnan Telecom Company Limited, Shaanxi Telecom Company Limited, Gansu Telecom Company Limited, Qinghai Telecom Company Limited, Ningxia Telecom Company Limited and Xinjiang Telecom Company Limited. In addition, the Company entered into merger agreements with Beijing Telecom on July 1, 2008. Pursuant to these merger agreements, the Company merged with these subsidiaries and the assets, liabilities and business operations of these subsidiaries were transferred to the Company’s branches in the respective regions.

2. APPLICATION OF NEW AND AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (“IFRSs”)

In the current year, the Group has applied, for the first time, the Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards and the following amendments to IFRSs issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (the “IASB”) that are mandatorily effective for the current year:

- Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8, “Definition of Material”
- Amendments to IFRS 3, “Definition of a Business”
- Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7, “Interest Rate Benchmark Reform”

In addition, the Group has early applied the Amendment to IFRS 16, “*Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions*”.

Except as described below, the application of the Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards and the above amendments to IFRSs in the current year has had no material effect on the Group’s consolidated financial statements.

2.1 Impacts on early application of Amendment to IFRS 16, “*Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions*”

The Group has applied the amendment for the first time in the current year. The amendment introduces a new practical expedient for lessees to elect not to assess whether a Covid-19-related rent concession is a lease modification. The practical expedient only applies to rent concessions occurring as a direct consequence of Covid-19 that meets all of the following conditions:

- the change in lease payments results in revised consideration for the lease that is substantially the same as, or less than, the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change;
- any reduction in lease payments affects only payments originally due on or before June 30, 2021; and
- there is no substantive change to other terms and conditions of the lease.

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2. APPLICATION OF NEW AND AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (“IFRSs”)
(continued)

2.1 Impacts on early application of Amendment to IFRS 16, “Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions” (continued)

As a result of applying the practical expedient, the Group accounts for changes in lease payments resulting from rent concessions the same way it would account for the changes applying IFRS 16, “Leases” (“IFRS 16”) if the changes were not a lease modification. Forgiveness or waiver of lease payments are accounted for as variable lease payments. The related lease liabilities are adjusted to reflect the amounts forgiven or waived with a corresponding adjustment recognised in the profit or loss in the period in which the event occurs.

The application has no impact to the opening reserves as of January 1, 2020. The amounts related to changes in lease payments that resulted from rent concessions in the profit or loss for the current year was not material to the consolidated financial statements.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRSs as issued by the IASB. For the purpose of preparation of the consolidated financial statements, information is considered material if such information is reasonably expected to influence decisions made by primary users. The consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared on a going concern basis. These consolidated financial statements were approved and authorized by the Board of Directors on March 9, 2021.

The consolidated financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis as modified by the revaluation of certain financial instruments measured at fair value (Note 3(k)).

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that management believes are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments made by management in the application of IFRSs that have significant effect on the consolidated financial statements and major sources of estimation uncertainty are discussed in Note 43.

(b) Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements comprise the Company and its subsidiaries and the Group’s interests in associates.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Company. When fulfilling the following conditions, the Company has control over an entity: (a) has power over the investee, (b) has exposure, or rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee, and (c) has the ability to use its power over the investee to affect the amount of the investor’s returns.

When assessing whether the Company has power over that entity, only substantive rights (held by the Company and other parties) are considered.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(b) Basis of consolidation (continued)

The financial results of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases, and the profit attributable to non-controlling interests is separately presented on the face of the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as an allocation of the profit or loss for the year between the non-controlling interests and the equity holders of the Company. Non-controlling interests represent the equity in subsidiaries not attributable directly or indirectly to the Company. For each business combination, other than business combination under common control, the Group measures the non-controlling interests at the proportionate share, of the acquisition date, of fair value of the subsidiary's net identifiable assets. Non-controlling interests at the end of the reporting period are presented in the consolidated statement of financial position within equity and consolidated statement of changes in equity, separately from the equity of the Company's equity holders. Changes in the Group's interests in a subsidiary that do not result in a loss of control are accounted for as equity transactions, whereby adjustments are made to the amounts of controlling and non-controlling interests within consolidated equity to reflect the change in relative interests, but no adjustments are made to goodwill and no gain or loss is recognized. When the Group loses control of a subsidiary, it is accounted for as a disposal of the entire interest in that subsidiary, with a resulting gain or loss being recognized in profit or loss. Any interest retained in that former subsidiary at the date when control is lost is recognized at fair value and this amount is regarded as the fair value on initial recognition of a financial asset or, when appropriate, the cost on initial recognition of an investment in an associate or a joint venture.

An associate is an entity, not being a subsidiary, in which the Group exercises significant influence, but not control, over its management. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee but is not control or joint control over those policies.

An investment in an associate is accounted for in the consolidated financial statements under the equity method and is initially recorded at cost, adjusted for any excess of the Group's share of the acquisition-date fair values of the investee's net identifiable assets over the cost of the investment (if any) after reassessment. Thereafter, the investment is adjusted for the Group's equity share of the post-acquisition changes in the associate's net assets and any impairment loss relating to the investment. When the Group ceases to have significant influence over an associate, it is accounted for as a disposal of the entire interest in that investee, with a resulting gain or loss being recognized in profit or loss. Any interest retained in that former investee at the date when significant influence is lost is recognized at fair value and this amount is regarded as the fair value on initial recognition of a financial asset.

All significant intercompany balances and transactions and unrealized gains arising from intercompany transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealized gains arising from transactions with associates are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the entity. Unrealized losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealized gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

(c) Foreign currencies

The accompanying consolidated financial statements are presented in Renminbi ("RMB"). The functional currency of the Company and its subsidiaries in mainland China is RMB. The functional currency of the Group's foreign operations is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the foreign operations operate. Transactions denominated in currencies other than the functional currency during the year are translated into the functional currency at the applicable rates of exchange prevailing on the transaction dates. Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated into the functional currency using the applicable exchange rates at the end of the reporting period. The resulting exchange differences, other than those capitalized as construction in progress (Note 3(e)), are recognized as income or expense in profit or loss. For the periods presented, no exchange differences were capitalized.

When preparing the Group's consolidated financial statements, the results of operations of the Group's foreign operations are translated into RMB at average rate prevailing during the year. Assets and liabilities of the Group's foreign operations are translated into RMB at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the end of the reporting period. The resulting exchange differences are recognized in other comprehensive income and accumulated separately in equity in the exchange reserve.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost, less subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (Note 3(h)). The cost of an asset comprises its purchase price, any directly attributable costs of bringing the asset to working condition and location for its intended use and the cost of borrowed funds used during the periods of construction. Expenditure incurred after the asset has been put into operation, including cost of replacing part of such an item, is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property, plant and equipment and the cost can be measured reliably. All other expenditure is expensed as it is incurred.

Gains or losses arising from retirement or disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the respective asset and are recognized as income or expense in the profit or loss on the date of disposal.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life on a straight-line basis, after taking into account its estimated residual value, as follows:

	Depreciable lives primarily range from
Buildings and improvements	8 to 30 years
Telecommunications network plant and equipment	5 to 10 years
Furniture, fixture, motor vehicles and other equipment	5 to 10 years

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, the cost of the item is allocated on a reasonable basis between the parts and each part is depreciated separately. Both the useful life of an asset and its residual value are reviewed annually.

(e) Construction in progress

Construction in progress represents buildings, telecommunications network plant and equipment and other equipment and intangible assets under construction and pending installation, and is stated at cost less impairment losses (Note 3(h)). The cost of an item comprises direct costs of construction, capitalization of interest charge, and foreign exchange differences on related borrowed funds to the extent that they are regarded as an adjustment to interest charges during the periods of construction. Capitalization of these costs ceases and the construction in progress is transferred to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets when the asset is substantially ready for its intended use.

No depreciation is provided in respect of construction in progress.

(f) Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost over the Group's interest in the fair value of the net assets acquired in the CDMA business (as defined in Note 12) acquisition.

Goodwill is stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units and is tested annually for impairment (Note 3(h)). On disposal of a cash generating unit during the year, any attributable amount of the goodwill is included in the calculation of the profit or loss on disposal.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Intangible assets

The Group's intangible assets are primarily software.

Software that is not an integral part of any tangible assets, is recorded at cost less subsequent accumulated amortization and impairment losses (Note 3(h)). Amortization of software is mainly calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives, which range from 3 to 5 years.

(h) Impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets

The carrying amounts of the Group's long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, right-of-use assets, intangible assets with finite useful lives, construction in progress and contract costs included in other assets are reviewed periodically to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. These assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their recorded carrying amounts may not be recoverable. For goodwill, the impairment testing is performed annually at each year end.

Before the Group recognizes an impairment loss for assets capitalized as contract costs under IFRS 15, "*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*" ("IFRS 15"), the Group assesses and recognizes any impairment loss on other assets related to the relevant contracts in accordance with applicable standards. Then, impairment loss, if any, for assets capitalized as contract costs is recognized to the extent the carrying amounts exceeds the remaining amount of consideration that the Group expects to receive in exchange for related goods or services less the costs which relate directly to providing those goods or services that have not been recognized as expenses. The assets capitalized as contract costs are then included in the carrying amount of the cash-generating unit to which they belong for the purpose of evaluating impairment of that cash-generating unit.

The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. The recoverable amount of a tangible and an intangible asset is estimated individually. When an asset does not generate cash flows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit). In determining the value in use, expected future cash flows generated by the assets are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted. The goodwill arising from a business combination, for the purpose of impairment testing, is allocated to cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination.

An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognized as an expense in profit or loss. Impairment loss recognized in respect of cash-generating units is allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the units and then to reduce the carrying amounts of the other assets in the unit (group of units) on a pro rata basis.

The Group assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognized for an asset in prior years may no longer exist. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favorable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. A subsequent increase in the recoverable amount of an asset, when the circumstances and events that led to the write-down cease to exist, is recognized as an income in profit or loss. The reversal is reduced by the amount that would have been recognized as depreciation and amortization had the write-down not occurred. An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. For the years presented, no reversal of impairment loss was recognized in profit or loss.

(i) Interests in joint operations

A joint operation is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have the rights to the assets, and obligation for the liabilities, relating to the joint arrangement. Joint control is the contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(i) Interests in joint operations (continued)

The Group accounts for the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses relating to its interest in a joint operation in accordance with the IFRSs applicable to the particular assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses.

When a group entity transacts with a joint operation in which a group entity is a joint operator (such as a sale or contribution of assets), the Group is considered to be conducting the transaction with the other parties to the joint operation, and gains and losses resulting from the transactions are recognised in the consolidated financial statements only to the extent of other parties' interests in the joint operation.

When a group entity transacts with a joint operation in which a group entity is a joint operator (such as a purchase of assets), the Group does not recognise its share of the gains and losses until it resells those assets to a third party.

(j) Inventories

Inventories consist of materials and supplies used in maintaining the telecommunications network and goods for resale. Inventories are valued at cost using the specific identification method or the weighted average cost method, less a provision for obsolescence.

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion, the estimated costs to make the sale and the related tax expenses.

(k) Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognized when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. All regular way purchases or sales of financial assets are recognized and derecognized on a trade date basis. Regular way purchases or sales are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame established by regulation or convention in the market place.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value except for accounts receivable arising from contracts with customers which are initially measured in accordance with IFRS 15. Transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of financial assets and financial liabilities, other than financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL") are added to or deducted from the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities, as appropriate, on initial recognition. Transaction costs directly attributable to the acquisition of financial assets or financial liabilities at FVTPL are recognized immediately in profit or loss.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortized cost of a financial asset or financial liability and of allocating interest income and interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts and payments (including all fees and points paid or received that form an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Financial assets

Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets

(i) Financial assets measured subsequently at amortized cost

Financial assets that meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortized cost:

- the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets (continued)

Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets (continued)

(i) Financial assets measured subsequently at amortized cost (continued)

Interest income is recognized using the effective interest method for financial assets measured subsequently at amortized cost. Interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset, except for financial assets that have subsequently become credit-impaired (see below). For financial assets that have subsequently become credit-impaired, interest income is recognized by applying the effective interest rate to the amortized cost of the financial asset from the next reporting period. If the credit risk on the credit-impaired financial instrument improves so that the financial asset is no longer credit-impaired, interest income is recognized by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset from the beginning of the reporting period following the determination that the asset is no longer credit-impaired.

(ii) Equity instruments designated as of fair value through other comprehensive income (“FVTOCI”)

At initial recognition of a financial asset, the Group may irrevocably elect to present subsequent changes in fair value of an equity investment in OCI, and accumulate in other reserves, if that equity investment is neither held for trading nor contingent consideration recognized by an acquirer in a business combination to which IFRS 3, “*Business Combinations*” applies. These equity instruments are not subject to impairment assessment. The cumulative gain or loss will not be reclassified to profit or loss on disposal of the equity investments, and will be transferred to retained earnings.

Dividend from these investments in equity instruments are recognized in profit or loss when the Group’s right to receive the dividends is established, unless the dividends clearly represent a recovery of part of the cost of the investment. Dividends are included in the “investment income” line item in profit or loss.

(iii) Financial assets at FVTPL

Financial assets that do not meet the criteria for being measured at amortized cost or FVTOCI or designated as FVTOCI are measured at FVTPL.

Financial assets at FVTPL are measured at fair value at the end of each reporting period, with any fair value gains or losses recognized in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognized in profit or loss includes any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset and is included in the “investment income” line item.

Impairment of financial assets and other items subject to impairment assessment under IFRS 9, “Financial Instruments” (“IFRS 9”)

The Group performs impairment assessment under ECL model on financial assets (including accounts receivable, financial assets included in prepayments and other current assets, short-term bank deposit, restricted cash, cash and cash equivalents) and other items (contract assets) which are subject to impairment assessment under IFRS 9. The amount of ECL is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition.

Lifetime ECL represents the ECL that will result from all possible default events over the expected life of the relevant instrument. In contrast, 12-month ECL (“12m ECL”) represents the portion of lifetime ECL that is expected to result from default events that are possible within 12 months after the reporting date. Assessments are done based on the Group’s historical credit loss experience, adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors, general economic conditions and an assessment of both the current conditions at the reporting date as well as the forecast of future conditions.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets (continued)

(iii) Financial assets at FVTPL (continued)

Impairment of financial assets and other items subject to impairment assessment under IFRS 9, "Financial Instruments" ("IFRS 9") (continued)

The Group always recognizes lifetime ECL for accounts receivable and contract assets. The ECL on these assets are assessed individually for debtors with significant balances or credit-impaired debtors, and collectively using a provision matrix with appropriate groupings based on shared credit risk characteristics, nature of services provided as well as type of customers, such as receivable from telephone and Internet subscribers and from enterprise customers.

For all other instruments, the Group measures the loss allowance equal to 12m ECL, unless when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the Group recognizes lifetime ECL. The assessment of whether lifetime ECL should be recognized is based on significant increases in the likelihood or risk of a default occurring since initial recognition.

(i) Significant increase in credit risk

In assessing whether the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Group compares the risk of a default occurring on the financial instrument as of the reporting date with the risk of a default occurring on the financial instrument as of the date of initial recognition. In making this assessment, the Group considers both quantitative and qualitative information that is reasonable and supportable, including historical experience and forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort.

In particular, the following information is taken into account when assessing whether credit risk has increased significantly:

- failure to make payments of principal or interest on their contractually due dates;
- an actual or expected significant deterioration in a financial instrument's external or internal credit rating (if available);
- an actual or expected significant deterioration in the operating results of the debtor; and
- existing or forecast changes in the technological, market, economic or legal environment that have a significant adverse effect on the debtor's ability to meet its obligation to the Group.

(ii) Definition of default

For internal credit risk management, the Group considers an event of default occurs when information developed internally or obtained from external sources indicates that the debtor is unlikely to pay its creditors, including the Group, in full (without taking into account any collaterals held by the Group).

(iii) Credit-impaired financial assets

A financial asset is credit-impaired when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of that financial asset have occurred. Evidence that a financial asset is credit-impaired includes observable data about the following events:

- significant financial difficulty of the issuer or the borrower;
- a breach of contract, such as a default or past due event;
- the lender(s) of the borrower, for economic or contractual reasons relating to the borrower's financial difficulty, having granted to the borrower a concession(s) that the lender(s) would not otherwise consider;
- it is becoming probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganization; or
- the disappearance of an active market for that financial asset because of financial difficulties.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets (continued)

Impairment of financial assets and other items subject to impairment assessment under IFRS 9, "Financial Instruments" ("IFRS 9") (continued)

(iv) Write-off policy

The Group writes off a financial asset when there is information indicating that the counterparty is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, for example, when the counterparty has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings. Financial assets written off may still be subject to enforcement activities under the Group's recovery procedures, taking into account legal advice where appropriate. A write-off constitutes a derecognition event. Any subsequent recoveries are recognized in profit or loss.

(v) Measurement and recognition of ECL

The measurement of ECL is a function of the probability of default, loss given default (i.e. the magnitude of the loss if there is a default) and the exposure at default. The assessment of the probability of default and loss given default is based on the historical data and forward-looking information. The Group uses a practical expedient in estimating ECL on accounts receivable using a provision matrix taking into consideration historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort.

Generally, the ECL is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due to the Group in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Group expects to receive, discounted at the effective interest rate determined at initial recognition.

Lifetime ECL for accounts receivable and contract assets are considered on a collective basis taking into consideration past due information and relevant credit information such as forward-looking macroeconomic information.

For collective assessment, the Group takes into consideration the following characteristics when formulating the grouping:

- Past-due status;
- Nature, size and industry of debtors; and
- External credit ratings where available.

The grouping is regularly reviewed by management to ensure the constituents of each group continue to share similar credit risk characteristics.

The Group recognizes an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss for all financial instruments measured at amortized cost by adjusting their carrying amount, with the exception of accounts receivable and other receivables where the corresponding adjustment is recognized through a loss allowance account.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(k) Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets (continued)

Derecognition of financial assets

The Group derecognizes a financial asset only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another entity.

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortized cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognized in profit or loss.

On derecognition of an investment in equity instrument which the Group has elected on initial recognition / initial application to measure at FVTOCI upon application of IFRS 9, the cumulative gain or loss previously accumulated in other reserves is not reclassified to profit or loss, but is transferred to retained earnings.

Financial liabilities and equity

Classification as debt or equity

Debt and equity instruments are classified as either financial liabilities or as equity in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangements and the definitions of a financial liability and an equity instrument.

Equity instruments

An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities. Equity instruments issued by the Company are recognized at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

Financial liabilities

All financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities including short-term and long-term debt, accounts payable, and financial liabilities included in accrued expenses and other payables are subsequently measured at amortized cost, using the effective interest method.

Offsetting a financial asset and a financial liability

A financial asset and a financial liability are offset and the net amount presented in the consolidated statement of financial position when, and only when, the Group currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognized amounts; and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(l) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand and time deposits with original maturities of three months or less when purchased. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair value.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(m) Revenue from contract with customers

The Group recognizes revenue when (or as) a performance obligation is satisfied, i.e. when “control” of the goods or services underlying the particular performance obligation is transferred to the customer.

A performance obligation represents a good or service (or a bundle of goods or services) that is distinct or a series of distinct goods or services that are substantially the same.

Control is transferred over time and revenue is recognized over time by reference to the progress towards complete satisfaction of the relevant performance obligation if one of the following criteria is met:

- the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the Group’s performance as the Group performs;
- the Group’s performance creates or enhances an asset that the customer controls as the Groups performs; or
- the Group’s performance does not create an asset with an alternative use to the Group and the Group has an enforceable right to payment for performance completed to date.

As such, revenues from contracts with customers of telecommunications services, including voice, Internet, information and application and telecommunications network resource and equipment services, resale of mobile services (MVNO) and repair and maintenance of equipment are generally recognized over time during which the services are provided to customers.

Otherwise, revenue is recognized at a point in time when the customer obtains control of the distinct good or service. As such, revenues from sales of equipment are recognize at a point in time when the equipment is delivered to the customers and when the control over the equipment have been transferred to the customers.

A contract asset represents the Group’s right to consideration in exchange for goods or services that the Group has transferred to a customer but the right is conditioned on the Group’s future performance. A contract asset is transferred to accounts receivable when the right becomes unconditional. A contract asset is assessed for impairment in accordance with IFRS 9. In contrast, a receivable represents the Group’s unconditional right to consideration, i.e. only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due.

A contract liability represents the Group’s obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the Group has received consideration (or an amount of consideration is due) from the customer. When the Group receives an advance payment before the performance obligation is satisfied, this will give rise to a contract liability, until the operating revenues recognized on the relevant contract exceed the amount of the advance payment.

A contract asset and a contract liability relating to the same contract are accounted for and presented on a net basis.

Contracts with multiple performance obligations (including allocation of transaction price)

For contracts that contain more than one performance obligations, such as the Group’s direct sales of promotional packages bundling terminal equipment, e.g. mobile handsets, and the telecommunications services, the Group allocates the transaction price to each performance obligation on a relative stand-alone selling price basis.

The stand-alone selling price of the distinct good or service underlying each performance obligation is determined at contract inception. It represents the price at which the Group would sell a promised good or service separately to a customer. If a stand-alone selling price is not directly observable, the Group estimates it using appropriate techniques such that the transaction price ultimately allocated to any performance obligation reflects the amount of consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring the promised goods or services to the customer.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(m) Revenue from contract with customers (continued)

Over time revenue recognition: measurement of progress towards complete satisfaction of a performance obligation

The progress towards complete satisfaction of a performance obligation is generally measured based on output method, which is to recognize revenue on the basis of direct measurements of the value of the goods or services transferred to the customer to date relative to the remaining goods or services promised under the contract.

Principal versus agent

When another party is involved in providing goods or services to a customer, the Group determines whether the nature of its promise is a performance obligation to provide the specified goods or services itself (i.e. the Group is a principal) or to arrange for those goods or services to be provided by the other party (i.e. the Group is an agent).

The Group is a principal if it controls the specified good or service before that good or service is transferred to a customer.

The Group is an agent if its performance obligation is to arrange for the provision of the specified good or service by another party. In this case, the Group does not control the specified good or service provided by another party before that good or service is transferred to the customer. When the Group acts as an agent, it recognizes revenue in the amount of any fee or commission to which it expects to be entitled in exchange for arranging for the specified goods or services to be provided by the other party.

Consideration payable to a customer

Consideration payable to a customer includes cash amounts that the Group pays, or expects to pay, to the customer, and also includes credit or other items that can be applied against amounts owed to the Group. The Group accounted for such consideration payable to a customer as a reduction of the transaction price and, therefore, of revenue unless the payment to the customer is in exchange for a distinct good or service that the customer transfers to the Group and the fair value of the good or service received from the customer can be reasonably estimated.

Certain subsidies payable to third party agent incurred by the Group in respect of customer contracts, which will be ultimately enjoyed by end customers, and other subsidies incurred by the Group directly payable to its customers, are qualified as consideration payable to a customer and accounted for as a reduction of operating revenues.

Incremental costs of obtaining a contract

Incremental costs of obtaining a contract are those costs that the Group incurs to obtain a contract with a customer that it would not have incurred if the contract had not been obtained.

Certain commissions incurred by the Group paid or payable to third party agents, whose selling activities resulted in customers entering into telecommunications service agreements with the Group, are qualified as incremental costs. The Group recognizes such costs as an asset, included in other assets, if it expects to recover these costs. The asset so recognized is subsequently amortized to profit or loss on a systematic basis that is consistent with the transfer to the customer of the goods or services to which the assets relate. The asset is subject to impairment review.

The Group applies the practical expedient of expensing all incremental costs to obtain a contract if these costs would otherwise have been fully amortized to profit or loss within one year.

Costs to fulfil a contract

When the Group incurs costs to fulfil a contract, it first assesses whether these costs qualify for recognition as an asset in terms of other relevant standards, failing which it recognizes an asset for these costs only if they meet all of the following criteria:

- the costs relate directly to a contract or to an anticipated contract that the Group can specifically identify;
- the costs generate or enhance resources of the Group that will be used in satisfying (or in continuing to satisfy) performance obligations in the future; and
- the costs are expected to be recovered.

The asset so recognized is subsequently amortized to profit or loss on a systematic basis that is consistent with the transfer to the customer of the goods or services to which the assets relate. The asset is subject to impairment review.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(n) Leases

Effective January 1, 2019, the Group applied IFRS 16. IFRS 16 superseded IAS 17, “Leases” (“IAS 17”) and the related interpretations. The Group applied IFRS 16 retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard recognized at the date of initial application, January 1, 2019. As of January 1, 2019, the Group recognized additional lease liabilities and measured right-of-use assets at the carrying amounts as if IFRS 16 had been applied since the commencement dates, but discounted using the incremental borrowing rates of the relevant lessees at the date of initial application by applying IFRS 16 transition provisions. Any difference at the date of initial application was recognized in and decreased the opening reserves as of January 1, 2019 by RMB2,440 and comparative information was not restated. Accordingly, certain comparative information may not be comparable as comparative information was prepared under IAS 17 and the related interpretations.

Definition of a lease (upon application of IFRS 16)

A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

The Group assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease based on the definition under IFRS 16 at inception or modification date. Such contract will not be reassessed unless the terms and conditions of the contract are subsequently changed.

The Group as a lessee (upon application of IFRS 16)

As a practical expedient, leases with similar characteristics are accounted on a portfolio basis when the Group reasonably expects that the effects on the consolidated financial statements would not differ materially from individual leases within the portfolio.

Allocation of consideration to components of a contract

For a contract that contains a lease component and one or more additional lease or non-lease components, the Group allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component on the basis of the relative stand-alone price of the lease component and the aggregate stand-alone price of the non-lease components.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Group applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option. It also applies the recognition exemption for lease of low-value assets. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognized as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Right-of-use assets

The cost of right-of-use asset includes:

- the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs incurred by the lessee; and
- an estimate of costs to be incurred by the lessee in dismantling and removing the underlying assets, restoring the site on which it is located or restoring the underlying asset to the condition required by the terms and conditions of the lease.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(n) Leases (continued)

The Group as a lessee (upon application of IFRS 16) (continued)

Right-of-use assets (continued)

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities other than adjustments to lease liabilities resulting from Covid-19-related rent concessions in which the Group applied the practical expedient.

Right-of-use assets in which the Group is reasonably certain to obtain ownership of the underlying leased assets at the end of the lease term is depreciated from commencement date to the end of the useful life. Otherwise, right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of its estimated useful life and the lease term.

The Group presents right-of-use assets as a separate line item on the consolidated statement of financial position.

Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of a lease, the Group recognizes and measures the lease liability at the present value of lease payments that are unpaid at that date. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Group uses the incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date if the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable.

The lease payments include:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate;
- the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Group; and
- payments of penalties for terminating a lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising the option to terminate the lease.

Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate are initially measured using the index or rate as of the commencement date. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are not included in the measurement of lease liabilities and right-of-use assets, and are recognized as expense in the period on which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

After the commencement date, lease liabilities are adjusted by interest accretion and lease payments.

The Group remeasures lease liabilities (and makes a corresponding adjustment to the related right-of-use assets) whenever:

- the lease term has changed or there is a change in the assessment of exercise of a purchase option, in which case the related lease liability is remeasured by discounting the revised lease payments using a revised discount rate at the date of assessment.
- the lease payments change due to changes in market rental rates following a market rent review, in which cases the related lease liability is remeasured by discounting the revised lease payments using the initial discount rate.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(n) Leases (continued)

The Group as a lessee (upon application of IFRS 16) (continued)

Lease modifications

Except for Covid-19-related rent concessions in which the Group applied the practical expedient, the Group accounts for a lease modification as a separate lease if:

- the modification increases the scope of the lease by adding the right to use one or more underlying assets; and
- the consideration for the leases increases by an amount commensurate with the stand-alone price for the increase in scope and any appropriate adjustments to that stand-alone price to reflect the circumstances of the particular contract.

For a lease modification that is not accounted for as a separate lease, the Group remeasures the lease liability based on the lease term of the modified lease by discounting the revised lease payments using a revised discount rate at the effective date of the modification.

The Group accounts for the remeasurement of lease liabilities by making corresponding adjustments to the relevant right-of-use asset. When the modified contract contains a lease component and one or more additional lease or non-lease components, the Group allocates the consideration in the modified contract to each lease component on the basis of the relative stand-alone price of the lease component and the aggregate stand-alone price of the non-lease components.

Covid-19-related rent concessions

In relation to rent concessions that occurred as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Group has elected to apply the practical expedient not to assess whether the change is a lease modification if all of the following conditions are met:

- the change in lease payments results in revised consideration for the lease that is substantially the same as, or less than, the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change;
- any reduction in lease payments affects only payments originally due on or before 30 June 2021; and
- there is no substantive change to other terms and conditions of the lease.

As a result of applying the practical expedient, the Group accounts for changes in lease payments resulting from rent concessions the same way it would account for the changes applying IFRS 16 if the changes were not a lease modification. Forgiveness or waiver of lease payments are accounted for as variable lease payments. The related lease liabilities are adjusted to reflect the amounts forgiven or waived with a corresponding adjustment recognised in the profit or loss in the period in which the event occurs.

The Group as lessee (prior to January 1, 2019)

Assets acquired under finance leases are initially recorded at amounts equivalent to the lower of the fair value of the leased assets at the inception of the lease or the present value of the minimum lease payments (computed using the rate of interest implicit in the lease). The net present value of the future minimum lease payments is recorded correspondingly as a finance lease obligation.

Where the Group has the right to use the assets under operating leases, payments made under the leases are charged to profit or loss in equal installments over the accounting periods covered by the lease term, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased asset. Lease incentives received are recognized in profit or loss as an integral part of the aggregate net lease payments made. Contingent rentals are charged to profit or loss in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

Lease prepayments represent land use rights paid. Land use rights are initially carried at cost or deemed cost and then charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the respective periods of the rights which range from 20 years to 70 years.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(n) Leases (continued)

The Group as a lessor

Classification and measurement of leases

Leases for which the Group is a lessor are classified as finance or operating leases. Whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset to the lessee, the contract is classified as a finance lease. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Amounts due from lessees under finance leases are recognized as receivables at commencement date at amounts equal to net investments in the leases, measured using the interest rate implicit in the respective leases. Initial direct costs (other than those incurred by manufacturer or dealer lessors) are included in the initial measurement of the net investments in the leases. Interest income is allocated to accounting periods so as to reflect a constant periodic rate of return on the Group's net investment outstanding in respect of the leases.

Rental income from operating leases is recognized in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset, and such costs are recognized as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Upon application of IFRS 16 on January 1, 2019, variable lease payments for operating leases that depend on an index or a rate are estimated and included in the total lease payments to be recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognized as income when they arise.

The Group as a lessor (upon application of IFRS 16)

Allocation of consideration to components of a contract

When a contract includes both leases and non-lease components, the Group applies IFRS 15 to allocate consideration in a contract to lease and non-lease components. Non-lease components are separated from lease component on the basis of their relative stand-alone selling prices.

Refundable rental deposits

Refundable rental deposits received are accounted under IFRS 9 and initially measured at fair value. Adjustments to fair value at initial recognition are considered as additional lease payments from lessees.

Sublease

When the Group is an intermediate lessor, it accounts for the head lease and the sublease as two separate contracts. The sub-lease is classified as a finance or operating lease by reference to the right-of-use asset arising from the head lease, not with reference to the underlying asset.

Lease modification

Changes in considerations of lease contracts that were not part of the original terms and conditions are accounted for as lease modifications, including lease incentives provided through forgiveness or reduction of rentals.

The Group accounts for a modification to an operating lease as a new lease from the effective date of the modification, considering any prepaid or accrued lease payments relating to the original lease as part of the lease payments for the new lease.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(o) Net finance costs

Net finance costs comprise interest income on bank deposits, interest costs on borrowings, interest expense on lease liabilities and foreign exchange gains and losses. Interest income from bank deposits is recognized as it accrues using the effective interest method.

Interest costs incurred in connection with borrowings are calculated using the effective interest method and are expensed as incurred, except to the extent that they are capitalized as being directly attributable to the construction of an asset which necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use.

(p) Research and development expense

Research and development expenditure is expensed as incurred if the criteria of recognition as intangible assets were not met. For the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, research and development related personnel expenses amounted to RMB1,327, RMB1,950 and RMB2,392, and research and development related depreciation amounted to RMB110, RMB141 and RMB130, respectively. In addition, other research and development expense for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 was RMB1,341, RMB2,105 and RMB2,215, respectively.

(q) Employee benefits

The Group's contributions to defined contribution retirement plans administered by the PRC government and defined contribution retirement plans administered by independent external parties are recognized in profit or loss as incurred. Further information is set out in Note 40.

Compensation expense in respect of the share appreciation rights granted is accrued as a charge to the profit or loss over the applicable vesting period based on the fair value of the share appreciation rights. The liability of the accrued compensation expense is re-measured to fair value at the end of each reporting period with the effect of changes in the fair value of the liability charged or credited to profit or loss. Further details of the Group's share appreciation rights scheme are set out in Note 41.

(r) Government grants

The Group's government grants are mainly related to the government loans with below-market rate of interest.

Government grants shall only be recognized until there is reasonable assurance that:

- the Group will comply with all the conditions attaching to them; and
- the grants will be received.

Government grants that compensate expenses incurred are recognized in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income in the same periods in which the expenses are incurred.

Government grants relating to assets are recognized in deferred revenue and are credited to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the expected lives of the related assets.

(s) Provisions and contingent liabilities

A provision is recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position when the Group has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Where the time value of money is material, provisions are stated at the present value of the expenditure expected to settle the obligation.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events, are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(f) Value-added tax (“VAT”)

Output VAT rate for basic telecommunications services (including voice communication, lease or sale of network resources) is 9% since April 1, 2019, or 10% between May 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019, or 11% before May 1, 2018, while the output VAT rate for value-added telecommunications services (including Internet access services, short and multimedia messaging services, transmission and application service of electronic data and information) is 6%, and the output VAT for sales of telecommunications terminals and equipment is 13% since April 1, 2019, 16% between May 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019, or 17% before May 1, 2018. Input VAT rate depends on the type of services received and the assets purchased as well as the VAT rate applicable to a specific industry, and ranges from 3% to 13% since April 1, 2019, or 3% to 16% between May 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019, or 3% to 17% before May 1, 2018.

Output VAT is excluded from operating revenues while input VAT, which is incurred as a result of the Company’s receipt of services and purchases of telecommunications equipment and materials, is excluded from operating expenses or the original cost of equipment purchased and can be netted against the output VAT, arriving at the net amount of VAT recoverable or payable. As the VAT obligations are borne by branches and subsidiaries of the Company, input and output VAT are set off at branches and subsidiaries levels, and the net amount of VAT recoverable or payable of branches and subsidiaries are not offset at the consolidation level. Such net amount of VAT recoverable or payable is recorded in the line item of prepayments and other current assets and accrued expenses and other payables, respectively on the face of consolidated statements of financial position.

(u) Income tax

Income tax for the year comprises current tax and movement in deferred tax assets and liabilities. Income tax is recognized in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognized in other comprehensive income, or directly in equity, in which case the relevant amounts of tax are recognized in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years. Deferred tax is provided using the balance sheet liability method, providing for all temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their tax bases. The amount of deferred tax is calculated on the basis of the enacted or substantively enacted tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the asset is realized or the liability is settled. The effect on deferred tax of any changes in tax rates is charged or credited to profit or loss, except for the effect of a change in tax rate on the carrying amount of deferred tax assets and liabilities which were previously recognized in other comprehensive income, in such case the effect of a change in tax rate is also recognized in other comprehensive income.

A deferred tax asset is recognized only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable income will be available against which the asset can be utilized. Deferred tax assets are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realized.

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognized for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax liabilities are recognized for taxable temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries and associates, except where the Group is able to control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

For the purposes of measuring deferred tax for leasing transactions in which the Group recognizes the right-of-use assets and the related lease liabilities, the Group first determines whether the tax deductions are attributable to the right-of-use assets or the lease liabilities.

The tax deductions of the Group’s leasing transactions are attributable to the lease liabilities. The Group applies IAS 12, “*Income Taxes*” requirements to the leasing transaction as a whole. Temporary differences relating to right-of-use assets and lease liabilities are assessed on a net basis. Excess of depreciation on right-of-use assets over the lease payments for the principal portion of lease liabilities resulting in net deductible temporary differences.

(v) Dividends

Dividends are recognized as a liability in the period in which they are declared.

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3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(w) Related parties

- (a) A person, or a close member of that person's family, is related to the Group if that person:
- (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
 - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group or the Group's parent.
- (b) An entity is related to the Group if any of the following conditions applies:
- (i) The entity and the Group are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others);
 - (ii) The entity is an associate or joint venture of the Group (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the Group is a member); or the Group is an associate or joint venture of the entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the entity is a member);
 - (iii) The entity and the Group are joint ventures of the same third party;
 - (iv) The entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the Group is an associate of the third entity; or the Group is a joint venture of a third entity and the entity is an associate of the third entity;
 - (v) The entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a);
 - (vi) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

(x) Segmental reporting

An operating segment is a component of an entity that engages in business activities from which revenues are earned and expenses are incurred, and is identified on the basis of the internal financial reports that are regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision maker in order to allocate resource and assess performance of the segment. For the periods presented, management has determined that the Group has one operating segment as the Group is only engaged in the integrated telecommunications business. The Group's assets located outside mainland China and operating revenues derived from activities outside mainland China are less than 10% of the Group's assets and operating revenues, respectively. No geographical area information has been presented as such amount is immaterial. No single external customer accounts for 10% or more of the Group's operating revenues.

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Cash at bank and in hand	20,006	23,193
Time deposits with original maturity within three months	785	491
	<u>20,791</u>	<u>23,684</u>

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5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, NET

Accounts receivable, net, are analyzed as follows:

	Note	December 31,	
		2019	2020
		RMB	RMB
Third parties		24,438	23,688
China Telecom Group	(i)	1,188	1,784
China Tower (See definition in Note 14)		5	23
Other telecommunications operators in the PRC		550	441
		<u>26,181</u>	<u>25,936</u>
Less: Allowance for credit losses		(4,692)	(4,434)
		<u>21,489</u>	<u>21,502</u>

Note:

(i) China Telecommunications Corporation together with its subsidiaries other than the Group are referred to as “China Telecom Group”.

As of January 1, 2019, December 31, 2019 and 2020, the gross carrying amounts of accounts receivable from contracts with customers amounted to RMB25,155, RMB26,087 and RMB25,836, respectively.

Aging analysis of accounts receivable from telephone and Internet subscribers based on the billing dates is as follows:

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Current, within 1 month	7,545	7,068
1 to 3 months	1,777	1,601
4 to 12 months	1,822	1,481
More than 12 months	1,002	921
	<u>12,146</u>	<u>11,071</u>
Less: Allowance for credit losses	(2,803)	(2,438)
	<u>9,343</u>	<u>8,633</u>

Aging analysis of accounts receivable from other telecommunications operators and enterprise customers based on dates of rendering of services is as follows:

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Current, within 1 month	4,701	5,331
1 to 3 months	2,964	2,785
4 to 12 months	3,768	3,801
More than 12 months	2,602	2,948
	<u>14,035</u>	<u>14,865</u>
Less: Allowance for credit losses	(1,889)	(1,996)
	<u>12,146</u>	<u>12,869</u>

As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, included in the net balance of the Group’s accounts receivable are debtors with aggregate carrying amount of RMB1,936 and RMB1,694 respectively, which are past due as of the reporting date.

Details of impairment assessment of accounts receivable for the year ended December 31, 2019 and 2020 are set out in note 36.

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6. CONTRACT ASSETS

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Third parties	447	555
China Telecom Group	27	49
	<u>474</u>	<u>604</u>

As at January 1, 2019, contract assets amounted to RMB478.

The Group's contracts for information and application services include payment schedules which require stage payments over the service period once certain specified milestones are reached. The Group classifies these contract assets as current because the Group expects to realize them in its normal operating cycle.

7. INVENTORIES

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Materials and supplies	577	484
Goods for resale	2,303	2,833
	<u>2,880</u>	<u>3,317</u>

8. PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Amounts due from China Telecom Group	1,233	1,189
Amounts due from China Tower (See definition in Note 14)	192	138
Amounts due from other telecommunications operators in the PRC	352	204
Prepayments in connection with construction work and equipment purchases	3,352	6,080
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,993	2,994
Value-added tax recoverable	8,803	8,501
Other receivables	5,294	6,061
	<u>22,219</u>	<u>25,167</u>

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9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, NET

	<u>Buildings and improvements</u> RMB	<u>Telecom-munications network plant and equipment</u> RMB	<u>Furniture, fixture, motor vehicles and other equipment</u> RMB	<u>Total</u> RMB
Cost/Deemed cost:				
Balance at January 1, 2019	102,541	854,382	31,558	988,481
Additions	554	274	277	1,105
Transferred from construction in progress	2,060	74,157	1,644	77,861
Retirement and disposal	(751)	(62,560)	(2,419)	(65,730)
Reclassification	(39)	(536)	575	—
Balance at December 31, 2019	<u>104,365</u>	<u>865,717</u>	<u>31,635</u>	<u>1,001,717</u>
Additions	425	139	253	817
Transferred from construction in progress	2,249	84,567	1,791	88,607
Retirement and disposal	(1,435)	(53,500)	(3,039)	(57,974)
Reclassification	(10)	(512)	522	—
Balance at December 31, 2020	<u>105,594</u>	<u>896,411</u>	<u>31,162</u>	<u>1,033,167</u>
Accumulated depreciation and impairment:				
Balance at January 1, 2019	(58,300)	(498,986)	(23,400)	(580,686)
Depreciation charge for the year	(4,185)	(64,672)	(2,101)	(70,958)
Written back on retirement and disposal	681	56,943	2,311	59,935
Reclassification	19	358	(377)	—
Balance at December 31, 2019	<u>(61,785)</u>	<u>(506,357)</u>	<u>(23,567)</u>	<u>(591,709)</u>
Depreciation charge for the year	(4,196)	(64,208)	(2,038)	(70,442)
Provision for impairment loss	—	(5,027)	(15)	(5,042)
Written back on retirement and disposal	1,324	48,451	2,856	52,631
Reclassification	8	401	(409)	—
Balance at December 31, 2020	<u>(64,649)</u>	<u>(526,740)</u>	<u>(23,173)</u>	<u>(614,562)</u>
Net book value at December 31, 2020	<u>40,945</u>	<u>369,671</u>	<u>7,989</u>	<u>418,605</u>
Net book value at December 31, 2019	<u>42,580</u>	<u>359,360</u>	<u>8,068</u>	<u>410,008</u>

As a result of the continuing optimization of the Group's 4G mobile network coverage and the scale deployment of the Group's 5G mobile network, the utilisation of the Group's 3G mobile network have been decreasing rapidly. For the year ended December 31, 2020, 3G handset data traffic only accounted for a low proportion of the Group's total handset data traffic. As a result, the Group has identified an impairment indicator on the 3G specific mobile network assets (the "3G Assets"). Given the Group has made a commitment in the year to gradually terminate its use of 3G Assets in the near future, the Group performed an impairment test on the 3G Assets on the basis of each individual asset as of December 31, 2020. The recoverable amount of the 3G Assets was determined based on their fair value less costs of disposal, which was nominal. As a result, for the year ended December 31, 2020, an impairment loss on property, plant and equipment of RMB5,042 (2019: nil) was recognized.

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10. CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

	RMB
Balance at January 1, 2019	66,644
Additions	76,870
Transferred to property, plant and equipment	(77,861)
Transferred to intangible assets	(6,447)
Balance at December 31, 2019	<u>59,206</u>
Additions	84,145
Transferred to property, plant and equipment	(88,607)
Transferred to intangible assets	(6,319)
Balance at December 31, 2020	<u>48,425</u>

11. RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS

	Leasehold Lands RMB	Buildings RMB	Telecommunications towers and related assets RMB	Equipment RMB	Others RMB	Total RMB
As of December 31, 2020						
Carrying amount	20,441	8,672	18,866	11,230	248	59,457
As of December 31, 2019						
Carrying amount	20,952	8,289	23,740	8,361	207	61,549
For the year ended December 31, 2020						
Depreciation charge	745	3,626	7,642	2,151	78	14,242
For the year ended December 31, 2019						
Depreciation charge	<u>732</u>	<u>2,968</u>	<u>6,966</u>	<u>1,612</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>12,343</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2020, expenses relating to short-term leases amounting to RMB1,077 (2019: RMB939, including those relating to other leases with lease terms ended within 12 months of the date of initial application of IFRS 16), expenses relating to leases of low value assets (excluding short-term leases of low value assets) amounting to RMB46 (2019: RMB45) and variable lease payments not included in the measurement of lease liabilities amounting to RMB5,151 (2019: RMB4,640), are recognized in profit or loss.

For the year ended December 31, 2020, total cash outflow for leases is RMB20,798 (2019: RMB18,240), and additions to right-of-use assets are RMB13,561 (2019: RMB9,172).

The Group leases telecommunications towers and related assets, land and buildings, equipment and other assets for its operations. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. In determining the lease term and assessing the length of the non-cancellable period, the Group applies the definition of a contract and determines the period for which the contract is enforceable.

The Group regularly entered into short-term leases for buildings and other assets. As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the portfolio of short-term leases is similar to the portfolio of short-term leases to which the short-term lease expense disclosed above in this note.

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12. GOODWILL

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Cost:		
Goodwill arising from acquisition of CDMA business	29,923	29,920

On October 1, 2008, the Group acquired the CDMA mobile communication business and related assets and liabilities, which also included the entire equity interests of China Unicom (Macau) Company Limited (currently known as China Telecom (Macau) Company Limited) and 99.5% equity interests of Unicom Huasheng Telecommunications Technology Company Limited (currently known as Tianyi Telecom Terminals Company Limited) (collectively the “CDMA business”) from China Unicom Limited and China Unicom Corporation Limited (collectively “Unicom Group”). The purchase price of the business combination was RMB43,800, which was fully settled as of December 31, 2010. In addition, pursuant to the acquisition agreement, the Group acquired the customer-related assets and assumed the customer-related liabilities of CDMA business for a net settlement amount of RMB3,471 due from Unicom Group. This amount was subsequently settled by Unicom Group in 2009. The business combination was accounted for using the purchase method.

The goodwill recognized in the business combination is attributable to the skills and technical talent of the acquired business’s workforce, and the synergies expected to be achieved from integrating and combining the CDMA mobile communication business into the Group’s telecommunications business.

For the purpose of goodwill impairment testing, the goodwill arising from the acquisition of CDMA business was allocated to the appropriate cash-generating unit of the Group, which is the Group’s telecommunications business. The recoverable amount of the Group’s telecommunications business is estimated based on the value in use model, which considers the Group’s financial budgets covering a five-year period and a pre-tax discount rate of 9.6% (2019: 9.2%). Cash flows beyond the five-year period are extrapolated using a steady 1.5% growth rate (2019: 1.5%). The financial budgets, growth rate and discount rate have been reassessed as of December 31, 2020 taking into consideration higher degree of estimation uncertainties in the current year due to uncertainty on how the Covid-19 pandemic may progress and evolve and volatility in financial markets. Management performed impairment tests for the goodwill at the end of the reporting period and determined that goodwill was not impaired. Management believes any reasonably possible change in the key assumptions on which the recoverable amount is based would not cause its recoverable amount to be less than carrying amount.

Key assumptions used for the value in use calculation model are the number of subscribers, the average revenue per subscriber and the amount of operating cost. Management determined the number of subscribers, the average revenue per subscriber and the amount of operating cost based on historical trends and financial information and operational data.

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13. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Software RMB
Cost:	
Balance at January 1, 2019	37,314
Additions	624
Transferred from construction in progress	6,447
Disposals	(591)
Balance at December 31, 2019	<u>43,794</u>
Additions	1,489
Transferred from construction in progress	6,319
Disposals	(748)
Balance at December 31, 2020	<u>50,854</u>
Accumulated amortization and impairment:	
Balance at January 1, 2019	(23,153)
Amortization charge for the year	(4,844)
Written back on disposals	552
Balance at December 31, 2019	<u>(27,445)</u>
Amortization charge for the year	(5,556)
Written back on disposals	655
Balance at December 31, 2020	<u>(32,346)</u>
Net book value at December 31, 2020	<u>18,508</u>
Net book value at December 31, 2019	<u>16,349</u>

14. INTERESTS IN ASSOCIATES

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Cost of investment in associates	37,173	37,168
Share of post-acquisition changes in net assets	2,019	3,135
	<u>39,192</u>	<u>40,303</u>
Fair value of listed investments	<u>55,601</u>	<u>34,625</u>

The Group's interests in associates are accounted for under the equity method. Details of the Group's principal associates are as follows:

Name of company	Attributable equity interest	Principal activities
China Tower Corporation Limited (Note (i))	20.5%	Construction, maintenance and operation of telecommunications towers as well as ancillary facilities
Shanghai Information Investment Incorporation (Note (ii))	24.0%	Provision of information technology consultancy services

Notes:

- (i) China Tower Corporation Limited ("China Tower") is established and operated in the PRC, and listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited on August 8, 2018. Income from investments in associates for the year ended December 31, 2018 includes: (a) a one-off gain amounting to RMB1,170 arising from the dilution of the Company's share in China Tower in respect of China Tower's listing, including those released from the deferred gain from the disposal of telecommunications towers and related assets (the "Tower Assets Disposal"); and (b) share of profits of associates.
- (ii) Shanghai Information Investment Incorporation ("Shanghai Info-investment") is established and operated in the PRC and is not traded on any stock exchange.

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14. INTERESTS IN ASSOCIATES (continued)

Summarized financial information of the Group's principal associates and reconciled to the carrying amounts of interests in associates in the Group's consolidated financial statements are disclosed below:

China Tower

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Current assets	40,995	43,204
Non-current assets	297,072	294,176
Current liabilities	128,364	106,635
Non-current liabilities	27,142	44,499
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	RMB	RMB
Operating revenues	76,428	81,099
Profit for the year	5,221	6,427
Other comprehensive income for the year	—	—
Total comprehensive income for the year	5,221	6,427
Dividend received from China Tower	81	525

Reconcile to the Group's interests in the associate:

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Net assets of China Tower	182,561	186,246
Non-controlling interests of China Tower	(2)	(1)
The Group's effective interest in China Tower	20.5%	20.5%
The Group's share of net assets of China Tower	37,425	38,180
Adjustment for the remaining balance of the deferred gain from the Tower Assets Disposal	(865)	(717)
Carrying amount of the interest in China Tower in the consolidated financial statements of the Group	<u>36,560</u>	<u>37,463</u>

Shanghai Info-investment

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Current assets	4,292	4,752
Non-current assets	5,203	5,878
Current liabilities	2,494	2,124
Non-current liabilities	787	1,803
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	RMB	RMB
Operating revenues	3,214	982
Profit for the year	1,158	641
Other comprehensive income for the year	(7)	(17)
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,151	624
Dividend received from Shanghai Info-investment	9	14

Reconcile to the Group's interests in the associate:

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Net assets of Shanghai Info-investment	6,214	6,703
Non-controlling interests of Shanghai Info-investment	(144)	(83)
The Group's effective interest in Shanghai Info-investment	24.0%	24.0%
The Group's share of net assets of Shanghai Info-investment	<u>1,457</u>	<u>1,589</u>
Carrying amount of the interest in Shanghai Info-investment in the consolidated financial statements of the Group	<u>1,457</u>	<u>1,589</u>

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14. INTERESTS IN ASSOCIATES (continued)

Aggregate financial information of the Group's associates that are not individually material is disclosed below:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>RMB</u>	<u>RMB</u>
The Group's share of profit of these associates	85	86
The Group's share of total comprehensive income of these associates	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>
	December 31,	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>RMB</u>	<u>RMB</u>
Aggregate carrying amount of interests in these associates in the consolidated financial statements of the Group	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,251</u>

15. EQUITY INSTRUMENTS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>December 31,</u>	
		<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
		<u>RMB</u>	<u>RMB</u>
Equity securities listed in the mainland China	(i)	1,228	838
Unlisted equity securities	(ii)	<u>230</u>	<u>235</u>
		<u>1,458</u>	<u>1,073</u>

Notes:

- (i) The above listed equity instruments represent ordinary shares of entities listed in the mainland China. These investments are not held for trading, instead, they are held for long-term strategic purposes. The directors of the Company have elected to designate these investments in equity instruments as of FVTOCI as they believe that recognizing short-term fluctuations in these investments' fair value in profit or loss would not be consistent with the Group's strategy of holding these investments for long-term purposes and realizing their performance potential in the long run.
- (ii) The above unlisted equity securities represent the Group's equity interests in various private entities established in the PRC. The directors of the Company have elected to designate these investments in equity instruments as of FVTOCI as they believe that the Group will hold these investments for long-term strategic purposes.

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16. DEFERRED TAX ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The components of deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position and the movements are as follows:

	Assets		Liabilities		Net Balance	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB	RMB
Provisions and impairment losses, primarily for credit losses	1,953	2,069	—	—	1,953	2,069
Property, plant and equipment, and others	4,862	5,299	(18,831)	(24,067)	(13,969)	(18,768)
Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities	744	791	—	—	744	791
Deferred revenues and installation costs	18	5	(13)	(4)	5	1
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	(234)	(137)	(234)	(137)
Deferred tax assets/(liabilities)	<u>7,577</u>	<u>8,164</u>	<u>(19,078)</u>	<u>(24,208)</u>	<u>(11,501)</u>	<u>(16,044)</u>

	Balance at	Recognized	Balance at
	January 1,	in consolidated	December 31,
	2018	statement of	2018
	RMB	comprehensive	RMB
		income	
		RMB	
Provisions and impairment losses, primarily for credit losses	1,829	96	1,925
Property, plant and equipment, and others	(5,073)	(3,369)	(8,442)
Deferred revenues and installation costs	19	(9)	10
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	(169)	82	(87)
Net deferred tax liabilities	<u>(3,394)</u>	<u>(3,200)</u>	<u>(6,594)</u>

	Balance at	Change in	Recognized	Balance at
	December 31,	accounting	in consolidated	December 31,
	2018	policy	statement of	2019
	RMB	RMB	comprehensive	RMB
			income	
			RMB	
Provisions and impairment losses, primarily for credit losses	1,925	—	28	1,953
Property, plant and equipment, and others	(8,442)	—	(5,527)	(13,969)
Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities	—	676	68	744
Deferred revenues and installation costs	10	—	(5)	5
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	(87)	—	(147)	(234)
Net deferred tax liabilities	<u>(6,594)</u>	<u>676</u>	<u>(5,583)</u>	<u>(11,501)</u>

	Balance at	Recognized	Balance at
	December 31,	in consolidated	December 31,
	2019	statement of	2020
	RMB	comprehensive	RMB
		income	
		RMB	
Provisions and impairment losses, primarily for credit losses	1,953	116	2,069
Property, plant and equipment, and others	(13,969)	(4,799)	(18,768)
Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities	744	47	791
Deferred revenues and installation costs	5	(4)	1
Equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	(234)	97	(137)
Net deferred tax liabilities	<u>(11,501)</u>	<u>(4,543)</u>	<u>(16,044)</u>

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17. OTHER ASSETS

	Note	December 31,	
		2019	2020
		RMB	RMB
Contract costs	(i)	988	1,151
Installation fees		56	16
Other long-term prepaid expenses and receivables		3,643	5,385
		<u>4,687</u>	<u>6,552</u>

Note:

- (i) Contract costs capitalized as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 mainly relate to the incremental sales commissions paid to third party agents whose selling activities resulted in subscribers entering into telecommunications service agreements with the Group and the cost of installing terminal equipment at subscribers' homes for the provision of Smart Family services of the Group. The amount of capitalized costs recognized in profit or loss during the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020 was RMB1,367 and RMB1,234, respectively. There was no impairment in relation to the opening balance of capitalized costs or the costs capitalized during the year.

18. JOINT OPERATION

On September 9, 2019, the Group entered into a framework cooperation agreement (the "Cooperation Agreement") with China United Network Communications Corporation Limited ("China Unicom") to co-build and co-share 5G access network. Pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement, the Group and China Unicom delineate and designate the regions to jointly construct and operate one 5G access network nationwide. In certain regions in which the 5G access network is constructed, operated and maintained by China Unicom, the Group operates its 5G business relying on China Unicom's network, while in other regions in which the 5G access network is constructed, operated and maintained by the Group, China Unicom operates its 5G business relying on the Group's network.

Pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement, the Group and China Unicom co-share 5G spectrum resources while the 5G core network is respectively constructed, operated and maintained by each party. Both parties jointly ensure a unified standard on network planning, construction, operation, maintenance and service quality in the 5G network co-build and co-share regions, and assure the same service level.

The 5G network co-build and co-share arrangement is agreed by the Group and China Unicom through coordination and promotion institution jointly established by both parties, in order to set up relevant mechanism, system and rules with unanimous consensus from both parties. The main function of such joint coordination and promotion institution is to carry out joint network planning and investment decision, project initiation and acceptance and other related works, such as the determination of the location of 5G base stations and types of equipment, and coordinate the operation and maintenance of 5G co-build and co-share network in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Cooperation Agreement. For example, the timing, scale and location of the 5G base station construction, selection of equipment and appointment of maintenance suppliers across all regions are all negotiated and agreed by both parties with unanimous consensus.

Under the joint operation, the business and branding of each party continue to operate independently and the subscribers belong to each party respectively. Revenues from each party's subscribers are recognised by each party, cost and expenses are assumed by each party respectively, while assets constructed by each party and the relevant liabilities are recognised and assumed by each respective party.

19. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM DEBT

Short-term debt comprises:

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Loans from banks—unsecured	15,831	4,831
Super short-term commercial papers—unsecured	19,995	11,999
Other loans—unsecured	80	—
Loans from China Telecom Group—unsecured	6,621	11,164
Total short-term debt	<u>42,527</u>	<u>27,994</u>

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19. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM DEBT (continued)

The weighted average interest rate of the Group's total short-term debt as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 was 2.9% per annum and 2.8% per annum, respectively. As of December 31, 2020, the Group's loans from banks and other loans bear interest at rates ranging from 3.3% to 4.4% (December 31, 2019: 3.5% to 4.4%) per annum, and are repayable within one year; as of December 31, 2020, super short-term commercial papers bear interest at rates ranging from 1.6% to 2.5% (December 31, 2019: 1.9% to 2.2%) per annum, of which RMB8,999 was repaid in January 2021 while the remaining balance will be repaid by March 12, 2021; the loans from China Telecom Group bear interest at rate of 3.1% (December 31, 2019: 3.5%) per annum and are repayable within one year.

Long-term debt comprises:

		December 31,	
		2019	2020
Interest rates and final maturity		RMB	RMB
Bank loans—unsecured			
Renminbi denominated (Note (i))	Interest rates ranging from 1.08% to 1.20% per annum with maturities through 2036	7,738	6,975
US Dollars denominated	Interest rates ranging from 1.25% to 2.00% per annum with maturities through 2028	288	224
Euro denominated	Interest rate of 2.30% per annum with maturities through 2032	173	152
		<u>8,199</u>	<u>7,351</u>
Other loans—unsecured			
Renminbi denominated		1	1
Medium-term note—unsecured (Note (ii))		4,995	4,996
Company bonds – unsecured (Note (iii))		—	2,000
Loans from China Telecom Group—unsecured			
Renminbi denominated (Note (iv))		23,300	11,000
Total long-term debt		36,495	25,348
Less: Current portion		(4,444)	(1,126)
Non-current portion		<u>32,051</u>	<u>24,222</u>

Notes:

- (i) The Group obtained long-term RMB denominated government loans with below-market interest rates ranging from 1.08% to 1.20% per annum through banks (the "Low-interest Loans"). The Group recognized the Low-interest Loans at their fair value on initial recognition, and accreted the discount to profit or loss using the effective interest rate method. The difference between the fair value and face value of the Low-interest Loans was recognized as government grants in deferred revenue (Note 24).
- (ii) On January 22, 2019, the Group issued three-year RMB denominated medium-term note, amounting to RMB3,000, with interest rate of 3.42% per annum, and incurred issuing costs of RMB3. The medium-term note is unsecured and is repayable on January 21, 2022.
- On March 19, 2019, the Group issued three-year RMB denominated medium-term note, amounting to RMB2,000, with interest rate of 3.41% per annum and incurred issuing costs of RMB3. The medium-term note is unsecured and is repayable on March 18, 2022.
- (iii) On March 10, 2020, the Group issued three-year RMB denominated company bonds, amounting to RMB2,000, to qualified investors in Shanghai Stock Exchange, with interest rate of 2.90% per annum. The company bonds are unsecured and are payable on March 9, 2023.
- (iv) On December 25, 2017, the Group obtained long-term RMB denominated loans, amounting to RMB40,000, from China Telecommunications Corporation, with interest rate of 3.8% per annum, which are repayable within 3 to 5 years. The Group partially repaid these loans amounting to RMB3,000, RMB13,700 and RMB12,300, respectively, in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

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19. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM DEBT (continued)

The aggregate maturities of the Group's long-term debt subsequent to December 31, 2020 are as follows:

	RMB
2021	1,126
2022	17,081
2023	3,009
2024	984
2025	952
Thereafter	2,196
	<u>25,348</u>

The Group's short-term and long-term debt do not contain any financial covenants. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the Group had unutilized committed credit facilities amounting to RMB245,847 and RMB244,326, respectively.

20. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Third parties	78,123	83,254
China Telecom Group	19,531	19,272
China Tower	4,312	4,344
Other telecommunications operators in the PRC	650	708
	<u>102,616</u>	<u>107,578</u>

Amounts due to China Telecom Group and China Tower are payable in accordance with contractual terms which are similar to those terms offered by third parties.

21. ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER PAYABLES

	Note	December 31,	
		2019	2020
		RMB	RMB
Amounts due to China Telecom Group		6,069	11,279
Amounts due to China Tower		1,261	1,192
Amounts due to other telecommunications operators in the PRC		32	34
Accrued expenses		34,628	36,885
Advanced payment received in respect of contribution from non-controlling interests	(i)	—	978
Value-added tax payable		564	600
Customer deposits and receipts in advance		5,962	5,807
		<u>48,516</u>	<u>56,775</u>

Notes:

- (i) For the year ended 31 December 2020, E-surfing Pay, a subsidiary of the Company, received RMB978 advanced payment in respect of contribution from non-controlling interests.

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22. CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Third parties	54,225	63,629
China Telecom Group	162	217
China Tower	1	3
	<u>54,388</u>	<u>63,849</u>

As of January 1, 2019, contract liabilities amounted to RMB55,783. Majority of contract liabilities as of December 31, 2019 was recognized as operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2020.

23. LEASE LIABILITIES

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Within one year	11,569	13,192
Within a period of more than one year but not more than two years	10,887	12,585
Within a period of more than two year but not more than five years	16,255	11,138
Within a period of more than five years	3,435	3,732
	<u>42,146</u>	<u>40,647</u>
Less: Current portion	(11,569)	(13,192)
Non-current portion	<u>30,577</u>	<u>27,455</u>

24. DEFERRED REVENUES

Deferred revenues as of December 31, 2020 and 2019 mainly represent the unearned portion of installation fees for wireline services received from customers (Note 17), and the unamortized portion of government grants (Note 19).

	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Balance at beginning of the year	1,829	1,455
Reductions for the year:		
Amortization of installation fees	(90)	(55)
Amortization of government grants	(284)	(261)
Balance at end of year	<u>1,455</u>	<u>1,139</u>
Representing:		
Current portion	358	278
Non-current portion	1,097	861
	<u>1,455</u>	<u>1,139</u>

25. SHARE CAPITAL

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Registered, issued and fully paid:		
67,054,958,321 ordinary domestic shares of RMB1.00 each	67,055	67,055
13,877,410,000 overseas listed H shares of RMB1.00 each	13,877	13,877
	<u>80,932</u>	<u>80,932</u>

All ordinary domestic shares and H shares rank pari passu in all material respects.

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26. RESERVES

	Capital reserve RMB (Note (i))	Share premium RMB	Surplus reserves RMB (Note (iii))	General risk reserve RMB (Note (v))	Other reserves RMB (Note (ii))	Exchange reserve RMB	Retained earnings RMB	Total RMB
Balance as of January 1, 2018	17,126	10,746	74,599	—	414	(881)	145,906	247,910
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	—	—	(249)	154	21,210	21,115
Disposal of investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	(5)	—	5	—
Contribution from non-controlling interests	680	—	—	—	—	—	—	680
Dividends (Note 33)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(7,568)	(7,568)
Appropriations to statutory surplus reserve (Note (iii))	—	—	1,875	—	—	—	(1,875)	—
Balance as of December 31, 2018	<u>17,806</u>	<u>10,746</u>	<u>76,474</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>(727)</u>	<u>157,678</u>	<u>262,137</u>
Change in accounting policy (Note 2)	—	—	(243)	—	—	—	(2,197)	(2,440)
Balance as of January 1, 2019, as restated	17,806	10,746	76,231	—	160	(727)	155,481	259,697
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	—	—	455	102	20,517	21,074
Acquisition of non-controlling interests	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Share of an associate's other changes in reserves	(305)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(305)
Dividends (Note 33)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(8,891)	(8,891)
Appropriations to statutory surplus reserve (Note (iii))	—	—	1,812	—	—	—	(1,812)	—
Appropriations to general risk reserve (Note (v))	—	—	—	23	—	—	(23)	—
Balance as of December 31, 2019	<u>17,504</u>	<u>10,746</u>	<u>78,043</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>615</u>	<u>(625)</u>	<u>165,272</u>	<u>271,578</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	—	—	(294)	(312)	20,850	20,244
Share of associates' other changes in reserves	(36)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(36)
Dividends (Note 33)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(9,262)	(9,262)
Appropriations to statutory surplus reserve (Note (iii))	—	—	1,811	—	—	—	(1,811)	—
Appropriations to general risk reserve (Note (v))	—	—	—	33	—	—	(33)	—
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>17,468</u>	<u>10,746</u>	<u>79,854</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>(937)</u>	<u>175,016</u>	<u>282,524</u>

Notes:

- (i) Capital reserve of the Group mainly represents the sum of (a) the difference between the carrying amount of the Company's net assets and the par value of the Company's shares issued upon its formation; (b) the difference between the consideration paid by the Group for the entities acquired, other than the Fifth Acquired Group, from China Telecommunications Corporation, which were accounted for as equity transactions as disclosed in Note 1, and the historical carrying amount of the net assets of these acquired entities; and (c) the difference between the consideration paid by the Group for the acquisition of non-controlling interests and the carrying amount of the non-controlling interests acquired. The difference between the consideration paid by the Group and the historical carrying amount of the net assets of the Fifth Acquisition was recorded as a deduction of retained earnings. Capital reserve of the Company represents the difference between the carrying amount of the Company's net assets and the par value of the Company's shares issued upon its formation.
- (ii) Other reserves of the Group and the Company represent primarily the change in the fair value of investment in equity instruments at FVTOCI and the deferred tax liabilities recognized due to the change in fair value of those investment in equity instruments.
- (iii) The surplus reserves consist of statutory surplus reserve and discretionary surplus reserve.

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26. RESERVES (continued)

Notes: (continued)

According to the Company's Articles of Association, the Company is required to transfer 10% of its net profit, as determined in accordance with the lower of the amount determined under the PRC Accounting Standards for Business Enterprises and the amount determined under IFRSs, to the statutory surplus reserve until such reserve balance reaches 50% of the registered capital. The transfer to this reserve must be made before distribution of any dividend to shareholders. For the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, the net profit of the Company determined in accordance with the PRC Accounting Standards for Business Enterprises and IFRS are the same. For the year ended December 31, 2020, the Company transferred RMB1,811 (2019: RMB1,812), being 10% of the year's net profit, to this reserve. As of December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020, the amount of statutory surplus reserve was RMB31,964 and RMB33,775, respectively.

The Company did not transfer any discretionary surplus reserve for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020. As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the amount of discretionary surplus reserve was RMB46,079.

The statutory and discretionary surplus reserves are non-distributable other than in liquidation and can be used to make good of previous years' losses, if any, and may be utilized for business expansion or converted into share capital by issuing new shares to existing shareholders in proportion to their shareholdings or by increasing the par value of the shares currently held by them, provided that the remaining reserve balance after such issue is not less than 25% of the registered capital.

- (iv) According to the Company's Articles of Association, the amount of retained earnings available for distribution to shareholders of the Company is the lower of the amount of the Company's retained earnings determined in accordance with the PRC Accounting Standards for Business Enterprises and the amount determined in accordance with IFRSs. As of December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020, the amount of retained earnings available for distribution was RMB138,312 and RMB145,351 respectively, being the amount determined in accordance with IFRSs. Final dividend of approximately RMB8,403 in respect of the financial year 2020 proposed after the end of the reporting period has not been recognized as a liability in the consolidated financial statements at the end of the reporting period (Note 33).
- (v) Pursuant to "Requirements on Impairment Allowance for Financial Institutions" (Caijin [2012] No. 20) issued by the Ministry of Finance of the PRC effective on July 1, 2012 (the "Requirements"), the Group's subsidiaries, mainly Finance Company, establish a general risk reserve within equity, through appropriation of retained earnings, to address unidentified potential losses relating to risk assets. The general risk reserve balance should not be less than 1.5% of the ending balance of risk assets, as defined in the Requirements.

27. OPERATING REVENUES

Disaggregation of revenues

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2018</u> <u>RMB</u>	<u>2019</u> <u>RMB</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>RMB</u>
Type of goods or services				
Revenue from contracts with customers				
Voice	(i)	50,811	45,146	40,866
Internet	(ii)	190,871	197,244	208,019
Information and application services	(iii)	83,478	87,623	96,885
Telecommunications network resource and equipment services	(iv)	20,211	21,978	22,623
Sales of goods and others	(v)	27,450	17,906	19,598
Subtotal		372,821	369,897	387,991
Revenue from other sources	(vi)	4,303	5,837	5,570
Total operating revenues		<u>377,124</u>	<u>375,734</u>	<u>393,561</u>
Timing of revenue recognition				
A point in time		24,496	14,591	16,141
Over time		352,628	361,143	377,420
Total operating revenues		<u>377,124</u>	<u>375,734</u>	<u>393,561</u>

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27. OPERATING REVENUES (continued)

Disaggregation of revenues (continued)

Notes:

- (i) Represent the aggregate amount of voice usage fees, installation fees and interconnections fees charged to customers for the provision of telephony services.
- (ii) Represent amounts charged to customers for the provision of Internet access services.
- (iii) Represent primarily the aggregate amount of fees charged to customers for the provision of Internet data center service, digitalized platform services, Smart Family, caller ID service and short messaging service and etc.
- (iv) Represent amounts charged to other domestic telecommunications operators and enterprise customers for the provision of telecommunications network resource and equipment services.
- (v) Represent primarily revenue from sales, and repair and maintenance of telecommunications equipment as well as the resale of mobile services (MVNO).
- (vi) Represent primarily revenue from property rental and other revenues.

As of December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the aggregated amount of the transaction price allocated to the remaining performance obligations under the Group's existing contracts represents revenue expected to be recognized in the future when service is provided over the contract terms over the next 1 year to 3 years.

28. NETWORK OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT EXPENSES

	Note	Year ended December 31,		
		2018	2019	2020
		RMB	RMB	RMB
Operating and maintenance		64,056	65,087	70,943
Utility		13,477	13,818	14,637
Network resources usage and related fee	(i)	29,434	20,976	22,766
Others		9,095	9,918	11,171
		<u>116,062</u>	<u>109,799</u>	<u>119,517</u>

Note:

- (i) Network resources usage and related fee includes the variable lease payments not depending on an index or a rate and fee for non-lease components in respect of telecommunications towers and related assets lease and fee in respect of the short-term leases and leases of low-value assets, variable lease payments and fee for non-lease components in respect of the usage of network resources provided by third parties.

29. PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Personnel expenses are attributable to the following functions:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB	RMB
Network operations and support	40,388	42,214	43,260
Selling, general and administrative	19,348	21,353	22,729
	<u>59,736</u>	<u>63,567</u>	<u>65,989</u>

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30. OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	Notes	Year ended December 31,		
		2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Interconnection charges	(i)	12,878	12,683	12,050
Cost of goods sold	(ii)	23,185	13,413	15,440
Donations		20	1	13
Others	(iii)	1,614	1,695	1,571
		<u>37,697</u>	<u>27,792</u>	<u>29,074</u>

- Notes:
- (i) Interconnection charges represent amounts incurred for the use of other domestic and foreign telecommunications operators' networks for delivery of voice and data traffic that originate from the Group's telecommunications networks.
 - (ii) Cost of goods sold primarily represents cost of telecommunications equipment sold.
 - (iii) Others mainly include tax and surcharges other than value-added tax and income tax.

31. NET FINANCE COSTS

	Year ended December 31,		
	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Interest expense on short-term and long-term debts	3,278	2,623	1,981
Interest expense on lease liabilities	—	1,607	1,566
Less: Interest expense capitalized*	(185)	(140)	(114)
Net interest expense	3,093	4,090	3,433
Interest income	(306)	(492)	(582)
Foreign exchange losses	423	680	1,018
Foreign exchange gains	(502)	(639)	(855)
	<u>2,708</u>	<u>3,639</u>	<u>3,014</u>
* Interest expense was capitalized in construction in progress at the following rates per annum	<u>3.8%-4.4%</u>	<u>3.5%-4.4%</u>	<u>3.0%-4.4%</u>

32. INCOME TAX

Income tax in the profit or loss comprises:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Provision for PRC income tax	3,408	781	1,532
Provision for income tax of other tax jurisdictions	120	105	135
Deferred taxation	3,282	5,436	4,640
	<u>6,810</u>	<u>6,322</u>	<u>6,307</u>

A reconciliation of the expected tax expense with the actual tax expense is as follows:

	Notes	Year ended December 31,		
		2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Earnings before income tax		28,148	27,034	27,387
Expected income tax expense at statutory tax rate of 25%	(i)	7,037	6,759	6,847
Differential tax rate on PRC subsidiaries' and branches' income	(i)	(291)	(315)	(306)
Differential tax rate on other subsidiaries' income	(ii)	(58)	(129)	(47)
Non-deductible expenses	(iii)	537	979	915
Non-taxable income	(iv)	(319)	(460)	(576)
Effect of change in tax rate	(v)	—	—	(29)
Others	(vi)	(96)	(512)	(497)
Actual income tax expense		<u>6,810</u>	<u>6,322</u>	<u>6,307</u>

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32. INCOME TAX (continued)

Notes:

- (i) Except for certain subsidiaries and branches which are mainly taxed at a preferential rate of 15%, the provision for mainland China income tax is based on a statutory rate of 25% of the assessable income of the Company, its mainland China subsidiaries and branches as determined in accordance with the relevant income tax rules and regulations of the PRC.
- (ii) Income tax provisions of the Company's subsidiaries in Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions of the PRC, and in other countries are based on the subsidiaries' assessable income and income tax rates applicable in the respective tax jurisdictions which range from 8% to 35%.
- (iii) Amounts represent miscellaneous expenses in excess of statutory deductible limits for tax purposes.
- (iv) Amounts represent miscellaneous income which are not subject to income tax.
- (v) Hainan branch of the Company obtained approval from tax authority to adopt the preferential income tax rate of 15% during the current year. Accordingly, deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities that were expected to be recovered or settled after December 31, 2019 were adjusted to reflect the change in tax rate. The overall effect of change in tax rate amounting to RMB29 was credited to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income.
- (vi) Amounts primarily represent settlement of tax filing differences of prior year annual tax return and other tax benefits such as additional tax deduction on research and development expenses.

33. DIVIDENDS

Pursuant to a resolution passed at the Board of Directors' meeting on March 9, 2021, a final dividend of equivalent to HK\$0.125 per share totaling approximately RMB8,403 for the year ended December 31, 2020 was proposed for shareholders' approval at the Annual General Meeting. The dividend has not been provided for in the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Pursuant to the shareholders' approval at the Annual General Meeting held on May 26, 2020, a final dividend of RMB0.114441 (equivalent to HK\$0.125) per share totaling RMB9,262 in respect of the year ended December 31, 2019 was declared, and paid on July 31, 2020.

Pursuant to the shareholders' approval at the Annual General Meeting held on May 29, 2019, a final dividend of RMB0.109851 (equivalent to HK\$0.125) per share totaling RMB8,891 in respect of the year ended December 31, 2018 was declared, and paid on July 26, 2019.

34. BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 is based on the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company of RMB21,210, RMB20,517 and RMB20,850, respectively, divided by 80,932,368,321 shares.

Diluted earnings per share were equivalent to basic earnings per share, as there were no dilutive potential ordinary shares in existence for the periods presented.

35. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Capital commitments

As of December 31, 2020, the Group had capital commitments as follows:

	RMB
Contracted for but not provided	
- property	1,202
- telecommunications network plant and equipment	18,997
	<u>20,199</u>

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35. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (continued)

Contingent liabilities

- (a) The Group was advised by their PRC lawyers that no material contingent liabilities were assumed by the Group.
- (b) As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the Group did not have contingent liabilities in respect of guarantees given to banks in respect of banking facilities granted to other parties, or other forms of contingent liabilities.

Legal contingencies

The Group is a defendant in certain lawsuits as well as the named party in other proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. Management has assessed the likelihood of an unfavourable outcome of such contingencies, lawsuits or other proceedings and based on such assessment, believes that any resulting liabilities will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position, operating results or cash flows of the Group.

36. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial assets of the Group include cash and cash equivalents, bank deposits and restricted cash, equity instrument, accounts receivable, financial assets at FVTPL and financial assets included in prepayments and other current assets. Financial liabilities of the Group include short-term and long-term debt, accounts payable and financial liabilities included in accrued expenses and other payables.

(a) Fair Value Measurements

Based on IFRS 13, “Fair Value Measurement”, the fair value of each financial instrument is categorized in its entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to that fair value measurement. The levels are defined as follows:

- Level 1: fair values measured using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical financial instruments
- Level 2: fair values measured using quoted prices in active markets for similar financial instruments, or using valuation techniques in which all significant inputs are directly or indirectly based on observable market data
- Level 3: fair values measured using valuation techniques in which any significant input is not based on observable market data

The fair values of the Group’s financial instruments (other than long-term debt and financial instruments measured at fair value) approximate their carrying amounts due to the short-term maturity of these instruments.

The listed equity securities investment included in the Group’s equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income are categorized as level 1 financial instruments. The fair value of the Group’s listed equity securities investment, which amounted to RMB1,228 and RMB838 as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 respectively was based on quoted market price on PRC stock exchanges.

The fair values of long-term debt is estimated by discounting future cash flows using current market interest rates offered to the Group for debt with substantially the same characteristics and maturities. The fair value measurement of long-term debt is categorized as level 2. The interest rates used by the Group in estimating the fair values of long-term debt, having considered the foreign currency denomination of the debt, ranged from 2.9% to 4.9% (2019: 3.7% to 4.9%). As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the carrying amounts and fair value of the Group’s long-term debt was as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2019</u>		<u>December 31, 2020</u>	
	<u>Carrying amount</u>	<u>Fair value</u>	<u>Carrying amount</u>	<u>Fair value</u>
	<u>RMB</u>	<u>RMB</u>	<u>RMB</u>	<u>RMB</u>
Long-term debt	<u>36,495</u>	<u>35,780</u>	<u>25,348</u>	<u>25,294</u>

During the year, there were no transfers among instruments in level 1, level 2 or level 3.

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36. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(b) Risks

The Group's financial instruments are exposed to three main types of risks, namely, credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk (which mainly comprises of interest rate risk and foreign currency exchange rate risk). The Group's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimize potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance. Risk management is carried out under policies approved by the Board of Directors. The Board provides principles for overall risk management, as well as policies covering specific areas, such as liquidity risk, credit risk, and market risk. The Board regularly reviews these policies and authorizes changes if necessary based on operating and market conditions and other relevant risks. The following summarizes the qualitative and quantitative disclosures for each of the three main types of risks:

(i) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss to the Group. For the Group, this arises mainly from deposits it maintains at financial institutions and credit it provides to customers for the provision of telecommunications services.

Cash and cash equivalents, short-term bank deposits and restricted cash

To limit exposure to credit risk relating to deposits, the Group primarily places cash deposits only with large state-owned financial institutions in the PRC with acceptable credit ratings. The credit risks on bank balances are limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings.

Accounts receivable and contract assets arising from contracts with customers

For accounts receivable and contract assets, management performs ongoing credit evaluations of its customers' financial condition and generally does not require collateral on accounts receivable and contract assets. These evaluations focus on the customer's past history of making payments when due and current ability to pay, and take into account information specific to the customer as well as pertaining to the economic environment in which the customer operates. In addition, the Group performs impairment assessment under ECL model on trade balances individually or based on provision matrix. Furthermore, the Group has a diversified base of customers with no single customer contributing more than 10% of revenues for the periods presented.

The Group measures loss allowances for accounts receivable and contract assets at an amount equal to lifetime ECL, which is calculated using a provision matrix, or individually assessed for those debtors with significant balances or credit impaired debtors. As different loss patterns were indicated during the analysis of the Group's historical credit loss experience between telephone and Internet subscribers and enterprise customers, the following tables provide information about the Group's exposure to credit risk and ECL for accounts receivables and contract assets from telephone and Internet subscribers and enterprise customers, respectively, as of December 31, 2019 and 2020:

Accounts receivable from telephone and Internet subscribers:

	December 31, 2019		
	Expected loss rate %	Gross carrying amount RMB	Loss allowance RMB
Current, within 1 month	2%	7,545	141
1 to 3 months	20%	1,777	349
4 to 6 months	60%	739	444
7 to 12 months	80%	1,083	867
Over 12 months	100%	1,002	1,002
		<u>12,146</u>	<u>2,803</u>
	December 31, 2020		
	Expected loss rate %	Gross carrying amount RMB	Loss allowance RMB
Current, within 1 month	2%	7,068	132
1 to 3 months	20%	1,601	317
4 to 6 months	60%	561	333
7 to 12 months	80%	920	735
Over 12 months	100%	921	921
		<u>11,071</u>	<u>2,438</u>

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36. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(b) *Risks (continued)*

(i) Credit risk (continued)

Accounts receivable and contract assets arising from contracts with customers (continued)

Accounts receivable and contract assets from enterprise customers:

Due to greater financial uncertainty triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Group has increased the expected loss rates on accounts receivable and contract assets from enterprise customers in the current year as there is higher risk that a prolonged pandemic could lead to increased credit default rates.

	December 31, 2019		
	Expected loss rate %	Gross carrying amount RMB	Loss allowance RMB
1 to 6 months	2%	5,452	102
7 to 12 months	20%	1,428	239
1 to 2 years	60%	621	353
2 to 3 years	90%	258	224
Over 3 years	100%	371	364
		8,130	1,282

	December 31, 2020		
	Expected loss rate %	Gross carrying amount RMB	Loss allowance RMB
1 to 6 months	2%	6,031	124
7 to 12 months	22%	1,120	232
1 to 2 years	67%	685	445
2 to 3 years	100%	347	333
Over 3 years	100%	324	324
		8,507	1,458

As of December 31, 2020, the loss allowance for accounts receivable and contract assets was RMB4,434 and RMB9 (2019: RMB4,692 and RMB8), respectively. Loss allowance of RMB556 and RMB615 as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, which was not calculated collectively in the above tables, was made individually on debtors with significant balances or credit impaired debtors.

Expected loss rates are based on actual loss experience over the past 1 to 3 years. These rates are adjusted to reflect differences between economic conditions during the period over which the historical data has been collected, current conditions and the Group's view of economic conditions over the expected lives of the receivables.

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36. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(b) Risks (continued)

(i) Credit risk (continued)

Accounts receivable and contract assets arising from contracts with customers (continued)

Accounts receivable and contract assets from enterprise customers (continued):

Movement in the loss allowance account in respect of accounts receivable during the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 is as follows:

	2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
At beginning of year	4,761	4,680	4,692
Impairment losses for ECL	2,008	1,653	1,382
Amounts written off	<u>(2,089)</u>	<u>(1,641)</u>	<u>(1,640)</u>
At end of year	<u>4,680</u>	<u>4,692</u>	<u>4,434</u>

(ii) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk refers to the risk that funds will not be available to meet liabilities as they fall due, and results from timing and amount mismatches of cash inflow and outflow. The Group manages liquidity risk by maintaining sufficient cash balances and adequate amount of committed banking facilities to meet its funding needs, including working capital, principal and interest payments on debts, dividend payments, capital expenditures and new investments for a set minimum period of between 3 to 6 months.

The following table sets out the remaining contractual maturities at the end of the reporting period of the Group's financial liabilities and lease liabilities, which are based on contractual undiscounted cash flows (including interest payments computed using contractual rates or, if floating, based on prevailing rates at the end of the reporting period) and the earliest date the Group would be required to repay:

	2019					
	Carrying amount RMB	Total contractual undiscounted cash flow RMB	Within 1 year or on demand RMB	More than 1 year but less than 2 years RMB	More than 2 years but less than 5 years RMB	More than 5 years RMB
Short-term debt	42,527	43,697	43,697	—	—	—
Long-term debt	36,495	40,791	4,625	1,184	30,824	4,158
Accounts payable	102,616	102,616	102,616	—	—	—
Accrued expenses and other payables	48,516	48,516	48,516	—	—	—
Lease liabilities	42,146	45,535	12,846	11,794	17,266	3,629
	<u>272,300</u>	<u>281,155</u>	<u>212,300</u>	<u>12,978</u>	<u>48,090</u>	<u>7,787</u>
	2020					
	Carrying amount RMB	Total contractual undiscounted cash flow RMB	Within 1 year or on demand RMB	More than 1 year but less than 2 years RMB	More than 2 years but less than 5 years RMB	More than 5 years RMB
Short-term debt	27,994	28,417	28,417	—	—	—
Long-term debt	25,348	27,805	1,410	17,838	5,609	2,948
Accounts payable	107,578	107,578	107,578	—	—	—
Accrued expenses and other payables	56,775	56,775	56,775	—	—	—
Lease liabilities	40,647	43,896	14,449	13,363	12,110	3,974
	<u>258,342</u>	<u>264,471</u>	<u>208,629</u>	<u>31,201</u>	<u>17,719</u>	<u>6,922</u>

Management believes that the Group's current cash on hand, expected cash flows from operations and available credit facilities from banks (Note 19) will be sufficient to meet the Group's working capital requirements and repay its borrowings and obligations when they become due.

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36. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(b) *Risks (continued)*

(iii) Interest rate risk

The Group's interest rate risk exposure arises primarily from its short-term debt and long-term debt. Debts carrying interest at variable rates and at fixed rates expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk and fair value interest rate risk respectively. The Group manages its exposure to interest rate risk by closely monitoring the change in the market interest rate.

The following table sets out the interest rate profile of the Group's debt at the end of the reporting period:

	2019		2020	
	Effective interest rate %	RMB	Effective interest rate %	RMB
Fixed rate debt:				
Short-term debt	2.5	29,022	2.7	22,719
Long-term debt	3.1	36,495	2.7	25,348
		65,517		48,067
Variable rate debt:				
Short-term debt	3.8	13,505	3.3	5,275
		13,505		5,275
Total debt		79,022		53,342
Fixed rate debt as a percentage of total debt		82.9%		90.1%

Management does not expect the increase or decrease in interest rate will materially affect the Group's financial position and result of operations because the interest rates of 90.1% (December 31, 2019: 82.9%) of the Group's short-term and long-term debt as of December 31, 2020 are fixed as set out above.

(iv) Foreign currency exchange rate risk

Foreign currency exchange rate risk arises on financial instruments that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency in which they are measured. The Group's foreign currency risk exposure mainly relates to bank deposits and borrowings denominated primarily in US dollars, Euros and Hong Kong dollars.

Management does not expect the appreciation or depreciation of the Renminbi against foreign currencies will materially affect the Group's financial position and result of operations because 73.0% (December 31, 2019: 78.0%) of the Group's cash and cash equivalents and 99.3% (December 31, 2019: 99.4%) of the Group's short-term and long-term debt as of December 31, 2020 are denominated in Renminbi. Details of bank loans denominated in other currencies are set out in Note 19.

37. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Group's primary objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide investment returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders, by pricing products and services commensurately with the level of risk and by securing access to finance at a reasonable cost.

Management regularly reviews and manages its capital structure to maintain a balance between the higher shareholder returns that might be possible with higher levels of borrowings and the advantages and security afforded by a sound capital position, and makes adjustments to the capital structure in light of changes in economic conditions.

Management monitors its capital structure on the basis of total debt-to-total assets ratio. For this purpose the Group defines total debt as the sum of short-term debt and long-term debt. Total debts do not include balance of deposits received by Finance Company from China Telecom Group amounting to RMB9,826 and lease liabilities amounting to RMB40,647 as of December 31, 2020 (December 31, 2019: RMB4,098 and RMB42,146). As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the Group's total debt-to-total assets ratio was 11.2% and 7.5% respectively, which is within the range of management's expectation.

Except Finance Company is subject to certain capital requirements imposed by China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries are subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

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38. RECONCILIATION OF LIABILITIES ARISING FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES

The table below details changes in the Group's liabilities arising from financing activities, including both cash and non-cash changes. Liabilities arising from financing activities are those for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be, classified in the Group's consolidated statements of cash flows as cash flows from financing activities.

	Short-term debt RMB	Long-term debt RMB	Lease liabilities RMB	Dividend payable RMB	Deposits with Finance Company RMB (Note (i))	Other payables in respect of certain equity transactions RMB	Total RMB
Balance as at January 1, 2019	49,537	45,991	45,864	—	—	—	141,392
Financing cash flows	(7,010)	(9,782)	(10,699)	(9,072)	4,098	(8)	(32,473)
New leases	—	—	8,856	—	—	—	8,856
Lease modifications	—	—	(589)	—	—	—	(589)
Transferred to accounts payables	—	—	(2,900)	—	—	—	(2,900)
Interest expenses	—	284	1,607	—	—	—	1,891
Foreign exchange loss	—	2	7	—	—	—	9
Acquisition of non-controlling interests	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Distribution to non-controlling interests	—	—	—	181	—	—	181
Dividends declared	—	—	—	8,891	—	—	8,891
Balance as at December 31, 2019	42,527	36,495	42,146	—	4,098	—	125,266
Financing cash flows	(14,533)	(11,400)	(12,738)	(9,304)	5,728	977	(41,270)
New leases	—	—	13,561	—	—	—	13,561
Lease modifications	—	—	(1,254)	—	—	—	(1,254)
Transferred to accounts payables	—	—	(2,618)	—	—	—	(2,618)
Interest expenses	—	266	1,566	—	—	—	1,832
Foreign exchange gain	—	(13)	(16)	—	—	—	(29)
Acquisition of non-controlling interests	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Distribution to non-controlling interests	—	—	—	42	—	—	42
Dividends declared	—	—	—	9,262	—	—	9,262
Balance as at December 31, 2020	27,994	25,348	40,647	—	9,826	978	104,793

Notes:

- (i) As of December 31, 2020, the balance of deposits with Finance Company amounting to RMB9,826 (December 31, 2019: RMB4,098) were included in amounts due to China Telecom Group in accrued expenses and other payables (Note 21).
- (ii) For the year ended December 31, 2020, other than the net financing cash outflows totalling RMB41,270 as presented above: Finance Company, a subsidiary of the Company, placed statutory reserve deposits amounting to RMB837 at the People's Bank of China which was included in the balance of short-term bank deposits and restricted cash as of December 31, 2020.
- For the year ended December 31, 2019, other than the net financing cash outflows totalling RMB32,473 as presented above: E-surfing Pay received RMB90 as part of the total consideration amounting to RMB945 in respect of contribution from non-controlling interests; Finance Company received RMB1,500 in respect of contribution from non-controlling interests, and placed statutory reserve deposits amounting to RMB405 at the People's Bank of China which was included in the balance of short-term bank deposits and restricted cash as of December 31, 2019.

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39. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Transactions with China Telecom Group

The Group is a part of companies under China Telecommunications Corporation, a company owned by the PRC government, and has significant transactions and business relationships with members of China Telecom Group.

The principal transactions with China Telecom Group which were carried out in the ordinary course of business are as follows.

	Notes	Year ended December 31,		
		2018 RMB	2019 RMB	2020 RMB
Construction and engineering services	(i)	16,396	14,014	15,046
Receiving ancillary services	(ii)	16,744	18,571	18,903
Interconnection revenues	(iii)	80	97	54
Interconnection charges	(iii)	204	183	123
Receiving community services	(iv)	3,296	3,464	3,682
Net transaction amount of centralized services	(v)	519	133	268
Property lease income	(vi)	48	57	45
Property lease related expenses	(vii)	713	577	581
Addition to right-of-use assets	(vii)	—	284	335
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(vii)	—	11	16
Provision of IT services	(viii)	531	464	556
Receiving IT services	(viii)	1,895	2,175	2,653
Purchases of telecommunications equipment and materials	(ix)	3,760	3,538	3,567
Sales of telecommunications equipment and materials	(ix)	2,760	1,444	2,070
Internet applications channel services	(x)	298	108	73
Interest on amounts due to and loans from China Telecom Group	(xi)	2,099	1,485	975
Others	(xii)	186	189	243
Net deposit by China Telecom Group with Finance Company	(xiii)	—	4,098	5,728
Interest expense on the deposit by China Telecom Group with Finance Company	(xiii)	—	7	82

Notes:

- (i) Represent construction and engineering as well as design and supervisory services provided by China Telecom Group.
- (ii) Represent amounts paid and payable to China Telecom Group in respect of ancillary services such as repairs and maintenance of telecommunications equipment and facilities and certain customer services.
- (iii) Represent amounts received and receivable from/paid and payable to China Telecom Group for interconnection of local and domestic long distance calls.
- (iv) Represent amounts paid and payable to China Telecom Group in respect of cultural, educational, health care and other community services.
- (v) Represent net amount shared between the Company and China Telecom Group for costs associated with centralized services. The amount represents amounts received or receivable for the net amount of centralized services.
- (vi) Represent amounts of property lease fee received and receivable from China Telecom Group for leasing of properties.
- (vii) Represent amounts in relation to the leasing of properties from China Telecom Group. Property lease related expenses for the year ended 31 December 2020 include the fee for short-term leases, leases of low-value assets, variable lease payments not depending on an index or a rate and fee for non-lease components. Property lease related expenses for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 2019 represent lease fee paid and payable to China Telecom Group.
- (viii) Represent IT services provided to and received from China Telecom Group.
- (ix) Represent the amount of telecommunications equipment and materials purchased from/sold to China Telecom Group and commission paid and payable for procurement services provided by China Telecom Group.
- (x) Represent amounts received and receivable from China Telecom Group in respect of Internet applications channel services, including the provision of telecommunications channel and applications support platform and billing and deduction services, etc.
- (xi) Represent interest paid and payable to China Telecom Group with respect to the amount due to China Telecommunications Corporation and loans from China Telecom Group (Note 19).
- (xii) Represent amounts paid and payable to China Telecom Group primarily for usage of CDMA mobile telecommunications network (“CDMA network”) facilities located in Xizang Autonomous Region, certain inter-provincial transmission optic fibers within its service regions and land use rights.
- (xiii) Represent amounts related to financial services provided by Finance Company to China Telecom Group, including lending services, deposit services and other financial services.

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39. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

(a) Transactions with China Telecom Group (continued)

Amounts due from/to China Telecom Group are summarized as follows:

	December 31,	
	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Accounts receivable	1,188	1,784
Contract assets	27	49
Prepayments and other current assets	1,233	1,189
Total amounts due from China Telecom Group	2,448	3,022
Accounts payable	19,531	19,272
Accrued expenses and other payables	6,069	11,279
Contract liabilities	162	217
Lease liabilities	389	489
Short-term debt	6,621	11,164
Long-term debt	23,300	11,000
Total amounts due to China Telecom Group	56,072	53,421

Amounts due from/to China Telecom Group, other than short-term debt, long-term debt, deposit with Finance Company included in accrued expenses and other payables (Note 38(i)), bear no interest, are unsecured and are repayable in accordance with contractual terms which are similar to those terms offered by third parties. The terms and conditions associated with short-term debt and long-term debt due to China Telecom Group are set out in Note 19.

As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, no material loss allowance was recognized in respect of amounts due from China Telecom Group.

(b) Transactions with China Tower

The principal transactions with China Tower are as follows:

	Notes	Year ended December 31,		
		2018	2019	2020
		RMB	RMB	RMB
Tower assets lease related expenses	(i)	16,063	10,543	10,746
Additions of right-of-use assets	(i)	—	3,735	3,645
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(i)	—	938	805
Provision of IT services	(ii)	32	31	31

Notes:

- (i) Represent amounts in relation to the lease of tower assets. Tower assets lease related expenses for the year ended 31 December 2020 includes the variable lease payments not depending on an index or a rate and fee for non-lease components. Tower assets lease related expenses for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 2019 represent tower assets lease and related fee paid and payable to China Tower.
- (ii) Represent IT and other ancillary services provided to China Tower.

Amounts due from/to China Tower are summarized as follows:

	2019	2020
	RMB	RMB
Accounts receivable	5	23
Prepayments and other current assets	192	138
Total amounts due from China Tower	197	161
Accounts payable	4,312	4,344
Accrued expenses and other payables	1,261	1,192
Contract liabilities	1	3
Lease liabilities	24,474	19,798
Total amounts due to China Tower	30,048	25,337

Amounts due from/to China Tower bear no interest, are unsecured and are repayable in accordance with contractual terms which are similar to those terms offered by third parties.

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39. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

(b) Transactions with China Tower (continued)

As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, no material loss allowance was recognized in respect of amounts due from China Tower.

(c) Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group, directly or indirectly, including directors and supervisors of the Group.

Key management personnel compensation of the Group is summarized as follows:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2018	2019	2020
	RMB thousands	RMB thousands	RMB thousands
Short-term employee benefits	7,942	9,604	8,727
Post-employment benefits	799	1,199	628
	<u>8,741</u>	<u>10,803</u>	<u>9,355</u>

The above remuneration is included in personnel expenses.

(d) Contributions to post-employment benefit plans

The Group participates in various defined contribution post-employment benefit plans organized by municipal, autonomous regional and provincial governments for its employees. Further details of the Group's post-employment benefit plans are disclosed in Note 40.

(e) Transactions with other government-related entities in the PRC

The Group is a government-related enterprise and operates in an economic regime currently dominated by entities directly or indirectly controlled by the People's Republic of China through government authorities, agencies, affiliations and other organizations (collectively referred to as "government-related entities").

Apart from transactions with parent company and its fellow subsidiaries (Note 39(a)), the Group has transactions that are collectively but not individually significant with other government-related entities, which include but not limited to the following:

- rendering and receiving services, including but not limited to telecommunications services
- sales and purchases of goods, properties and other assets
- lease of assets
- depositing and borrowing
- use of public utilities

These transactions are conducted in the ordinary course of the Group's business on terms comparable to the terms of transactions with other entities that are not government-related. The Group prices its telecommunications services and products based on government-regulated tariff rates, where applicable, or based on commercial negotiations. The Group has also established procurement policies and approval processes for purchases of products and services, which do not depend on whether the counterparties are government-related entities or not.

The directors of the Company believe the above information provides appropriate disclosure of related party transactions.

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40. POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PLANS

As stipulated by the regulations of the PRC, the Group participates in various defined contribution retirement plans organized by municipal, autonomous regional and provincial governments for its employees. The Group is required to make contributions to the retirement plans at rates ranging from 14% to 20% of the salaries, bonuses and certain allowances of the employees, while the PRC government resolved to waive certain proportion of such contributions during the specific period affected by the Covid-19 in order to help enterprises withstand the pandemic and stabilise employment. A member of the plan is entitled to a pension equal to a fixed proportion of the salary prevailing at the member's retirement date. Other than the above, the Group also participates in supplementary defined contribution retirement plans managed by independent external parties whereby the Group is required to make contributions to the retirement plans at fixed rates of the employees' salaries, bonuses and certain allowances. The Group has no other material obligation for the payment of pension benefits associated with these plans beyond the annual contributions described above. During the reporting period, no forfeited contributions may be used by the Group to reduce the existing level of contributions.

The Group's contributions for the above plans for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020 were RMB7,256 and RMB8,616 and RMB6,599, respectively.

The amount payable for contributions to the above defined contribution retirement plans as of December 31, 2019 and 2020 was RMB755 and RMB746, respectively.

41. SHARE APPRECIATION RIGHTS

The Group implemented a share appreciation rights plan for members of its management to provide incentives to these employees. Under this plan, share appreciation rights are granted in units with each unit representing one H share. No shares will be issued under the share appreciation rights plan. Upon exercise of the share appreciation rights, a recipient will receive, subject to any applicable withholding tax, a cash payment in RMB, translated from the Hong Kong dollar amount equal to the product of the number of share appreciation rights exercised and the difference between the exercise price and market price of the Company's H shares at the date of exercise based on the applicable exchange rate between RMB and Hong Kong dollar at the date of the exercise. The Company recognizes compensation expense of the share appreciation rights over the applicable period.

In November 2018, the Company approved the granting of 2,394 million share appreciation right units to eligible employees. Under the terms of this grant, all share appreciation rights had a contractual life of five years from date of grant and an exercise price of HK\$3.81 per unit. A recipient of share appreciation rights may exercise the rights in stages commencing November 2020. As of each of the third, fourth and fifth anniversary of the date of grant, the total number of share appreciation rights exercisable may not in aggregate exceed 33.3%, 66.7% and 100.0%, respectively, of the total share appreciation rights granted to such person.

During the year ended December 31, 2019 and 2020, no share appreciation right units were exercised. For the year ended December 31, 2020, compensation expense of RMB101 was reversed by the Group in respect of share appreciation rights. For the year ended 31 December 2019, compensation expense of RMB136 was recognised by the Group in respect of share appreciation rights.

As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, the carrying amount of the liability arising from share appreciation rights were RMB166 and RMB65, respectively.

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42. PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

Details of the Company's subsidiaries which principally affected the results, assets and liabilities of the Group as of December 31, 2020 are as follows:

Name of company	Type of legal entity	Date of incorporation	Place of incorporation and operation	Registered /issued capital (in RMB million unless otherwise stated)	Principal activities
China Telecom System Integration Co., Limited	Limited Company	September 13, 2001	PRC	542	Provision of system integration and consulting services
China Telecom Global Limited	Limited Company	February 25, 2000	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC	HK\$168 million	Provision of telecommunications services
China Telecom (Americas) Corporation	Limited Company	November 22, 2001	The United States of America	US\$43 million	Provision of telecommunications services
China Telecom Best Tone Information Service Co., Limited	Limited Company	August 15, 2007	PRC	350	Provision of Best Tone information services
China Telecom (Macau) Company Limited	Limited Company	October 15, 2004	Macau Special Administrative Region of the PRC	MOP60 million	Provision of telecommunications services
Tianyi Telecom Terminals Company Limited	Limited Company	July 1, 2005	PRC	500	Sales of telecommunications terminals
China Telecom (Singapore) Pte. Limited	Limited Company	October 5, 2006	Singapore	S\$1,000,001	Provision of international value-added network services
E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd	Limited Company	March 3, 2011	PRC	635	Provision of e-commerce service
Shenzhen Shekou Telecommunications Company Limited	Limited Company	May 5, 1984	PRC	91	Provision of telecommunications services
China Telecom (Australia) Pty Ltd	Limited Company	January 10, 2011	Australia	AUD1 million	Provision of international value-added network services
China Telecom Korea Co.,Ltd	Limited Company	May 16, 2012	South Korea	KRW500 million	Provision of international value-added network services
China Telecom (Malaysia) SDN BHD	Limited Company	June 26, 2012	Malaysia	MYR3,723,500	Provision of international value-added network services
China Telecom Information Technology (Vietnam) Co., Ltd	Limited Company	July 9, 2012	Vietnam	VND10,500 million	Provision of international value-added network services
iMUSIC Culture & Technology Co., Ltd.	Limited Company	June 9, 2013	PRC	250	Provision of music production and related information services
China Telecom (Europe) Limited	Limited Company	March 2, 2006	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	GBP16.15 million	Provision of telecommunications services
Zhejiang Yixin Technology Co., Ltd.	Limited Company	August 19, 2013	PRC	11	Provision of instant messenger service
Tianyi Capital Holding Co., Ltd.	Limited Company	November 30, 2017	PRC	5,000	Capital Investment and provision of consulting services
China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited.	Limited Company	November 30, 2018	PRC	5,000	Provision of finance lease service
China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd. ("Finance Company")	Limited Company	January 8, 2019	PRC	5,000	Provision of capital and financial management services

Except for Shenzhen Shekou Telecommunications Company Limited which is 51% owned by the Company, Zhejiang Yixin Technology Co., Ltd. which is 65% owned by the Company, E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd, which is 78.74% owned by the Company and Finance Company, which is 70% owned by the Company, all of the above subsidiaries are directly or indirectly wholly-owned by the Company. No subsidiaries of the Group have material non-controlling interest. None of the subsidiaries had issued any debt securities at the end of the year.

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43. ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS

The Group's financial position and results of operations are sensitive to accounting methods, assumptions and estimates that underlie the preparation of the consolidated financial statements. Management bases the assumptions and estimates on historical experience and on other factors that the management believes to be reasonable and which form the basis for making judgments about matters that are not readily apparent from other sources. On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates. Actual results may differ from those estimates as facts, circumstances and conditions change.

The selection of significant accounting policies, the judgments and other uncertainties affecting application of those policies and the sensitivity of reported results to changes in conditions and assumptions are factors to be considered when reviewing the consolidated financial statements. The significant accounting policies are set forth in Note 3. Management believes the following significant accounting policies involve the most significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.

Provision of ECL for accounts receivable

The Group uses provision matrix to calculate ECL for the accounts receivable. The provision rates are based on customer's past history of making payments when due and current ability to pay by groupings of various debtors that have similar loss patterns. The provision matrix is based on the Group's historical credit loss experience taking into consideration reasonable and supportable forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort. The historical loss rates are reassessed annually, and changes in the forward-looking information are considered. In addition, accounts receivable with significant balances or credit-impaired are assessed for ECL individually.

The provision of ECL is sensitive to changes in estimates. Due to greater financial uncertainty triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Group has increased the expected loss rates in the current year as there is higher risk that a prolonged pandemic could lead to increased credit default rate. The information about the ECL and the Group's accounts receivable are disclosed in notes 5 and 36.

Impairment of goodwill and long-lived assets

If circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of a long-lived asset may not be recoverable, the asset may be considered "impaired", and an impairment loss would be recognized in accordance with accounting policy for impairment of long-lived assets as described in Note 3(h). The carrying amounts of the Group's long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, right-of-use assets, intangible assets with finite useful lives, construction in progress and contract costs are reviewed periodically to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. These assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their recorded carrying amounts may not be recoverable. For goodwill, the impairment testing is performed annually at the end of each reporting period. The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its value in use and fair value less costs of disposal. When an asset does not generate cash flows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit). In determining the value in use, expected future cash flows generated by the assets are discounted to their present value. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. It is difficult to precisely estimate fair value of the Group's long-lived assets because quoted market prices for such assets may not be readily available. In determining the value in use, expected future cash flows generated by the asset are discounted to their present value, which requires significant judgment relating to level of revenue, amount of operating costs and applicable discount rate. Management uses all readily available information in determining an amount that is a reasonable approximation of recoverable amount.

For the year ended December 31, 2020, provision for impairment loss of RMB5,042 were made against the carrying value of property, plant and equipment (Note 9), mainly based on the impairment test on the 3G Assets on the basis of each individual asset. For the year ended December 31 2019 and 2018, no provision for impairment loss was made against the carrying value of long-lived assets.

In determining the recoverable amount of the assets with the cash-generating unit, significant judgments were required in estimating future cash flows, level of revenue, amount of operating costs and applicable discount rate. Changes in these estimates could have a significant impact on the carrying value of the assets and could result in additional impairment charge or reversal of impairment in future periods. Furthermore, the financial budgets, growth rate and discount rate are subject to greater uncertainties in the current year due to uncertainty on how the Covid-19 pandemic may progress and evolve and volatility in financial markets.

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43. ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS (continued)

Depreciation and amortization

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets with finite useful lives are depreciated and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, after taking into account their estimated residual value. Management reviews the estimated useful lives and residual values of the assets annually in order to determine the amount of depreciation and amortization expense to be recorded during any reporting period. The useful lives and residual values are based on the Group’s historical experience with similar assets and take into account anticipated technological changes. The depreciation and amortization expense for future periods is adjusted if there are significant changes from previous estimates.

44. POSSIBLE IMPACT OF NEW AND AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE FOR THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Up to the date of issue of these consolidated financial statements, the IASB has issued the following new and amendments to standards which are not yet effective and not early adopted for the annual accounting period ended December 31, 2020:

	Effective for accounting period beginning on or after
Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16, “ <i>Interest Rate Benchmark Reform–Phase 2</i> ”	January 1, 2021
Amendments to IFRS 3, “ <i>Reference to the Conceptual Framework</i> ”	January 1, 2022
Amendments to IAS 16, “ <i>Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use</i> ”	January 1, 2022
Amendments to IAS 37, “ <i>Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract</i> ”	January 1, 2022
Amendments to IFRS Standards, “ <i>Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020</i> ”	January 1, 2022
IFRS 17, “ <i>Insurance Contracts and the related Amendments</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 1, “ <i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2, “ <i>Disclosure of Accounting Policies</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IAS 8, “ <i>Definition of Accounting Estimates</i> ”	January 1, 2023
Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28, “ <i>Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture</i> ”	To be determined

The Group is in the process of making an assessment of the impact that will result from adopting the new and amendments to standards issued by the IASB which are not yet effective for the accounting period ended on December 31, 2020. So far the Group believes that the adoption of these new and amendments to standards is unlikely to have a significant impact on its financial position and the results of operations.

45. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

(a) NYSE determination to delist American Depositary Shares of the Company

The New York Stock Exchange LLC (the “NYSE”) announced on December 31, 2020 (US Eastern standard time) that the staff of NYSE Regulation had determined to commence proceedings to delist the securities of three issuers, including the American Depositary Shares (the “ADSs”) of the Company, on the basis that the Company is no longer suitable for listing pursuant to the NYSE Listed Company Manual Section 802.01D in light of the Executive Order issued on November 12, 2020 (as amended on January 13, 2021 (US Eastern standard time)) by the then President of the United States. On January 4, 2021 (US Eastern standard time), NYSE announced that NYSE Regulation no longer intended to move forward with the delisting action in relation to the ADSs, and then on January 6, 2021 (US Eastern standard time), NYSE announced that NYSE Regulation determined to re-commence delisting proceedings of the ADSs (the “Determination”), following which trading of the ADSs was suspended at 4:00 a.m. (US Eastern standard time) on January 11, 2021. In addition, on January 8, 2021 (US Eastern standard time), the US Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”) added the Company to the “Issuer Name” column of a list of companies identified as a Restricted Company (the “Restricted List”).

In order to protect the legitimate interests of the Company and its shareholders, on January 20, 2021 (US Eastern standard time), the Company filed with the NYSE a written request for a review of the Determination by a Committee of the Board of Directors of the NYSE (the “Committee”) and stay of the trading suspension of the ADSs pending review of the Determination. On January 27, 2021 (US Eastern standard time), OFAC published General License No. 1A in relation to the Executive Order (“GL 1A”), dated January 26, 2021 (US Eastern standard time), and guidance relating to two related frequently asked questions (respectively, “FAQ 878” and “FAQ 879”). GL 1A and FAQ 879 provide, among others, that, pursuant to the Executive Order, the Prohibitions with respect to the Company take effect on the date that is 60 days after the Company was added to the Restricted List, or March 9, 2021 (US Eastern standard time) (instead of January 11, 2021 (US Eastern standard time)).

The Company will continue to pay close attention to the development of related matters and also seek professional advice and reserve all rights to protect the legitimate interests of the Company.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(All Renminbi amounts in millions, except per share data and except otherwise stated)

45. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD (continued)

(b) Proposal of share appreciation rights grant for key personnel

On February 9, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Company has considered and approved the resolution in relation to the “2021 Share Appreciation Rights Grant Proposal for Key Personnel of China Telecom Corporation Limited” (now renamed as “The Phase II Incentive Scheme for Share Appreciation Rights of China Telecom Corporation Limited” as instructed by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council of China (“SASAC”)) (the “Proposal”). According to the Proposal, the Company proposed to grant a maximum of approximately 2,412 million share appreciation rights to a maximum of approximately 8,300 key personnel (excluding the Executive Directors, Non-Executive Director, Independent Directors, Supervisors and senior management of the Company).

The Proposal has been approved by SASAC on March 3, 2021.

(c) Proposed A share offering

On March 9, 2021, the Company announced it plans to apply for the offering and listing of A shares on the Main Board of Shanghai Stock Exchange.

46. PARENT AND ULTIMATE HOLDING COMPANY

The parent and ultimate holding company of the Company as of December 31, 2020 is China Telecommunications Corporation, a state-owned enterprise established in the PRC.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED

(The Articles of Association was prepared in Chinese and the English translation is not an official version and for your reference only. In case of any inconsistencies and discrepancies between the Chinese and the English versions, the Chinese version shall prevail)

(Inclusive of alterations approved by the shareholders' general meeting up to 26 May 2020)

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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF
CHINA TELECOM CORPORATON LIMITED

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. China Telecom Corporation Limited (the “Company”) is a joint stock limited company established in accordance with the Company Law of the People’s Republic of China (the “Company Law”), the State Council’s Special Regulations Regarding the Issue of Shares Overseas and the Listing of Shares Overseas by Companies Limited by Shares (the “Special Regulations”) and other relevant laws and regulations of the State.

The Company was established by way of promotion with the approval of the State Economic and Trade Commission of the People’s Republic of China, as evidenced by approval document *Guo Jing Mao Qi Gai [2002]* no. 656. It is registered with and has obtained a business licence from the State Administration for Industry & Commerce of the People’s Republic of China on 10 September 2002. The Company’s unified social credit code is: 9111000071093019X7.

The promoter of the Company is: China Telecommunications Corporation (currently known as China Telecommunications Corporation).

Article 2. The Company’s registered Chinese name is: 中国电信股份有限公司
The Company’s registered English name is: China Telecom Corporation Limited.

Article 3. The Company’s address : 31 Jinrong Street
Xicheng District
Beijing
China
Postal code : 100033
Telephone number : 5850-1800
Facsimile number : 6601-0728

Article 4. The Company’s legal representative is the Chairman of the board of directors of the Company.

Article 5. The Company is a joint stock limited company which has perpetual existence.

The rights and liability of a shareholder of the Company is limited to his share in the share capital of the Company, while the Company undertakes all of its liabilities with all of its assets.

The Company is an independent corporate legal person, and is subject to the jurisdiction of and protected by the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China.

Article 6. The Company's Articles of Association (the "Articles of Association" or "these Articles of Association") are enacted in accordance with the provisions of the Company Law, the Special Regulations and the Mandatory Provisions for Articles of Association of Companies to be Listed Overseas (the "Mandatory Provisions") and relevant provisions under the other PRC laws and administrative regulations.

Article 7. The original Articles of Association took effect from the date of incorporation of the Company.

These Articles of Association shall take effect after being adopted by a special resolution at the Company's general meeting and upon approval by the authorities that are authorized by the State Council to examine and approve companies. After these Articles of Association come into effect, the original articles of association shall be superseded by these Articles of Association.

Article 8. From the date on which the Company's Articles of Association comes into effect, the Company's Articles of Association constitute the legally binding document that regulates the Company's organization and activities, and the rights and obligations between the Company and each shareholder and among the shareholders.

Article 9. In accordance with the Company Law and the Constitution of the Communist Party of China (the "Party"), the Company shall set up Party organisations. The Party organisations shall perform the core leadership and political functions. The Company shall set up Party working organs, which shall be equipped with sufficient staff to handle Party affairs and provided with sufficient funds to operate the Party organisations.

Article 10. The Company's Articles of Association are binding on the Company and its shareholders, directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior management personnel, all of whom may, according to the Company's Articles of Association, assert rights in respect of the affairs of the Company.

Subject to non-contradiction to Chapter 21 of these Articles of Association, a shareholder may sue and vice versa be sued by the Company pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association. A shareholder may also sue another shareholder, and may take action against the directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers of the Company pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association.

The suit referred to in the preceding paragraph include court proceedings and an application to an arbitration tribunal to commence arbitration proceedings.

Article 11. The Company may invest in other limited liability companies or joint stock limited companies. The Company's liabilities to an invested company shall be limited to the amount of its capital contribution to the investee company.

The Company shall not be a shareholder with unlimited liabilities of any other organisations operating for profits.

The Company may, according to its operating and management needs, operate as a holding company in accordance with the law.

Article 12. Subject to compliance with PRC laws and administrative regulations, the Company shall have the right to raise funds, including (but not limited to) loans and issue of debentures, etc. and shall have the right to charge or pledge its assets.

CHAPTER 2: THE COMPANY'S OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF BUSINESS

Article 13. The Company's objectives are: comply with State laws and regulations, be market driven, actively adopt advanced communications technologies, and develop telecommunications and information businesses; strengthen management and increase service quality; provide fast, convenient and accurate communication services to society and satisfy the needs of society; improve enterprise efficiency, increase enterprise competitiveness and create profits for shareholders.

Article 14. The Company's scope of business shall be consistent with and subject to the scope of business approved by the authority responsible for the registration of the Company.

Basic telecommunications businesses include:

Engage in second generation 800MHz CDMA digital cellular mobile communications business, third generation CDMA2000 digital cellular mobile communications business, the LTE/4G digital cellular mobile communications business (TD-LTE/LTE FDD), fifth generation digital cellular mobile communications business, satellite mobile communications business, satellite fixed communications business, satellite transponders rental and sales business in the People's Republic of China.

Engage in local fixed communications business (including local wireless ring circuit business), domestic fixed long-distance communications business, international fixed long-distance communications business, Internet international data transmission business, international data communications business, public telegraph and subscriber telegraph business, 26GHz wireless access facilities services business, and domestic communications facilities services business in the 21 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang.

Engage in 3.5GHz wireless access facilities services business in Nanjing, Hefei, Kunming, Hubei, Hunan, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou and Gansu.

Value-added telecommunications businesses include:

Engage in domestic fixed data transmission business, Customer Premises Network (CPN) business, network hosting business, domestic Internet virtual private network business, Internet access services business, online data processing and transaction processing business, storage and forwarding business, domestic call centre business, information services business (excluding mobile information services and Internet information services) and wireless data transmission business in Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang; engage in domestic Very Small Aperture Terminal communications business, Internet data centre business, content distribution network business, information services business (limited to mobile information services) in the People's Republic of China; engage in information services business (limited to Internet information services).

IPTV transmission services: provide signal transmission and the relevant technical support between the IPTV integrated broadcast and control platforms and TV user terminals; the transmission network is built upon the fixed telecommunications network (including the Internet) to set up networks which are exclusive for the transmission of IPTV signals; the IPTV transmission services are conducted in defined territories.

Internet mapping services:

Engage in music entertainment products, gaming products (including the issuance of online game virtual currency), drama performances (programs), shows, and animation products through information network; and undertake the exhibitions and competition campaigns in relation to the network culture products.

General businesses include:

Engage in system integration, technology development, technical services, technology consulting, information consulting, the manufacture, sale, installation, design and construction of equipment, computer hardware and software in connection with communications and information businesses; leasing of properties, leasing of communications facilities; design, construction and repair of safety technologies and security systems; advertising.

Article 15. The Company may, based on its business development needs, establish wholly-owned subsidiaries, controlled subsidiaries, branches, representative offices and other branch organisations.

Based on its business development needs and upon approval of the relevant governmental authorities, the Company may adjust its scope of business and manner of operation from time to time, and may establish branch organisations and/or representative offices (irrespective of whether controlled or owned by it) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macau Special Administrative Region and the Taiwan Region.

CHAPTER 3: SHARES AND REGISTERED CAPITAL

Article 16. There must, at all times, be ordinary shares in the Company. The ordinary shares issued by the Company include domestic-invested shares and foreign-invested shares. Subject to the approval by the authorities that are authorised by the State Council to examine and approve companies, the Company may, according to its requirements, create different classes of shares.

Article 17. The shares issued by the Company shall each have a par value of Renminbi one (1.00) yuan.

“Renminbi” referred to in the previous paragraph means the legal currency of the PRC.

Article 18. Subject to the approval of the securities authority of the State Council, the Company may issue shares to Domestic Investors and Foreign Investors.

“Foreign Investors” referred to in the previous paragraph mean those investors who subscribe for the shares issued by the Company and who are located in foreign countries and in the regions of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. “Domestic Investors” mean those investors who subscribe for the shares issued by the Company within the territory of the PRC who are located outside of the jurisdictions mentioned above.

Article 19. Shares which the Company issues to Domestic Investors for subscription in Renminbi shall be referred to as “Domestic Shares”. Shares which the Company issues to Foreign Investors for subscription in foreign currencies shall be referred to as “Foreign-Invested Shares”. Foreign-Invested Shares which are listed overseas are called “Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares”. Both holders of Domestic Shares and holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares are holders of ordinary shares, and have the same obligations and rights.

“Foreign currencies” mean the legal currencies (other than the RMB) of countries or districts outside the PRC which are recognised by the foreign exchange authority of the State and which can be used to pay the share price to the Company.

Article 20. Foreign-Invested Shares issued by the Company and which are listed in Hong Kong shall be referred to as “H Shares”. H Shares are shares which have been admitted for listing on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”), the par value of which is denominated in Renminbi and which are subscribed for and traded in Hong Kong dollars.

Article 21. By the approval of the authorities that are authorised by the State Council to examine and approve companies, the Company issue a total of 80,932,368,321 ordinary shares, of which 68,317,270,803 were issued to the promoter of the Company at the time when the Company was established, representing 84.41% of the issued ordinary share capital.

Article 22. All the 12,615,097,518 ordinary shares issued by the Company after its incorporation are the overseas-listed foreign-invested shares (H Shares). Pursuant to the *Provisional Measures on the Administration of the Reduction of the State-Owned Shares for Raising Social Security Funds*, the number of overseas-listed foreign-invested shares (H Shares) converted from a reduction by holders of State-owned shares of their shareholdings of the State-owned shares amounted to 1,262,312,482 shares. The total number of the overseas-listed foreign-invested shares (H Shares) issued by the Company shall be 13,877,410,000 shares, representing 17.15% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company.

The share capital structure of the Company is as follows: there are a total of 80,932,368,321 ordinary shares issued, of which 57,377,053,317 shares are held by the promoter, China Telecommunications Corporation (currently known as China Telecommunications Corporation), representing 70.89% of the total of the ordinary shares issued by the Company. The other holders of the domestic shares are Guangdong Rising Assets Management Co., Ltd., who holds a total of 5,614,082,653 shares representing 6.94% of the total ordinary shares issued by the Company, Jiangsu Guoxin Group Limited, who holds a total of 957,031,543 shares representing 1.18% of the total ordinary shares issued by the Company, Zhejiang Financial Development Company, who holds a total of 2,137,473,626 shares representing 2.64% of the total ordinary shares issued by the Company and Fujian Investment & Development Group Co., Ltd, who holds a total of 969,317,182 shares representing 1.20% of the total ordinary shares issued by the Company. A total of 13,877,410,000 shares are held by holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares (H shares), representing 17.15% of the total ordinary shares issued by the Company.

Article 23. The Company's board of directors may take all necessary action for the issuance of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares and Domestic Shares separately after proposals for issuance of the same have been approved by the securities authority of the State Council.

The Company may implement its proposal to separately issue Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares and Domestic Shares pursuant to the preceding paragraph within fifteen (15) months from the date of approval by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (the "CSRC").

Article 24. Where the total number of shares stated in the proposal for the separate issuance of shares includes Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares and Domestic Shares, such shares should be fully subscribed for at their respective offerings. If the shares cannot be fully subscribed for all at once due to special circumstances, the shares may, subject to the approval of the securities authority of the State Council, be issued in separate Offerings.

Article 25. The registered capital of the Company is RMB 80,932,368,321.

Article 26. The Company may, based on its operating and development needs, authorize the increase of its capital pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association.

The Company may increase its capital in the following ways:

- (1) by offering new shares for subscription by unspecified investors;
- (2) by issuing new shares to its existing shareholders;
- (3) by allotting bonus shares to its existing shareholders;
- (4) by any other means which is permitted by law and administrative regulations.

After the Company's increase of share capital by way of the issuance of new shares has been approved in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, the issuance thereof should be made in accordance with the procedures set out in the relevant State laws and administrative regulations.

Article 27. Except as otherwise provided for by law and administrative regulations, shares of the Company shall be without lien and be freely transferable.

CHAPTER 4: REDUCTION OF CAPITAL AND REPURCHASE OF SHARES

Article 28. According to the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, the Company may reduce its registered capital.

Article 29. The Company must prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets when it reduces its registered capital.

The Company shall notify its creditors within ten (10) days of the date of the Company's resolution for reduction of capital and shall publish an announcement in a newspaper within thirty (30) days of the date of such resolution. A creditor has the right within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice from the Company or, in the case of a creditor who does not receive such notice, within ninety (90) days of the date of the public announcement, to require the Company to repay its debts or to provide a corresponding guarantee for such debt.

The Company's registered capital may not, after the reduction in capital, be less than the minimum amount prescribed by law.

Article 30. The Company may, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Company's Articles of Association and with the approval of the relevant governing authority of the State, repurchase its issued shares under the following circumstances:

- (1) reducing its capital;
- (2) merging with another company that holds shares in the Company;
- (3) utilising shares for employee stock ownership plan or share incentive scheme;
- (4) repurchasing shares upon request raised by shareholders who had divergent views on approved resolutions in connection with a merger and division of the Company at the general meeting;
- (5) utilising shares for conversion of corporate bonds issued by the Company which are convertible into shares;
- (6) as necessary for maintenance of the Company's value and shareholders' rights and interests.

The Company's repurchase of its issued shares shall comply with the provisions of Articles 31 to 34.

Article 31. The Company may repurchase its shares under the circumstances stated in clause (1), (2) or (4) of paragraph one of Article 30, in one of the following ways:

- (1) by making a general offer for the repurchase of shares to all its shareholders on a pro rata basis;
- (2) by repurchasing shares through public dealing on a stock exchange;

(3) by repurchasing shares outside of the stock exchange by means of an agreement.

Any repurchase of shares by the Company under the circumstances stated in clause (3), (5) or (6) of paragraph one of Article 30 shall be made by way of a public centralised trading.

Article 32. The Company must obtain the prior approval of the shareholders in a general meeting (in the manner stipulated in the Company's Articles of Association) before it can repurchase shares outside of the stock exchange by means of an agreement. Any repurchase of shares by the Company pursuant to the provisions as stated in clause (3), (5) or (6) of paragraph one of Article 30 shall be subject to a board resolution approved by over two-thirds of the directors attending the meeting. The Company may, by obtaining the prior approval of the shareholders in a general meeting in the same manner as described above cancel, release, vary or waive its rights under an agreement which has been so entered into.

An agreement for the repurchase shares referred to in the preceding paragraph includes (but is not limited to) an agreement to become liable to repurchase shares or an agreement to acquire the right to repurchase shares.

The Company may not assign an agreement for the repurchase of its shares or any right contained in such an agreement.

Article 33. In the event that the repurchase of shares by the Company in accordance with paragraph one of Article 30 is under the circumstances stated in clause (1), the shares shall be cancelled within 10 days from the day of repurchase; in the event that such repurchase is under the circumstances stated in clause (2) or (4), the shares shall be transferred or cancelled within 6 months; in the event that such repurchase is under the circumstances stated in clause (3), (5) or (6), the total shares of the Company held by the Company shall not exceed 10% of the total shares of the Company in issue and shall be transferred or cancelled within 3 years.

The aggregate par value of the cancelled shares shall be deducted from the Company's registered share capital.

Article 34. Unless the Company is in the course of liquidation, it must comply with the following provisions in relation to the repurchase of its issued shares:

- (1) where the Company repurchases shares at par value, payment shall be made out of carrying amount of the distributable profits of the Company or out of proceeds of a new issue of shares made for that purpose;

- (2) where the Company repurchases shares of the Company at a premium to the par value of its shares payment up to the par value may be made out of the carrying amount of the distributable profits of the Company or out of the proceeds of a new issue of shares made for that purpose. Payment of the portion in excess of the par value shall be effected as follows:
- (i) if the shares being repurchased were issued at par value, payment shall be made out of the carrying amount of the distributable profits of the Company;
 - (ii) if the shares being repurchased were issued at a premium to their par value, payment shall be made out of the carrying amount of the distributable profits of the Company or out of the proceeds of a new issue of shares made for that purpose, provided that the amount paid out of the proceeds of the new issue shall not exceed the aggregate amount of premiums received by the Company on the issue of the shares repurchased nor shall it exceed the book value of the Company's capital common reserve fund account (including the premiums on the new issue of shares) at the time of the repurchase;
- (3) Funds used by the Company for the following purposes should be paid out of the Company's distributable profits:
- (i) payment for the acquisition of the right to repurchase the Company's own shares;
 - (ii) payment for variation of any contract for the repurchase of the Company's shares;
 - (iii) payment for the release of the Company's obligation(s) under any contract for the repurchase of its shares;
- (4) after the Company's registered capital has been reduced by the aggregate par value of the cancelled shares in accordance with the relevant provisions, the amount deducted from the distributable profits of the Company for payment of the par value of shares which have been repurchased shall be transferred to the Company's capital common reserve fund account.

CHAPTER 5: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SHARES

Article 35. The Company or its subsidiaries shall not, at any time, provide any form of financial assistance to a person who is acquiring or intends to acquire shares in the Company. Such persons aforementioned shall include those who directly or indirectly incur any obligation as a result of the acquisition of shares in the Company (the "Obligor").

At no time shall the Company or its subsidiaries provide any form of financial assistance to the Obligor aforementioned for the purposes of reducing or discharging the obligations assumed by him.

This Article shall not apply to the circumstances specified in Article 37 of this Chapter.

Article 36. For the purposes of this Chapter, “financial assistance” includes (without limitation) the following:

- (1) gift;
- (2) guarantee (including the assumption of liability by the guarantor or the provision of assets by the guarantor to secure the performance of Obligor’s obligations), compensation (other than compensation payable by the Company’s due to its own default) or release or waiver of any rights;
- (3) provision of loans or entering into any agreement under which the obligations of the Company are to be performed prior to the obligations of another party, or the change in parties to, or the assignment of rights under, such loan or agreement;
- (4) any other form of financial assistance given by the Company when the Company is insolvent or has no net assets or where its net assets would thereby be reduced to a material extent.

For the purposes of this Chapter, “assumption of obligations” includes the assumption of obligations by way of contract or by way of arrangement (irrespective of whether such contract or arrangement is enforceable or not and irrespective of whether such obligation is to be borne solely by the Obligor or jointly with other persons), or by any other means which results in a change in his financial position.

Article 37. The following actions shall not be deemed to be activities prohibited by Article 35 of this Chapter:

- (1) the provision of financial assistance by the Company where the financial assistance is given in good faith in the interests of the Company, and the principal purpose of such provision is not for the acquisition of shares in the Company, or the giving of the financial assistance is an incidental part of certain projects of the Company;
- (2) the lawful distribution of the Company’s assets by way of dividend;
- (3) the allotment of bonus shares as dividends;

- (4) a reduction of registered capital, a repurchase of shares of the Company or a reorganisation of the share capital structure of the Company effected in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association;
- (5) within its ordinary course of its business, where the lending of money is for the ordinary business activities of the Company (provided that the net assets of the Company are not thereby reduced or that, to the extent that the assets are thereby reduced, the financial assistance is provided out of distributable profits);
- (6) contributions made by the Company to employee share ownership schemes (provided that the net assets of the Company are not thereby reduced or that, to the extent that the assets are thereby reduced, the financial assistance is provided out of distributable profits).

CHAPTER 6: SHARE CERTIFICATES AND REGISTER OF SHAREHOLDERS

Article 38. Share certificates of the Company shall be in registered form.

The share certificate of the Company shall contain following main particulars:

- (1) the name of the Company;
- (2) the date of incorporation of the Company;
- (3) the class of shares, par value and number of shares it represents;
- (4) the share certificate number;
- (5) other matters required to be stated therein by the Company Law, Special Regulations and the stock exchange(s) on which the Company's shares are listed.

Article 39. Share certificates of the Company may be assigned, given as a gift, inherited or charged in accordance with relevant provisions of laws, administrative regulations and these Articles of Association.

For assignment and transfer of shares, relevant registration of the share certificates shall be carried out with the share registration institution authorized by the Company.

Article 40. Share certificates of the Company shall be signed by the Chairman of the Company's board of directors. Where the stock exchange(s) on which the Company's shares are listed require other senior officer(s) of the Company to sign on the share certificates, the share certificates shall also be signed by such senior officer(s). The share certificates shall take effect after being affixed with the seal of the Company (including the securities seal of the Company) or having the seal printed thereon. The share certificate shall be imprinted with the seal of the Company or the securities seal of the Company under the authorization of the board of directors. The signatures of the Chairman of the board of directors or other senior officer(s) of the Company may be printed in mechanical form.

Article 41. The Company shall keep a register of shareholders, which shall contain the following particulars:

- (1) the name (title) and address (residence), the occupation or nature of each shareholder;
- (2) the class and quantity of shares held by each shareholder;
- (3) the amount of capital paid-up on or agreed to be paid-up on the shares held by each shareholder;
- (4) the share certificate number(s) of the shares held by each shareholder;
- (5) the date on which each person was entered in the register as a shareholder;
- (6) the date on which any shareholder ceased to be a shareholder.

Unless there is evidence to the contrary, the register of shareholders shall be sufficient evidence of the shareholders' shareholdings in the Company.

Article 42. The Company may, in accordance with the mutual understanding and agreements made between the securities authority of the State Council and overseas securities regulatory organisations, maintain the register of shareholders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares overseas and appoint overseas agent(s) to manage such register of shareholders. The original register for holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares listed in Hong Kong shall be maintained in Hong Kong.

A duplicate register of shareholders for the holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares shall be maintained at the Company's registered address. The appointed overseas agent(s) shall ensure consistency between the original and the duplicate register of shareholders at all times.

If there is any inconsistency between the original and the duplicate register of shareholders for the holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares, the original register of shareholders shall prevail.

- Article 43. The Company shall have a complete register of shareholders which shall comprise the following parts:
- (1) the part of the register of shareholders which is maintained at the Company's registered address (other than those share registers which are described in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article);
 - (2) the part(s) of the register of shareholders in respect of the holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares of the Company which are maintained in the same location as the overseas stock exchange on which the shares are listed; and
 - (3) the part(s) of the register of shareholders which are maintained in such other location as the board of directors considers necessary for the purposes of the listing of the Company's shares.

Article 44. Different parts of the register of shareholders shall not overlap. No transfer of any shares registered in any part of the register shall, during the continuance of that registration, be registered in any other part of the register.

All Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares listed in Hong Kong which have been fully paid-up may be freely transferred in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association. However, unless such transfer complies with the following requirements, the board of directors may refuse to recognise any instrument of transfer and would not need to provide any reason therefor:

- (1) a fee of HK\$2.50 per instrument of transfer or such higher amount agreed from time to time by the Stock Exchange for the registration of the instrument of transfer and other documents relating to or which affect the right of ownership of the shares;
- (2) the instrument of transfer only relates to Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares listed in Hong Kong;
- (3) the stamp duty which is chargeable on the instrument of transfer has been duly paid;
- (4) the relevant share certificate(s) and any other evidence which the board of directors may reasonably require to show that the transferor has the right to transfer the shares have been provided;
- (5) if it is intended that the shares be transferred to joint owners, the maximum number of joint owners shall not be more than four (4); and
- (6) the Company does not have any lien on the relevant shares.

The transfer of Overseas-Listed Foreign Invested Shares in the Company listed in Hong Kong shall be in writing on normal or standard instruments of transfer or on a form acceptable to the Board of Directors; and such transfer instrument can be signed only by hand or, if the transferor or transferee is a securities clearing institution or its representative recognised in accordance with section 37 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Hong Kong Law Chapter 571), signed by hand or signed in printed mechanical form. All the transfer instruments shall be maintained in the legal address of the Company or other place the Board of Directors may designate from time to time.

Any change or correction to various parts of the register of shareholders shall be carried out in accordance with the law of the place where such parts of the register of shareholders are maintained.

Article 45. No change may be made to the register of shareholders as a result of a transfer of shares within twenty (20) days prior to the date of a shareholders' general meeting or within five (5) days before the record date for the Company's distribution of dividends. However, in the event that there is any other relevant provision applicable to the registration of changes of the Company's register of shareholders as promulgated and stipulated by the PRC laws, administrative regulations or the listing rules of the stock exchange on which the Company's shares are listed, such provision shall prevail.

Article 46. When the Company needs to determine the rights attaching to shares in the Company for the purposes of convening a shareholders' meeting, for dividend distribution, for liquidation or for any other purpose which requires such determination, the board of directors shall decide on a date for the determination of rights attaching to shares in the Company. The shareholders of the Company shall be such persons who appear in the register of shareholders at the close of such determination date.

Article 47. Any person aggrieved and claiming to be entitled to have his name (title) entered in or removed from the register of shareholders may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for rectification of the register.

Article 48. Any person who is a registered shareholder or who claims to be entitled to have his name (title) entered in the register of shareholders in respect of shares in the Company may, if his share certificate (the "original certificate") relating to the shares is lost, apply to the Company for a replacement share certificate in respect of such shares (the "Relevant Shares").

Application by a holder of Domestic Shares, who has lost his share certificate, for a replacement share certificate shall be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Company Law.

Application by a holder of Overseas-Listed Foreign Shares, who has lost his share certificate, for a replacement share certificate may be dealt with in accordance with the law of the place where the original register of shareholders of holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares is maintained, the rules of the stock exchange or other relevant regulations.

The issue of a replacement share certificate to a holder of H Shares, who has lost his share certificate, shall comply with the following requirements:

- (1) The applicant shall submit an application to the Company in a prescribed form accompanied by a notarial certificate or a statutory declaration, stating the grounds upon which the application is made, the circumstances and evidence of the loss, and declaring that no other person is entitled to have his name entered in the register of shareholders in respect of the Relevant Shares.
- (2) The Company has not received any declaration made by any person other than the applicant declaring that his name shall be entered into the register of shareholders in respect of such shares before it decides to issue a replacement share certificate to the applicant.
- (3) The Company shall, if it intends to issue a replacement share certificate, publish a notice of its intention to do so at least once every thirty (30) days within a period of ninety (90) consecutive days in such newspapers as may be prescribed by the board of directors.
- (4) The Company shall, prior to publication of its intention to issue a replacement share certificate, deliver to the stock exchange on which its shares are listed, a copy of the announcement to be published and may publish the announcement upon receipt of confirmation from such stock exchange that the announcement has been exhibited in the premises of the stock exchange. Such announcement shall be exhibited in the premises of the stock exchange for a period of ninety (90) days.

In the case of an application which is made without the consent of the registered holder of the Relevant Shares, the Company shall deliver by mail to such registered shareholder a copy of the announcement to be published.

- (5) If, by the expiration of the 90-day period referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this Article, the Company has not received any objection from any person in respect of the issuance of the replacement share certificate, it may issue a replacement share certificate to the applicant pursuant to his application.

- (6) Where the Company issues a replacement share certificate pursuant to this Article, it shall forthwith cancel the original share certificate and document the cancellation of the original share certificate and issuance of a replacement share certificate in the register of shareholders accordingly.
- (7) All expenses relating to the cancellation of an original share certificate and the issuance of a replacement share certificate shall be borne by the applicant and the Company is entitled to refuse to take any action until reasonable security is provided by the applicant therefor.

Article 49. Where the Company issues a replacement share certificate pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association and a bona fide purchaser acquires such shares or where a shareholder subsequently becomes a registered shareholder of the Relevant Shares (and such shareholder being a bona fide purchaser), his name (title) shall not be removed from the register of shareholders.

Article 50. The Company shall not be liable for any damages sustained by any person by reason of the cancellation of the original share certificate or the issuance of the replacement share certificate unless the claimant is able to prove that the Company has acted in a deceitful manner.

CHAPTER 7: SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 51. A shareholder of the Company is a person who lawfully holds shares in the Company and whose name (title) is entered in the register of shareholders.

A shareholder shall enjoy rights and assume obligations according to the class and amount of shares held by him; shareholders who hold shares of the same class shall enjoy the same rights and assume the same obligations.

In the case of the joint shareholders, if one of the joint shareholders is deceased, only the other existing shareholders of the joint shareholders shall be deemed as the persons who have the ownership of the relevant shares. But the board of directors has the power to require them to provide a certificate of death acceptable to it for the purpose of modifying the register of shareholders. For joint shareholders of any shares, only the joint shareholder whose name appears first in the register of shareholders shall have the right to receive certificates of the relevant shares, receive notices of the Company, and attend and vote at shareholders' general meetings of the Company. Any notice which is delivered to the shareholder shall be considered as all the joint shareholders of the relevant shares who have been delivered.

Article 52. The holders of ordinary shares of the Company shall enjoy the following rights:

- (1) the right to receive dividends and other distributions in proportion to the number of shares held;
- (2) the right to attend or appoint a proxy to attend shareholders' general meetings and to vote thereat;
- (3) the right of supervisory management over the Company's business operations and the right to present proposals or to raise queries;
- (4) the right to transfer shares in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and provisions of the Company's Articles of Association;
- (5) the right to obtain relevant information in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, including:
 - (i) the right to obtain a copy of the Company's Articles of Association, subject to payment of costs;
 - (ii) the right to inspect and copy, subject to payment of a reasonable fee:
 - (a) all parts of the register of shareholders;
 - (b) personal particulars of each of the Company's directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers, including:
 - (aa) present and former name and alias;
 - (bb) principal address (place of residence);
 - (cc) nationality;
 - (dd) primary and all other part-time occupations and duties;
 - (ee) identification documents and the numbers thereof;
 - (c) report on the state of the Company's share capital;
 - (d) reports showing the aggregate par value, quantity, highest and lowest price paid in respect of each class of shares repurchased by the Company since the end of the last accounting year and the aggregate amount paid by the Company for this purpose;
 - (e) minutes of shareholders' general meetings;

- (6) in the event of the termination or liquidation of the Company, the right to participate in the distribution of surplus assets of the Company in accordance with the number of shares held;
- (7) other rights conferred by laws, administrative regulations and the Company's Articles of Association.

Article 53. The ordinary shareholders of the Company shall assume the following obligations:

- (1) to comply with the Company's Articles of Association;
- (2) to pay subscription monies according to the number of shares subscribed and the method of subscription;
- (3) other obligations imposed by laws, administrative regulations and the Company's Articles of Association.

Shareholders are not liable to make any further contribution to the share capital other than according to the terms which were agreed by the subscriber of the relevant shares at the time of subscription.

Article 54. In addition to the obligations imposed by laws and administrative regulations or required by the listing rules of the stock exchange on which the Company's shares are listed, a controlling shareholder shall not exercise his voting rights in respect of the following matters in a manner prejudicial to the interests of all or part of the shareholders of the Company:

- (1) to relieve a director or supervisor of his duty to act honestly in the best interests of the Company;
- (2) to approve the expropriation by a director or supervisor (for his own benefit or for the benefit of another person) of the Company's assets in any way, including (but not limited to) opportunities which are beneficial to the Company;
- (3) to approve the expropriation by a director or supervisor (for his own benefit or for the benefit of another person) of the individual rights of other shareholders, including (but not limited to) rights to distributions and voting rights (save pursuant to a restructuring which has been submitted for approval by the shareholders in a general meeting in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association).

Article 55. For the purpose of the above Article, a "controlling shareholder" means a person who satisfies any one of the following conditions:

- (1) a person who, acting alone or in concert with others, has the power to elect more than half of the board of directors;

- (2) a person who, acting alone or in concert with others, has the power to exercise or to control the exercise of 30% or more of the voting rights in the Company;
- (3) a person who, acting alone or in concert with others, holds 30% or more of the issued and outstanding shares of the Company;
- (4) a person who, acting alone or in concert with others, has de facto control of the Company in any other way.

CHAPTER 8: SHAREHOLDERS' GENERAL MEETINGS

Article 56. The shareholders' general meeting is the organ of authority of the Company and shall exercise its functions and powers in accordance with the law.

Article 57. The shareholders' general meeting shall have the following functions and powers:

- (1) to decide on the Company's operational policies and investment plans;
- (2) to elect and replace directors and to decide on matters relating to the remuneration of directors;
- (3) to elect and replace supervisors who represent the shareholders and to decide on matters relating to the remuneration of the relevant supervisors;
- (4) to examine and approve the board of directors' reports;
- (5) to examine and approve the supervisory committee's reports;
- (6) to examine and approve the Company's annual financial budgets and final accounts;
- (7) to examine and approve the Company's profit distribution plans and loss recovery plans;
- (8) to decide on the increase or reduction of the Company's registered capital;
- (9) to decide on matters such as merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the Company;
- (10) to decide on the issue of debentures by the Company;

- (11) to decide on the appointment, dismissal and non-reappointment of the accountancy firms of the Company;
- (12) to amend the Company's Articles of Association;
- (13) to consider motions raised by shareholders who represent 3% or more of the total number of voting shares of the Company;
- (14) to decide on other matters which, according to law, administrative regulation or the Company's Articles of Association, need to be approved by shareholders in general meetings;

The shareholders in a general meeting may authorize or delegate to the board of directors to carry out matters that are authorised by them or may delegate the implementation of such matters to the board of directors.

Article 58. The Company shall not, without the prior approval of shareholders in a general meeting, enter into any contract with any person (other than a director, supervisor, general manager and other senior officers) pursuant to which such person shall be responsible for the management and administration of the whole or the material part of the businesses of the Company.

Article 59. Shareholders' general meetings consist of annual general meetings and extraordinary general meetings. Shareholders' general meetings shall be convened by the board of directors. Annual general meetings are held once every year and within six (6) months from the end of the preceding accounting year.

The board of directors shall convene an extraordinary general meeting within two (2) months of the occurrence of any one of the following events:

- (1) where the number of directors is fewer than the number required by the Company Law or less than two-thirds of the number of directors specified in the Company's Articles of Association;
- (2) where the unrecovered losses of the Company amount to one-third of the total amount of its share capital;
- (3) where shareholder(s) holding 10% or more of the Company's issued and outstanding voting shares request(s) in writing for the convening of an extraordinary general meeting;
- (4) whenever the board of directors deems necessary or the supervisory committee so requests;
- (5) whenever two or more independent directors so request.

- Article 60. When the Company convenes a shareholders' general meeting, written notice of the meeting shall be given at least twenty (20) clear business days before the date of the meeting in the case of an annual general meeting, or at least ten (10) clear business days or fifteen (15) days, whichever is longer, in the case of an extraordinary general meeting to notify all of the shareholders whose names appear in the share register of the matters to be considered and the date and place of the meeting.
- Article 61. When the Company convenes a shareholders' general meeting, shareholder(s) holding 3% or more of the total voting shares of the Company shall have the right to propose new motions in writing, and the Company shall place such proposed motions on the agenda for such annual general meeting if they are matters falling within the functions and powers of shareholders in general meetings.
- Article 62. A shareholders' general meeting shall not decide on any matter not stated in the notice for the shareholders' general meeting.
- Article 63. A notice of a meeting of the shareholders of the Company shall satisfy the following criteria:
- (1) be in writing;
 - (2) specify the place, date and time of the meeting;
 - (3) state the matters to be discussed at the meeting;
 - (4) provide such information and explanation as are necessary for the shareholders to make an informed decision on the proposals put before them. This principle shall apply to (but not limited to) situations where a proposal is made for the merger of the Company with another, to repurchase the shares of the Company, to reorganize the Company's share capital, or to restructure the Company in any other way. The specific terms of the proposed transaction must be provided together with copies of the proposed agreement, if any, and the cause and effect of such proposal must be properly explained;
 - (5) contain a disclosure of the nature and extent, if any, of the material interests of any director, supervisor, general manager and other senior officers in the proposed transaction, and where the effect which the proposed transaction will have on such persons in their capacity as shareholders is different from the effect on the interests of shareholders of the same class, an explanation shall be given on such differences;

- (6) contain the full text of any special resolution to be proposed for adoption at the meeting;
- (7) contain a conspicuous statement that a shareholder entitled to attend and vote at such meeting is entitled to appoint one (1) or more proxies to attend and vote at such meeting on his behalf and that such proxy(ies) need not be a shareholder;
- (8) specify the time and place for lodging proxy forms for the relevant meeting.

Article 64. Notice of shareholders' general meetings shall be served on each shareholder (regardless of whether such shareholder is entitled to vote at the meeting), by personal delivery or prepaid airmail to the address of the shareholder as shown in the register of shareholders. For the holders of Domestic Shares, notice of the meetings may also be issued by way of public announcement.

The public announcement referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be published in one (1) or more national newspapers designated by the securities authority of the State Council; after the publication of such announcement, the holders of Domestic Shares shall be deemed to have received the notice of the relevant shareholders' general meeting.

Article 65. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the failure to receive the notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive such notice shall not invalidate the meeting and the resolutions adopted thereat.

Article 66. Any shareholder who is entitled to attend and vote at a general meeting of the Company shall be entitled to appoint one (1) or more persons (such person(s) does not have to be a shareholder) as his proxy(ies) to attend and vote on his behalf, and a proxy(ies) so appointed shall be entitled to exercise the following rights in accordance with the authorization from that shareholder:

- (1) the shareholders' right to speak at the meeting;
- (2) the right to demand or join in demanding a poll;
- (3) the right to vote by hand or on a poll, but a proxy of a shareholder who has appointed more than one (1) proxy may only vote on a poll.

Where any member, under the Listing Rules, is required to abstain from voting on any particular resolution or is restricted to voting only for or only against any particular resolution, any votes cast by or on behalf of such member in contravention of such requirement or restriction shall not be counted.

Article 67. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointer or his attorney duly authorized in writing, or if the appointer is a legal entity, such instrument shall be delivered either under seal or under the hand of a director or a duly authorized attorney. The letter of authorization shall contain the number of the shares to be represented by the proxy. If several persons are authorized as the proxies of the shareholder, the letter of authorization shall specify the number of shares to be represented by each proxy.

Article 68. The instrument appointing a proxy and, if such instrument is signed by a person under a power of attorney or other authority on behalf of the appointer, a duly notarized power of attorney for signing the proxy form or other documents evidencing such authority shall be deposited at the registered address of the Company or at such other place as is specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, not less than twenty-four (24) hours before either the time for holding the meeting at which the proxy propose to vote or the time appointed for the voting of the resolution. The proxy form shall have on it the date of its execution.

If the appointer is a legal person, its legal representative or such person as is authorized by a resolution of its board of directors or other governing body may attend any meeting of shareholders of the Company as a representative of the appointer.

If the shareholder is a recognized clearing house (or its agent), such shareholder is entitled to appoint one or more persons as his proxies to attend on his behalf at a general meeting or at any class meeting as it sees fit, but, if one or more persons have such authority, the letter of authorization shall contain the number and class of the shares in connection with such authorization. Such person can exercise the right on behalf of the recognized clearing house (or its attorney) as if he is the individual shareholder of the Company.

Article 69. Any form issued to a shareholder by the directors for use by such shareholder for the appointment of a proxy to attend and vote at meetings of the Company shall be in a form that enables the shareholder to freely instruct the proxy to vote in favour of or against the motions, with such instructions being individually given in respect of each matter to be voted on at the meeting. Such a form shall contain a statement that, in the absence of specific instructions from the shareholder, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit.

- Article 70. A vote given in accordance with the terms of a proxy shall be valid notwithstanding the death or loss of capacity of the appointer or revocation of the proxy or the authority under which the proxy was executed or the transfer of the shares in respect of which the proxy is given, provided that the Company did not receive any written notice in respect of such matters before the commencement of the relevant meeting.
- Article 71. A proxy attending a shareholder's general meeting shall present his proof of identity. Save for shareholders who are recognized clearing houses (or its agent), if a shareholder as a legal person appoints its legal representative to attend a meeting, such legal representative shall present his proof of identity and a duly notarized copy of the resolutions of such shareholder's board of directors or other documents evidencing such authority in respect of the appointment of the proxy or any other copy certified in a manner acceptable to the Company.
- Article 72. Resolutions of shareholders' general meetings shall be divided into ordinary resolutions and special resolutions.
- An ordinary resolution must be passed by votes representing more than one-half of the voting rights represented by the shareholders (including proxies) present at the meeting.
- A special resolution must be passed by votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders (including proxies) present at the meeting.
- Shareholders (including proxies) shall expressly indicate whether they are in favour of or against any matter being voted on. Any abstention from voting or vote of abstention shall not be regarded as valid votes when the Company counts the votes in respect of the relevant matter.
- Article 73. A shareholder (including a proxy), when voting at a shareholders' general meeting, may exercise such voting rights as are attached to the number of voting shares which he represents. Each share shall have one (1) vote.
- Article 74. At any shareholders' general meeting, a resolution shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded before or after a vote has been carried out by a show of hands:
- (1) by the chairman of the meeting;
 - (2) by at least two (2) shareholders present in person or by proxy entitled to vote thereat;
 - (3) by one (1) or more shareholders (including proxies) representing 10 % or more of shares (held solely or in combination) carrying the right to vote at the meeting.

Unless a poll is demanded, a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has been passed on a show of hands and the record of such in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that such resolution has been passed. There shall be no requirement in providing evidence of the number or proportion of votes in favour of or against such resolution.

The demand for a poll may be withdrawn by the person who demands the same.

- Article 75. A poll demanded on the election of the chairman of the meeting, or on a question of adjournment of the meeting, shall be taken forthwith. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time as the chairman of the meeting directs, and the meeting may proceed to any other business pending the taking of the poll. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
- Article 76. On a poll taken at a meeting, a shareholder (including a proxy) entitled to two (2) or more votes need not cast his votes either all for or all against the resolution.
- Article 77. In the case of an equality of votes for and against a resolution, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- Article 78. The following matters shall be resolved by ordinary resolutions at shareholders' general meetings:
- (1) work reports of the board of directors and the supervisory committee;
 - (2) profit distribution plans and loss recovery plans formulated by the board of directors;
 - (3) election or removal of members of the board of directors and members of the supervisory committee, remuneration and manner of payment of such members;
 - (4) annual budgets and final accounts, balance sheets and profit and loss accounts and other financial statements of the Company;
 - (5) matters other than those which are required by the laws and administrative regulations or by the Company's Articles of Association to be adopted by special resolution.
- Article 79. The following matters shall be resolved by a special resolution at a shareholders' general meeting:
- (1) the increase or reduction in share capital and the issue of shares of any class, warrants and other securities of a similar nature;

- (2) the issue of debentures by the Company;
- (3) the division, merger, dissolution and liquidation of the Company;
- (4) amendment of the Company's Articles of Association;
- (5) amendment to rights of shareholders of any class; and
- (6) any other matter resolved by way of an ordinary resolution by shareholders in general meeting which the shareholders consider may have a material impact on the Company and should be adopted by a special resolution.

Article 80. Any resolution adopted by a shareholders' general meeting shall comply with relevant provisions of PRC laws, administrative regulations and these Articles of Association.

Article 81. Shareholders who request for the convening of an extraordinary general meeting or a class meeting shall comply with the following procedures:

- (1) Two (2) or more shareholders holding in aggregate 10% or more of the shares carrying the right to vote at the meeting sought to be held shall sign one (1) or more written requisitions in the same format and with the same content, stating the proposed matters to be discussed at the meeting, and requiring the board of directors to convene a shareholders' extraordinary general meeting or a class meeting thereof. The board of directors shall as soon as possible proceed to convene the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders or a class meeting thereof after receipt of such written requisition(s). The shareholdings of such shareholders referred to above shall be calculated as at the date of making the requisition(s).
- (2) If the board of directors fails to issue a notice of such a meeting within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the requisition(s), the shareholders who make the requisitions(s) may themselves convene such a meeting (in a manner as similar as possible to the manner in which shareholders' meetings are convened by the board of directors) within four (4) months from the date of receipt of the requisition(s) by the board of directors.

Any reasonable expenses incurred by the shareholders who make the requisition(s) by reason of failure of the board of directors to duly convene a meeting shall be reimbursed by the Company and any sum so reimbursed shall be set-off against sums owed by the Company to the defaulting directors.

- Article 82. The Chairman of the board of directors shall convene and chair every shareholders' general meeting. If the Chairman is unable to attend the meeting for any reason, the vice-chairman of the board of directors shall convene and chair the meeting. If both the Chairman and the vice-chairman of the board of directors are unable to attend the meeting, then the board of directors may designate a director to convene and chair the meeting. If no chairman of the meeting has been so designated, shareholders present shall choose one (1) person to act as the chairman of the meeting. If for any reason the shareholders fail to elect a chairman, then the shareholder (including a proxy) holding the largest number of shares carrying the right to vote thereat shall be the chairman of the meeting.
- Article 83. The chairman of the meeting shall be responsible for determining whether a resolution has been passed. His decision, which shall be final and conclusive, shall be announced at the meeting and recorded in the minute book.
- Article 84. If the chairman of the meeting has any doubt as to the result of a resolution which has been put to vote at a shareholders' meeting, he may have the votes counted. If the chairman of the meeting has not counted the votes, any shareholder who is present in person or by proxy and who objects to the result announced by the chairman of the meeting may, immediately after the declaration of the result, demand that the votes be counted and the chairman of the meeting shall count the votes immediately.
- Article 85. If votes are counted at a shareholders' general meeting, the result of the count shall be recorded in the minute book.
- The Company secretary shall prepare the record of the shareholders' general meeting, which shall be signed by directors attending the meeting.
- Resolutions adopted by a shareholders' general meeting shall be included in the minutes of the meeting. The record and minutes of the meeting shall be in Chinese. Such record and minutes, shareholders' attendance lists and proxy forms shall be kept at the Company's registered address.
- Article 86. Copies of the minutes of proceedings of any shareholders' meeting shall, during business hours of the Company, be open for inspection by any shareholder without charge. If a shareholder requests for a copy of such minutes from the Company, the Company shall send a copy of such minutes to him within seven (7) days after receipt of reasonable fees by the Company.

CHAPTER 9: SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR VOTING BY A CLASS OF SHAREHOLDERS

Article 87. Class shareholders are those shareholders who hold different classes of shares.

Class shareholders shall enjoy rights and assume obligations in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the Company's Articles of Association.

Article 88. Rights conferred on any class of shareholders may not be varied or abrogated save with the approval of a special resolution of shareholders in a general meeting and by holders of shares of that class at a separate meeting convened in accordance with Articles 90 to 94.

Article 89. The following circumstances shall be deemed to be variation or abrogation of the rights attaching to a particular class of shares:

- (1) to increase or decrease the number of shares of that class, or to increase or decrease the number of shares of a class having voting or equity rights or privileges equal or superior to those of shares of that class;
- (2) to exchange all or part of the shares of that class for shares of another class, or to exchange or to create a right to exchange all or part of the shares of another class for shares of that class;
- (3) to remove or reduce rights to accrued dividends or rights to cumulative dividends attached to shares of that class;
- (4) to reduce or remove preferential rights attached to shares of that class to receive dividends or to the distribution of assets in the event that the Company is liquidated;
- (5) to add, remove or reduce conversion rights, election rights, voting rights, transfer or pre-emptive rights, or rights to acquire securities of the Company attached to shares of that class;
- (6) to remove or reduce rights to receive payment payable by the Company in particular currencies attached to shares of that class;
- (7) to create a new class of shares having voting or equity rights or other privileges equal or superior to those of the shares of that class;
- (8) to restrict the transfer or ownership of shares of that class or to increase the types of restrictions attaching thereto;

- (9) to allot and issue rights to subscribe for, or to convert the existing shares into, shares in the Company of that class or another class;
- (10) to increase the rights or privileges of shares of another class;
- (11) to restructure the Company in such a way so as to result in the disproportionate distribution of obligations between the various classes of shareholders;
- (12) to vary or abrogate the provisions of this Chapter.

Article 90. Shareholders of the affected class, regardless of whether having the right to vote or not at shareholders' general meetings, have the right to vote at class meetings in respect of matters concerning sub-paragraphs (2) to (8), (11) and (12) of Article 89, but interested shareholder(s) shall not be entitled to vote at such class meetings.

“(An) interested shareholder(s)”, as such term is used in the preceding paragraph:

- (1) in the case of a repurchase of shares by way of a general offer to all shareholders of the Company in the same proportion for all shareholders or by way of public dealing on a stock exchange pursuant to Article 31, an “interested shareholder” refers to a controlling shareholder within the meaning of Article 55 herein;
- (2) in the case of a repurchase of shares by an off-market agreement pursuant to Article 31, an “interested shareholder” refers to a shareholder to whom the proposed agreement relates;
- (3) in the case of a restructuring of the Company, an “interested shareholder” refers to a shareholder who assumes a relatively lower proportion of obligation than the obligations imposed on shareholders of that class under the proposed restructuring or who has an interest in the proposed restructuring different from the general interests of the shareholders of that class.

Article 91. Resolutions of a class of shareholders shall be passed by votes representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights of shareholders of that class represented at the relevant meeting who, according to Article 90, are entitled to vote thereat.

Article 92. In the event that the Company convenes a class meeting, the notice period for despatching written notice of such class meeting shall be the same as the notice period convening a non-class meeting as scheduled together with such class meeting. The written notice containing the matters to be considered at the meeting, the date and the place of the meeting shall be given to that class of shareholders whose names appear on the shareholders' register.

Article 93. Notice of class meetings need only be served on shareholders entitled to vote thereat.

To the extent possible class meetings shall be conducted in a manner similar to shareholders' general meetings. The provisions of the Company's Articles of Association relating to the conduct of shareholders' general meetings shall also apply to class meetings.

Article 94. Apart from the holders of other classes of shares, the holders of the Domestic Shares and holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares shall be deemed to be holders of different classes of shares.

The special procedures for approval by a class of shareholders shall not apply in the following circumstances:

- (1) where the Company issues, upon the approval by special resolution of its shareholders in a general meeting once every twelve (12) months, either separately or concurrently, issue not more than 20% of each of its existing issued Domestic Shares and Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares that has been issued; or
- (2) where the Company's plan to issue Domestic Shares and Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares at the time of its establishment is carried out within fifteen (15) months from the date of approval of the securities authority of the State Council.

CHAPTER 10: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 95. The Company shall have a board of directors. The board of directors shall consist of twelve (12) directors, of which four (4) shall be independent (non-executive) directors (meaning directors who are independent from the Company's shareholders and do not hold positions within the Company).

The board of directors shall have one (1) Chairman.

Where necessary, the board of directors may establish audit, remuneration, nomination and other specialised committees.

Article 96. Directors shall be elected at the shareholders' general meeting for a term of three (3) years. At the expiry of a director's term, the director may stand for re-election and reappointment for a further term.

The minimum period during which written notice given to the Company of the intention to propose a person for election as a director, and during which written notice to the Company by such person of his willingness to be elected may be given, will be at least 7 days. Such period will commence no earlier than the day after the despatch of the notice of the meeting for the purpose of considering such election and shall end no later than 7 days prior to the date of such meeting.

Nine (9) members of the first session of the board of directors shall be nominated by the promoters of the Company and elected at the Company's inaugural meeting. The number of directors elected for each subsequent session of the board of directors shall not be less than that stipulated in Article 95 or more than the maximum determined at the shareholders' general meeting by an ordinary resolution. Where the number of directors elected by voting exceeds the maximum number of directors proposed, directors who are elected within the maximum number so determined shall be those who get the largest number of votes and appointed in the sequence starting with those with the largest number of votes.

Subject to compliance with all relevant laws and administrative regulations, the shareholders' general meeting may by ordinary resolution remove any director prior to the expiration of such director's term of office. However, such director's right to claim for damages pursuant to any contract due to his loss of office shall not be affected.

The Chairman shall be elected and removed by more than one-half of all of the members of the board of directors. The term of office of each of the Chairman is three (3) years. The Chairman may stand for re-election and may be elected for a further term.

The external directors shall have sufficient time and necessary knowledge and ability to perform their duties. When an external director performs his duties, the Company must provide necessary information and independent (non-executive) directors may directly report to the shareholders' meeting, the securities regulatory authority under the State Council and other relevant departments.

The executive directors shall handle matters as authorized by the board of directors.

The directors shall not be required to hold shares in the Company.

Article 97. The board of directors is accountable to the shareholders in general meeting and exercises the following functions and powers:

- (1) to be responsible for the convening of the shareholders' general meetings and to report on its work to the shareholders in general meeting;
- (2) to implement the resolutions passed by the shareholders in general meeting;
- (3) to determine the Company's business plans and investment proposals;
- (4) to formulate the Company's annual financial budgets and final accounts;
- (5) to formulate the Company's profit distribution proposal and loss recovery proposal;
- (6) to formulate the Company's debt and financial policies, proposals for the increase or reduction of the Company's registered capital and for the issuance of the Company's debentures;
- (7) to draw up the Company's material acquisition and disposal proposals and plans for the merger, division or dissolution of the Company;
- (8) to decide on the Company's internal management structure;
- (9) to appoint or remove the Company's general manager and to appoint or remove the deputy general managers, and financial deputy general manager of the Company based on the recommendations of the general manager; to appoint or remove the secretary of the board of directors, and to decide on their remuneration;
- (10) to decide on the establishment of the Company's branch organisations;
- (11) to formulate proposals for amendment of the Company's Articles of Association;
- (12) to formulate the basic management structure of the Company;
- (13) except matters that the Company Law and these Articles of Association require to be resolved by the shareholders in general meeting, to decide on other material and administrative matters of the Company and to execute other material agreements;
- (14) to perform any other functions or exercise any other powers conferred by the shareholders in general meeting or these Articles of Association.

Other than the board of directors' resolutions in respect of the matters specified in sub-paragraphs (6), (7) and (11) of this Article, which shall be passed by the affirmative vote of more than two-thirds of all the directors, the board of directors' resolutions in respect of all other matters may be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the directors.

Resolutions made by the board of directors on the Company's connected transactions shall come into effect only after they are signed by the independent (non-executive) directors.

Article 98. Prior to making decisions on material issues of the Company, the board of directors shall seek advice from the Party organisations. When the board of directors appoints senior management personnel of the Company, the Party organisations shall consider and provide comments on the candidates for management positions nominated by the board of directors or the general manager, or recommend candidates to the board of directors and/or the general manager.

Article 99. The board of directors shall not, without the prior approval of shareholders in a general meeting, dispose or agree to dispose of any fixed assets of the Company where the aggregate of the amount or value of the consideration for the proposed disposition, and the amount or value of the consideration for any such disposition of any fixed assets of the Company that has been completed in the period of four (4) months immediately preceding the proposed disposition, exceeds 33% of the value of the Company's fixed assets as shown in the latest balance sheet which was tabled at a shareholders' general meeting.

For the purposes of this Article, a "disposition" includes an act involving the transfer of an interest in assets but does not include the pledging of fixed assets as guarantee.

The validity of a disposition by the Company shall not be affected by any breach of the first paragraph of this Article.

Before the board of directors makes a decision on market development, merger and acquisition, investment in new areas, etc., in relation to projects involving an investment amount or asset value of the acquisition or merger amounting to more than 10% of the total assets of the Company, an independent consulting agency shall be engaged to provide its professional opinions which shall form an important basis of the decisions of the board of directors.

Article 100. The Chairman of the board of directors shall exercise the following powers:

- (1) to preside over shareholders' general meetings and to convene and preside over meetings of the board of directors;

- (2) to organise the implementation of the duties of the board of directors and to check on the implementation status of resolutions passed by the board of directors at its meetings;
- (3) to sign the securities certificates issued by the Company;
- (4) to exercise other powers conferred by the board of directors.

When the Chairman is unable to exercise his powers, such powers shall be exercised by the executive director who has been designated by the Chairman to exercise such powers on his behalf.

Article 101. Meetings of the board of directors shall be held at least twice every year and shall be convened by the Chairman of the board of directors. All of the directors should be notified about the meeting ten (10) days beforehand. Where there is an urgent matter, an extraordinary meeting of the board of directors may be held if it is so requested by six (6) of the directors, the Chairman of the board of directors or the Company's general manager. Such extraordinary meeting shall not be subject to the provisions of Article 102 on notice of the meetings.

Article 102. Notice of meetings of the board of directors shall be delivered as follows:

- (1) For regular meetings of the board of directors of which the time and venue have been stipulated by the board of directors beforehand, no notice of the convening of such meetings will be needed.
- (2) For meetings of the board of directors of which the time and venue have not been decided by the board of directors beforehand, the Chairman of the board of directors shall notify the directors of the time and venue of such meeting 10 days in advance by telex, by telegram, by facsimile, by express courier service or by registered mail or in person, unless otherwise provided for in Article 101.
- (3) Notice of meetings may be served in Chinese, with an English translation attached thereto when necessary, and in each case accompanied by a meeting agenda. A director may waive his right to receive notice of a board meeting.

Article 103. In strict compliance with the required procedures, all executive and external directors must be notified about the material matters that must be decided by the board of directors within the time limit stipulated in Article 102, and sufficient materials must be provided at the same time. Directors may request for supplementary information. If more than one-fourth of the total number of directors or more than two external directors consider that the materials provided are not sufficient or the supporting arguments are not clear, they may jointly propose to postpone the meeting or postpone the discussion of certain matters on the agenda of the meeting and the board of directors shall accept such proposal.

Notice of a meeting shall be deemed to have been given to any director who attends the meeting and does not protest against, before or at its commencement, any lack of notice.

Any regular or extraordinary meeting of the board of directors may be held by way of telephone conferencing or with the assistance of similar communication equipment so long as all directors participating in the meeting can hear and communicate with each other clearly. All such directors shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

Article 104. A board of directors meeting shall only be convened if more than half of the board of directors are present (including any directors appointed pursuant to Article 105 to attend the meeting as the representatives of other directors). Each director has one vote. All resolutions require the affirmative votes of more than half of all the board of directors in order to be passed. In the case of equal number of votes for and against a resolution the Chairman of the board of directors is entitled to a casting vote.

Article 105. Directors shall attend the meetings of the board of directors in person. Where a director is unable to attend a meeting for any reason, he may by a written power of attorney appoint another director to attend the meeting on his behalf. The power of attorney shall set out the scope of the authorization.

A Director appointed as the representative of another director to attend the meeting shall exercise the rights of a director within the scope of authority conferred by the appointing director. Where a director is unable to attend a meeting of the board of directors and has not appointed the representative to attend the meeting on his behalf, he shall be deemed to have waived his right to vote at the meeting.

Expenses incurred by a director for attending a meeting of the board of directors shall be paid by the Company. These expenses include the costs of transportation between the premises of the director and the venue of the meeting in different cities and accommodation expenses during the meeting. Rent of the meeting place, local transportation costs and other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses shall be paid by the Company.

Article 106. The board of directors may accept a written resolution in lieu of a board meeting provided that a draft of such written resolution shall be delivered to each director in person, by mail, by telegram or by facsimile. If the board of directors has delivered such proposed written resolution to all the directors and the directors who signed and approved such resolution have reached the required quorum, and the same has been delivered to the secretary of the board of directors, such resolution shall become a board resolution and a board meeting need not be convened.

Article 107. The board of directors shall keep minutes of matters considered and resolutions passed at meetings of the board of directors in Chinese. Opinions of the independent (non-executive) directors shall be clearly stated in the resolutions of the board of directors. The minutes of each board meeting shall be provided to all the directors promptly. Directors who wish to amend or supplement the minutes shall submit the proposed amendments to the Chairman in writing within one week after receipt of the meeting minutes. After the minutes have been finalized, they shall be signed by the directors present at the meeting and by the person who recorded the minutes. The minutes of board meetings shall be kept at the registered address of the Company in the PRC and a complete copy of the minutes shall be promptly sent to each director.

The directors shall be liable for the resolutions of the board of directors. If a resolution of the board of directors violates the laws, administrative regulations or the Company's Articles of Association and the Company suffers serious losses as a result, the directors who participated in the passing of such resolution are liable to compensate the Company therefore such losses. However, if it has been proven that a director expressly objected to the resolution when the resolution was voted on, and that such objection was recorded in the minutes of the meeting, such director may be released from such liability.

CHAPTER 11: SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Article 108. The Company shall have one (1) secretary of the board of directors. The secretary shall be a senior officer of the Company.

Where necessary, the board of directors may establish a secretarial office of the board of directors.

Article 109. The secretary of the Company's board of directors shall be a natural person who has the requisite professional knowledge and experience, and shall be appointed by the board of directors.

The main tasks of the secretary of the board of directors include:

- (1) to assist the directors in the day-to-day work of the board of directors, to continuously provide the directors with, to remind the directors of and to ensure that the directors understand the regulations, policies and requirements of the foreign and domestic regulatory authorities on the operation of the Company, to assist the directors and the general manager to effectively implement relevant foreign and domestic laws, regulations, the Company's Articles of Association and other relevant regulations when carrying out their duties;

- (2) to be responsible for the organization and preparation of documents for board meetings and shareholders' meetings, to take proper meeting minutes, to ensure that the resolutions passed at the meetings comply with statutory procedures and to be knowledgeable about the implementation of the resolutions of the board of directors;
- (3) to be responsible for the organization and coordination of information disclosure, to coordinate the relationship with investors and to increase transparency of the Company;
- (4) to participate in the structuring of financing through the capital markets;
- (5) to deal with intermediaries, regulatory authorities and media, and to maintain good public relations.

Duties of the secretary of the board of directors include:

- (1) to organise and prepare for the board meetings and shareholders' meetings, to prepare documents for the meetings, to make relevant arrangements for the meetings, to be responsible for taking meeting minutes, to ensure the accuracy of the records, to keep meeting documents and minutes and to take proactive steps to become knowledgeable about the implementation of relevant resolutions; to report to and advise the board of directors on important issues during implementation of the resolutions.
- (2) to ensure that material decisions of the board of directors are implemented in strict compliance with the required procedures; upon request by the board of directors, to participate in, and to organize the consultation and analysis of matters to be decided by the board of directors and provide relevant advice and recommendations thereon; to carry out the day-to-day work of the board of directors and its relevant committees upon delegation.
- (3) to act as a contact point between the Company and securities regulatory authorities, to be responsible for the organisation of the preparation and timely submission of documents required by the regulatory authorities, responsible for carrying out the tasks given by the regulatory authorities and organising their accomplishment.
- (4) to be responsible for coordinating and organizing the Company's information disclosure, to set up a sound information disclosure system, to participate in all the meetings of the Company in relation to information disclosure, to timely obtain important business decisions and the relevant information.

- (5) to be responsible for keeping price sensitive information of the Company confidential and to formulate an effective system of maintaining confidentiality and related measures; to take necessary remedial actions in the event of the unintended disclosure for whatever reason of any price sensitive information of the Company; and to make prompt explanations and clarifications and notify the regulatory authority of the overseas listing place and CSRC thereof.
- (6) to be responsible for the coordination and organisation of market promotions, to coordinate visits to the Company, to deal with relationship with investors, to maintain communication with investors, intermediaries and media, to be responsible for coordinating and answering questions raised by the public, and to ensure that the investors promptly obtain the information disclosed by the Company; to organise and prepare for marketing and promotion activities outside and in the PRC, to draw up summary reports on market promotion activities and important visits to the Company and to organise the reporting of the same to CSRC.
- (7) to be responsible for administering and keeping the register of the members of the Company, the register of the directors of the Company, the shareholding of major shareholders and directors and list of the holders of the outstanding debentures of the Company in issue.
- (8) to assist the directors and the general manager in complying with foreign and domestic laws, regulations, the Company's Articles of Association and other relevant regulations in exercising their powers. After becoming aware that any resolutions made or likely to be made by the Company are in breach of relevant regulations, the secretary is obliged to give prompt warnings and shall have the right to report such facts to the CSRC and other regulatory authorities.
- (9) to coordinate the provision of necessary information required by the Company's supervisory committee and other examination body for their supervisory functions, and assist them in their investigation on the relevant financial officer, directors of the Company and general manager on whether they have satisfied their responsibility for trust-worthiness.
- (10) to exercise other powers and duties authorized by the board of directors and other powers and duties required in the overseas listing jurisdiction.

Article 110. A director or other senior officer of the Company may also act as the secretary of the board of directors. Accountants of the accountancy firm which has been appointed by the Company to act as its auditors shall not act as the secretary of the board of directors.

Where the office of secretary is held concurrently by a director, and an act is required to be done by a director and a secretary separately, the person who holds the office of director and secretary may not perform the act in a dual capacity.

Article 111. The secretary of the board of directors shall diligently exercise his duties in accordance with the relevant provisions of these Articles of Association.

The secretary of the board of directors shall assist the Company in complying with the relevant PRC laws and the rules of the securities exchange on which the shares of the Company are listed.

CHAPTER 12: GENERAL MANAGER

Article 112. The Company shall have a general manager who shall be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors.

The Company shall have several deputy general managers, and financial deputy general manager who shall assist the general manager. The deputy general managers and financial deputy general manager shall be nominated by the general manager and appointed or dismissed by the board of the directors.

A member of the board of directors may act concurrently as the general manager or deputy general manager.

Article 113. The general manager shall be accountable to the board of directors and shall exercise the following functions and powers:

- (1) to be in charge of the Company's production, operation and management and to organise the implementation of the resolutions of the board of directors;
- (2) to organise the implementation of the Company's annual business plan and investment proposal;
- (3) to devise the establishment of the Company's internal management structure;
- (4) to draft plans for the establishment of the Company's branch organisations;
- (5) to devise the Company's basic management system;

- (6) to formulate basic rules and regulations of the Company;
- (7) to propose the appointment or dismissal of the deputy general managers and financial deputy general manager of the Company;
- (8) to appoint or dismiss management personnel other than those required to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors;
- (9) other powers conferred by the Company's Articles of Association and the board of directors.

Article 114. The general manager who is not a director shall be entitled to attend meetings of the board of directors and receive the notice of meeting and the relevant documents. The general manager who is not a director does not have any voting rights at board meetings.

Article 115. In performing their duties and exercising their powers, the general manager, the deputy general managers and the financial deputy general manager shall not depart from the resolutions of the shareholders' general meetings or the board of directors, or exceed their respective authority.

Article 116. In performing their duties and powers, the general manager, the deputy general managers and the financial deputy general manager shall act honestly and diligently and in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the Company's Articles of Association.

Article 117. The general manager, the deputy general managers, the financial deputy general manager and other senior officers who wish to resign shall give a three-month written notice to the board of directors. Department managers who wish to resign shall give a two-month written notice to the general manager.

CHAPTER 13: SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Article 118. The Company shall have a supervisory committee. The supervisory committee is a permanent supervisory body of the Company responsible for supervising the board of directors and its members, the general manager, deputy general managers, financial deputy general manager and other senior officers of the Company to prevent them from abusing their powers and infringing the legitimate rights and interests of the shareholders, the Company and its employees.

Article 119. The supervisory committee shall compose of five (5) supervisors including one external supervisor (hereinafter meaning supervisors who do not hold office in the Company).

The supervisory committee shall have one (1) chairman. Each supervisor shall serve for a term of three (3) years, which term is renewable upon re-election and re-appointment.

The election or removal of the chairman of the supervisory committee shall be determined by the affirmative votes of two-thirds or more of the members of the supervisory committee.

The chairman of the supervisory committee shall organise the implementation of the duties of the supervisory committee.

Article 120. The supervisory committee shall comprise three (3) supervisors who represent the shareholders (hereinafter including those qualified as external supervisors) and two (2) supervisors who shall represent the employees. Supervisors who represent the shareholders shall be elected or removed by the shareholders in general meetings, and the supervisor who represents employees shall be elected or removed by the employees democratically.

Where necessary, the supervisory committee may establish an office responsible for the day-to-day work of the supervisory committee.

Article 121. The directors, the general manager, the deputy general managers and the financial deputy general manager of the Company shall not act concurrently as supervisors.

Article 122. Meetings of the supervisory committee shall be held at least twice every year, and shall be convened by the chairman of the supervisory committee.

Article 123. The supervisory committee shall be accountable to the shareholders in general meeting and shall exercise the following functions and powers in accordance with the law:

- (1) to review the Company's financial position;
- (2) to supervise the directors, general manager, deputy general managers, financial controller and other senior officers to ensure that they do not act in contravention of any law, administrative regulation or the Company's Articles of Association;
- (3) to require any director, general manager, deputy general manager, financial controller or other senior officer who acts in a manner which is harmful to the Company's interest to rectify such behaviour;
- (4) to check the financial information such as the financial report, business report and plans for distribution of profits to be submitted by the board of directors to the shareholders' general meetings and to authorize, in the Company's name, publicly certified accountants and practising auditors to assist in the re-examination of such information should any doubt arise in respect thereof;

- (5) to propose to convene an extraordinary general meeting;
- (6) to represent the Company in negotiations with or in bringing actions against a director;
- (7) other functions and powers specified in the Company's Articles of Association.

The supervisory committee may provide its opinions on the appointment of accountancy firm by the Company, and may appoint another accountancy firm in the name of the Company when necessary to independently examine financial affairs of the Company, and may directly report relevant information to the securities supervisory and management authorities of the State Council and other relevant authorities.

External supervisors shall report independently to the shareholders' meeting on whether the senior officers have performed their duties honestly and diligently.

Supervisors shall attend meetings of the board of directors as observers.

- Article 124. Resolutions of the supervisory committee shall be passed by the affirmative vote of more than two-thirds of all of its members.
- Article 125. All reasonable fees incurred in respect of the employment of professionals (such as lawyers, certified public accountants and practising auditors) for the exercise of the supervisory committee's functions and powers shall be borne by the Company.
- Article 126. A supervisor shall carry out his duties honestly and faithfully in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the Company's Articles of Association.

CHAPTER 14: THE QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS, SUPERVISORS, GENERAL MANAGER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

- Article 127. A person may not serve as a director, supervisor, general manager or any other senior officer of the Company if any of the following circumstances apply:
- (1) a person who does not have or who has limited capacity for civil conduct;
 - (2) a person who has been sentenced for corruption, bribery, infringement of property rights or misappropriation of property or other crimes which disrupt the social economic order, where less than a term of five (5) years has lapsed since the sentence was fully served, or a person who has been deprived of his political rights and not more than five (5) years have lapsed since the sentence was fully served;

- (3) a person who is a former director, factory manager or manager of a company or enterprise which has been dissolved or put into liquidation as a result of mismanagement and who was made personally liable for such dissolution or liquidation, and where less than three (3) years have lapsed since the date of completion of the insolvent liquidation of the company or enterprise;
- (4) a person who is a former legal representative of a company or enterprise the business licence of which was revoked due to violation of law and who are personally liable therefor, where less than three (3) years have elapsed since the date of the revocation of the business licence;
- (5) a person who has a relatively large amount of debts which have become overdue;
- (6) a person who is currently undergoing investigation by judicial organs for violation of criminal law;
- (7) a person who, according to laws and administrative regulations, cannot act as a leader of an enterprise;
- (8) a person other than a natural person;
- (9) a person who has been convicted by the competent authority for violation of relevant securities regulations and such conviction involves a finding that such person has acted fraudulently or dishonestly, and where less than five (5) years have lapsed from the date of such conviction.

Article 128. The validity of an act carried out by a director, the general manager, and other senior officers of the Company on behalf of the Company as against a bona fide third party acting in good faith, shall not be affected by any irregularity in his office, his election or any defect in his qualification.

Article 129. In addition to the obligations imposed by laws, administrative regulations or the listing rules of the stock exchange on which shares of the Company are listed, each of the Company's directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers owes a duty to each shareholder, in the exercise of the functions and powers entrusted to him by the Company:

- (1) not to cause the Company to exceed the scope of business stipulated in its business licence;
- (2) to act honestly and in the best interests of the Company;

- (3) not to expropriate the Company's property in any way, including (but not limited to) usurpation of opportunities which benefit the Company;
- (4) not to expropriate the individual rights of shareholders, including (but not limited to) rights to distribution and voting rights, save and except pursuant to a restructuring of the Company which has been submitted to the shareholders for approval in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association.

Article 130. Each of the Company's directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers owes a duty, in the exercise of his powers and in the discharge of his duties, to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

Article 131. Each of the Company's directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers shall exercise his powers or perform his duties in accordance with the fiduciary principle, and shall not put himself in a position where his duty borne and his personal interest may conflict. This principle shall mean (without limitation) discharging the following obligations:

- (1) to act honestly and in the best interests of the Company;
- (2) to act within the scope of his powers and not to exceed such powers;
- (3) to exercise the discretion vested in him personally and not to allow himself to act under the control of another and, unless and to the extent permitted by laws, administrative regulations or with the informed consent of shareholders given in a general meeting, not to delegate the exercise of his discretion;
- (4) to treat shareholders of the same class equally and to treat shareholders of different classes fairly;
- (5) unless otherwise provided for in the Company's Articles of Association or except with the informed consent of the shareholders given in a general meeting, not to enter into any contract, transaction or arrangement with the Company;
- (6) not to use the Company's property for his own benefit unless with the informed consent of the shareholders given in a general meeting;
- (7) not to exploit his position by accepting bribes or other illegal income or expropriate the Company's property in any way, including (but not limited to) opportunities which benefit the Company;

- (8) not to accept commissions in connection with the Company's transactions unless with the informed consent of the shareholders given in a general meeting;
- (9) to comply with the Company's Articles of Association, to perform his official duties faithfully, to protect the Company's interests and not to exploit his position and power in the Company to advance his own interests;
- (10) not to compete with the Company in any way unless with the informed consent of the shareholders given in a general meeting;
- (11) not to misappropriate the Company's funds or to lend such funds to any other person, not to use the Company's assets to set up deposit accounts in his own name or in any other name or to use such assets to guarantee the debts of a shareholder of the Company or any other personal liabilities;
- (12) not to release any confidential information which he has obtained during his term of office unless with the informed consent of the shareholders in a general meeting; nor shall he use such information in any other way other than for the Company's benefit, save that disclosure of such information to the court or other governmental authorities is permitted if:
 - (i) disclosure is made under compulsion of law;
 - (ii) public interests so warrants;
 - (iii) the interests of the relevant director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer so requires.

Article 132. Each director, supervisor, general manager and other senior officer of the Company shall not direct the following persons or institutions ("associates") to act in a manner which he is prohibited from so acting:

- (1) the spouse or minor child of the director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer;
- (2) the trustee of the director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer or of any person described in sub-paragraph (1) above;
- (3) the partner of that director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer or any person referred to in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article;

- (4) a company in which that director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer, whether alone or jointly with one (1) or more of the persons referred to in sub-paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of this Article and other directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers, has de facto controlling interest;
- (5) the directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers of a company which is being controlled in the manner set out in sub-paragraph (4) above.

Article 133. The fiduciary duties of the directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers of the Company do not necessarily cease with the termination of their tenure. The duty of confidentiality in respect of trade secrets of the Company survives the termination of their tenure. Other duties may continue for such period as the principle of fairness may require depending on the amount of time which has lapsed between the termination and the act concerned and the circumstances and the terms under which the relationship between the relevant director, supervisor, general manager and other senior officer on the one hand and the Company on the other hand was terminated.

Article 134. A director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company may be relieved of his liability for specific breaches of his duty with the informed consent of the shareholders given at a general meeting, but this shall not apply for the matters set out in Article 54 of these Articles of Association.

Article 135. Where a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company is in any way, either directly or indirectly, materially interested in a contract, transaction or arrangement or proposed contract, transaction or arrangement with the Company (other than his contract of service with the Company), he shall declare the nature and extent of his interests to the board of directors at the earliest opportunity, whether or not the contract, transaction or arrangement or proposal is ordinarily subject to the approval of the board of directors.

If a director or his associate (as defined in the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited) has a material interest in any contract, transaction, arrangement or other matters that requires the approval of the board of directors, the relevant director shall not vote for the relevant matter at the meeting of the board of directors, and shall not be counted towards the quorum of the meeting.

Unless the interested director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer has disclosed his interests in accordance with the preceding sub-paragraph of this Article, and he has neither been counted as part of the quorum nor participated in voting for such matter the Company may annul such contract, transaction or arrangement, except as against a bona fide party thereto who does not have notice of the breach of duty by the interested director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer.

A director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company is deemed to be interested in a contract, transaction or arrangement in which his associate is interested.

Article 136. Where a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company gives to the board of directors a notice in writing stating that, by reason of the facts specified in the notice, he is interested in contracts, transactions or arrangements which may subsequently be made by the Company, that notice shall be deemed for the purposes of the preceding Article to be a sufficient declaration of his interests, so far as the content stated in such notice is concerned, provided that such written notice is given before the date on which the question of entering into the relevant contract, transaction or arrangement is first taken into consideration by the Company.

Article 137. The Company shall not pay taxes for or on behalf of a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer in any manner.

Article 138. The Company shall not directly or indirectly make a loan to or provide any guarantee in connection with the making of a loan to a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company or of the Company's holding company or any of their respective associates.

The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to the following circumstances:

- (1) the provision by the Company of a loan or a guarantee in connection with the making of a loan to its subsidiary;
- (2) the provision by the Company of a loan or a guarantee in connection with the making of a loan or any other funds available to any of its directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him for the purposes of the Company or for the purpose of enabling him to perform his duties properly, in accordance with the terms of a service contract approved by the shareholders in a general meeting;
- (3) if the ordinary course of business of the Company includes the lending of money or the giving of guarantees, the Company may make a loan to or provide a guarantee in connection with the making of a loan to any of the relevant directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers or their respective associates in the ordinary course of its business on normal commercial terms.

Article 139. Any person who receives funds from a loan which has been made by the Company acting in breach of the preceding Article shall, irrespective of the terms of the loan, forthwith repay such funds.

- Article 140. A guarantee for the repayment of a loan which has been provided by the Company acting in breach of Article 138(1) shall not be enforceable against the Company, save in respect of the following circumstances:
- (1) the guarantee was provided in connection with a loan which was made to an associate of any of the directors, supervisors, general manager and other senior officers of the Company or of the Company's holding company and the lender of such funds did not know of the relevant circumstances at the time of the making of the loan; or
 - (2) the collateral which has been provided by the Company has already been lawfully disposed of by the lender to a bona fide purchaser.
- Article 141. For the purposes of the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, a "guarantee" includes an undertaking of responsibility or property provided by the guarantor to secure the obligor's performance of his obligations.
- Article 142. In addition to any rights and remedies provided by the laws and administrative regulations, where a director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer of the Company breaches the duties which he owes to the Company, the Company has the right:
- (1) to demand such director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer to compensate it for losses sustained by it as a result of such breach;
 - (2) to rescind any contract or transaction which has been entered into between the Company and such director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer or between the Company and a third party (where such third party knows or should have known that such director, supervisor, general manager other senior officer representing the Company has breached his duties owed to the Company);
 - (3) to demand such director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer to account for profits made as result of the breach of his duties;
 - (4) to recover any monies which should have been received by the Company and which was received by such director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer instead, including (without limitation) commissions; and
 - (5) to demand repayment of interest earned or which may have been earned by such director, supervisor, general manager or other senior officer on monies that should have been paid to the Company.

- Article 143. The Company shall, with the prior approval of shareholders in a general meeting, enter into a contract in writing with a director or supervisor wherein his emoluments are stipulated. The aforesaid emoluments include:
- (1) emoluments in respect of his service as director, supervisor or senior officer of the Company;
 - (2) emoluments in respect of his service as director, supervisor or senior officer of any subsidiary of the Company;
 - (3) emoluments in respect of the provision of other services in connection with the management of the affairs of the Company and any of its subsidiaries;
 - (4) payment by way of compensation for loss of office, or as consideration for or in connection with his retirement from office.

No proceedings may be brought by a director or supervisor against the Company for anything due to him in respect of the matters mentioned in this Article except pursuant to the contract mentioned above.

- Article 144. The contract concerning the emoluments between the Company and its directors or supervisors should provide that in the event that the Company is being acquired, the Company's directors and supervisors shall, subject to the prior approval of shareholders in a general meeting, have the right to receive compensation or other payment in respect of his loss of office or retirement. For the purposes of this paragraph, the acquisition of the Company includes any of the following:

- (1) an offer made by any person to the all shareholders;
- (2) an offer made by any person with a view to the offeror becoming a "controlling shareholder" within the meaning of Article 55 hereof.

If the relevant director or supervisor does not comply with this Article, any sum so received by him shall belong to those persons who have sold their shares as a result of such offer. The expenses incurred in distributing such sum on a pro rata basis amongst such persons shall be borne by the relevant director or supervisor and shall not be paid out of such sum.

CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS AND PROFIT DISTRIBUTION

- Article 145. The Company shall establish its financial and accounting systems in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and PRC accounting standards formulated by the finance regulatory department of the State Council.

- Article 146. The fiscal year of the Company shall be on the basis of the Gregorian calendar beginning on 1 January and ending on 31 December of each year.
- The Company shall use Renminbi as its standard unit of account. The accounts shall be prepared in Chinese.
- At the end of each fiscal year, the Company shall prepare a financial report which shall be examined and verified in a manner prescribed by law.
- Article 147. The board of directors of the Company shall place before the shareholders at every annual general meeting such financial reports which the relevant laws, administrative regulations and directives promulgated by competent regional and central governmental authorities require the Company to prepare. Such reports must be verified and certified.
- Article 148. The Company's financial reports shall be made available for shareholders' inspection at the Company twenty (20) days before the date of every shareholders' annual general meeting. Each shareholder shall be entitled to obtain a copy of the financial reports referred to in this Chapter.
- The Company shall deliver or send to each shareholder of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares by prepaid mail at the address registered in the register of shareholders the said reports not later than twenty-one (21) days before the date of every annual general meeting of the shareholders.
- Article 149. The financial statements of the Company shall, in addition to being prepared in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations, be also prepared in accordance with either international accounting standards, or the accounting standard of the place outside the PRC where the Company's shares are listed. If there is any material difference between the financial statements prepared respectively in accordance with the two accounting standards, such difference shall be specifically stated in the financial statements. In distributing its after-tax profits for the relevant fiscal year, the lower of the two amounts shown in the two financial statements shall be distributed.
- Article 150. Any interim results or financial information published or disclosed by the Company must also be prepared and presented in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations, and also in accordance with either international accounting standards or the accounting standard of the place overseas where the Company's shares are listed.
- Article 151. The Company shall publish its financial reports twice every fiscal year, that is, the interim financial report shall be published within sixty (60) days after the expiration of the first six (6) months of each fiscal year; the annual financial report shall be published within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the expiration of each fiscal year.
- Article 152. The Company shall not keep accounts other than those required by law.

- Article 153. When distributing its after-tax profits in a given year, the Company shall allocate 10% of such profits to the Company's statutory common reserve fund. Where the accumulated amount of the statutory common reserve fund reaches 50% or more of the registered capital of the Company, no further allocation is required.
- Where the statutory common reserve fund is insufficient to make up for the losses of the Company in the previous year, before making contribution to the statutory common reserve fund, the profits made in the current year shall be used to make up for the losses first.
- After making contribution to the statutory common reserve fund from its after-tax profits, the Company may, subject to resolutions adopted at a shareholders' general meeting, make contributions to discretionary common reserve fund.
- After making up for the losses and making contributions to the common reserve fund, any remaining profits shall be distributed to the shareholders in proportion to their respective shareholdings.
- Article 154. The Company shall not allocate dividends or carry out other allocations in the form of bonuses before it has made up for its losses and made allocations to the statutory common reserve fund. Dividends paid by the Company shall not carry any interest except where the Company has failed to pay the dividends to the shareholders on the date on which such dividends become payable.
- Any amount paid up in advance of calls on any share shall carry interest, but shall not entitle the holder of the share to receive, by way of advance payment, the dividend declared and distributed thereafter.
- Article 155. Capital surplus reserve fund includes the following items:
- (1) premium on shares issued at a premium price;
 - (2) any other income designated for the capital surplus reserve fund by the regulations of the finance regulatory department of the State Council.
- Article 156. The common reserve funds of the Company shall be applied for making up for losses, expanding the Company's production and operation or capitalisation. However, the capital surplus reserve fund shall not be applied for making up losses of the Company.
- If a general meeting of the Company resolves to capitalise any common reserve fund, the Company shall issue new shares to the existing shareholders in proportion to their respective shareholdings or increase the par value of each share provided that when capitalising the statutory common reserve fund, the balance of such fund shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital.

- Article 157. The Company may distribute dividends in the form of:
- (1) cash;
 - (2) shares.
- Article 158. The Company shall declare and pay cash dividends and other amounts which are payable to holders of Domestic Shares in Renminbi. The Company shall calculate and declare cash dividends and other payments which are payable to holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares in Renminbi, and shall pay such amounts in Hong Kong dollars. The foreign exchange required by the Company to pay cash dividends and other amounts to holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares shall be obtained in accordance with the relevant foreign exchange administrative regulations of the State.
- Article 159. Unless otherwise provided for in relevant laws and administrative regulations, where cash dividends and other amounts are to be paid in Hong Kong dollars, the applicable exchange rate shall be the average median rate for the relevant foreign currency announced by the People's Bank of China during the calendar week prior to the declaration of payment of dividend and other amounts.
- Article 160. Subject to Article 57(2) and 97(14) of these Articles of Associations, the board of directors may decide to distribute interim or special dividends.
- Article 161. When distributing dividends to its shareholders, the Company shall withhold and pay on behalf of its shareholders the taxes levied on the dividends in accordance with the provisions of the PRC tax law.
- Article 162. The Company shall appoint receiving agents for holders of the Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares. Such receiving agents shall receive dividends which have been declared by the Company and all other amounts which the Company should pay to holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares on such shareholders' behalf.

The receiving agents appointed by the Company shall meet the relevant requirements of the laws of the jurisdiction at which the Company's shares are listed or the relevant regulations of such stock exchange.

The receiving agents appointed for holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares listed in Hong Kong shall each be a company registered as a trust company under the Trustee Ordinance of Hong Kong.

CHAPTER 16: APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY FIRM

- Article 163. The Company shall appoint an independent firm of accountants which is qualified under the relevant regulations of the State to audit the Company's annual report and review the Company's other financial reports.
- The first auditors of the Company may be appointed before the first annual general meeting of the Company at the inaugural meeting. Auditors so appointed shall hold office until the conclusion of the first annual general meeting.
- If the inaugural meeting does not exercise the powers under the preceding paragraph, those powers shall be exercised by the board of directors.
- Article 164. The accountancy firm appointed by the Company shall hold office from the conclusion of the annual general meeting of shareholders at which they were appointed until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of shareholders.
- Article 165. The accountancy firm appointed by the Company shall enjoy the following rights:
- (1) a right to review to the books, records and vouchers of the Company at any time, and the right to require the directors, general manager and other senior officers of the Company to supply relevant information and explanations;
 - (2) a right to require the Company to take all reasonable steps to obtain from its subsidiaries such information and explanation as are necessary for the discharge of its duties;
 - (3) a right to attend shareholders' general meetings and to receive all notices of, and other information relating to, any shareholders' general meeting which any shareholder is entitled to receive, and to speak at any shareholders' general meeting in relation to matters concerning its role as the Company's accountancy firm.
- Article 166. If there is a vacancy in the position of accountant of the Company, the board of directors may appoint an accountancy firm to fill such vacancy before the convening of the shareholders' general meeting. Any other incumbent accountancy firm which has been appointed by the Company may continue to act during the period where such vacancy subsists.

- Article 167. The shareholders in a general meeting may by ordinary resolution remove the Company's accountancy firm before the expiration of its term of office, irrespective of the provisions in the contract between the Company and the Company's accountancy firm. However, the accountancy firm's right to claim for damages which arise from its removal shall not be affected.
- Article 168. The remuneration of an accountancy firm or the manner in which such firm is to be remunerated shall be determined by the shareholders in a general meeting. The remuneration of an accountancy firm appointed by the board of directors shall be determined by the board of directors.
- Article 169. The Company's appointment, removal or non-renewal of appointment of an accountancy firm shall be resolved by the shareholders in a general meeting. Such resolution shall be filed with the securities authority of the State Council.

Where a resolution at a general meeting of shareholders is passed to appoint an accountancy firm other than an incumbent accountancy firm to fill any casual vacancy in the office of accountancy firm, to re-appoint a retiring accountancy firm that was appointed by the board of directors to fill a casual vacancy, or to dismiss an accountancy firm before the expiration of its term of office, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) A copy of the appointment or removal proposal shall be sent (before notice of meeting is given to the shareholders) to the accountancy firm proposed to be appointed or proposing to leave its post or the firm which has left its post in the relevant fiscal year (leaving includes leaving by removal, resignation and retirement).
- (2) If the accountancy firm leaving its post makes representations in writing and requests the Company to give the shareholders notice of such representations, the Company shall (unless the representations have been received too late) adopt the following measures:
 - (a) in any notice of the resolution given to shareholders, state the fact of the representations having been made; and
 - (b) attach a copy of the representations to the notice and deliver it to the shareholders in the manner stipulated in the Company's Articles of Association.
- (3) If the Company fails to send out the accountancy firm's representations in the manner set out in sub-paragraph (2) above, such accountancy firm may require that the representations be read out at the meeting and may make further appeals to the meeting.

- (4) An accountancy firm which is leaving its post shall be entitled to attend the following shareholders' general meetings:
- (a) the general meeting at which its term of office would otherwise have expired;
 - (b) the general meeting at which it is proposed to fill the vacancy caused by its removal; and
 - (c) the general meeting which is convened as a result of its resignation,
- and to receive all notices of, and other information relating to, any such meeting, and to speak at any such meeting which concerns it as a former accountancy firm of the Company.

Article 170. Prior notice should be given to the accountancy firm if the Company decides to remove such accountancy firm or not to renew its appointment. Such accountancy firm shall be entitled to make representations at the shareholders' general meeting. Where the accountancy firm resigns from its position, it shall make clear to the shareholders in a general meeting whether there has been any impropriety on the part of the Company.

An accountancy firm may resign its office by depositing at the Company's registered address a resignation notice which shall become effective on the date of such deposit or on such later date as may be stipulated in such notice. Such notice shall contain the following statements:

- (1) a statement to the effect that there are no circumstances connected with its resignation which it considers should be brought to the notice of the shareholders or creditors of the Company; or
- (2) a statement of any of the foregoing circumstances.

The Company shall, within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the notice referred to in the preceding paragraph, send a copy of the notice to the relevant regulatory authority. If the notice contains a statement under the preceding sub-paragraph (2), a copy of such statement shall be placed at the Company for shareholders' inspection. The Company should also send a copy of such statement by prepaid mail to every shareholder of Overseas-Listed Foreign Shares at the address registered in the register of shareholders.

Where the accountancy firm's notice of resignation contains a statement in respect of the above, it may require the board of directors to convene a shareholders' extraordinary general meeting for the purpose of receiving an explanation of the circumstances connected with its resignation.

CHAPTER 17: MERGER AND DIVISION OF THE COMPANY

- Article 171. In the event of the merger or division of the Company, a plan shall be presented by the Company's board of directors and shall be approved in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the Company's Articles of Association. The Company shall then undertake the relevant approval process in a manner prescribed by law. A shareholder who objects to the plan of merger or division shall have the right to demand the Company or the shareholders who consent to the plan of merger or division to acquire such dissenting shareholders' shareholding at a fair price.
- The contents of the resolution of merger or division of the Company shall be compiled into special documents which shall be available for inspection by the shareholders of the Company. Such special documents shall be sent by post to holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares.
- Article 172. The merger of the Company may take the form of either merger by absorption or merger by the establishment of a new company.
- In the event of a merger, the merging parties shall execute a merger agreement and prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets. The Company shall notify its creditors within ten (10) days of the date of the Company's resolution approving the merger and shall publish a public notice in a newspaper within thirty (30) days of the date of the Company's resolution approving the merger.
- Upon the merger, receivables and indebtedness of each of the merger parties shall be assumed by the company which survives the merger or the newly established company.
- Article 173. Where there is a division of the Company, its assets shall be divided up accordingly.
- In the event of division of the Company, the parties to such division shall execute a division agreement and prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets. The Company shall notify its creditors within ten (10) days of the date of the Company's resolution approving the division and shall publish a public announcement in a newspaper within thirty (30) days of the date of the Company's resolution approving the division.
- Debts of the Company prior to division shall be assumed by the companies which exist after the division in accordance with the agreement of the parties.
- Article 174. The Company shall, in accordance with law, apply for change in its registration particulars with the companies registration authority where a change in any item in its registration arises as a result of any merger or division. Where the Company is dissolved, the Company shall apply for cancellation of its registration in accordance with law. Where a new company is established, that company shall apply for registration in accordance with the law.

CHAPTER 18: DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

- Article 175. The Company shall be dissolved and liquidated in accordance with the law upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
- (1) a resolution for dissolution is passed by shareholders at a general meeting;
 - (2) dissolution is necessary due to a merger or division of the Company;
 - (3) the Company is declared insolvent in accordance with the law due to its failure to repay debts as they become due; and
 - (4) the Company is ordered to wind-up because of its violation of laws and administrative regulations.
- Article 176. A liquidation committee shall be set up within fifteen (15) days of the Company being dissolved pursuant to sub-paragraph (1) of the preceding Article, and the composition of the liquidation committee of the Company shall be determined by an ordinary resolution of shareholders in a general meeting. If the Company fails to set up the liquidation committee within the above time limit, the creditors may apply to the People's Court for appointment of relevant persons to form a liquidation committee and conduct the liquidation.
- Where the Company is dissolved under sub-paragraph (3) of the preceding Article, the People's Court shall in accordance with the provisions of relevant laws organise the shareholders, the relevant organisations and the relevant professional personnel to establish a liquidation committee to carry out the liquidation.
- Where the Company is dissolved under sub-paragraph (4) of the preceding Article, the relevant governing authorities shall organise the shareholders, the relevant organisations and professional personnel to establish a liquidation committee to carry out the liquidation.
- Article 177. Where the board of directors proposes to liquidate the Company for any reason other than the Company's declaration of its own insolvency, the board shall include a statement in its notice convening a shareholders' general meeting to consider the proposal to the effect that, after making full inquiry into the affairs of the Company, the board of directors is of the opinion that the Company will be able to pay its debts in full within twelve (12) months from the commencement of the liquidation.

Upon the passing of the resolution by the shareholders in a general meeting for the liquidation of the Company, all functions and powers of the board of directors shall immediately cease.

The liquidation committee shall act in accordance with the instructions of the shareholders' general meeting to make a report at least once every year to the shareholders' general meeting on the committee's income and expenses, the business of the Company and the progress of the liquidation, and to present a final report to the shareholders' general meeting on completion of the liquidation.

Article 178. The liquidation committee shall, within ten (10) days of its establishment, send notices to the Company's creditors and shall, within sixty (60) days of its establishment, publish a public announcement in a newspaper.

Article 179. During the liquidation period, the liquidation committee shall exercise the following functions and powers:

- (1) to put in order the Company's assets and prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets respectively;
- (2) to notify the creditors or to publish public announcements;
- (3) to handle of and liquidate any outstanding businesses of the Company;
- (4) to pay all outstanding taxes;
- (5) to settle claims and debts;
- (6) to deal with the surplus assets remaining after the Company's debts have been repaid;
- (7) to represent the Company in any civil proceedings.

Article 180. After the liquidation committee has put in order the Company's assets and prepared the balance sheet and an inventory of assets, the liquidation committee shall formulate a liquidation plan and present it to a shareholders' general meeting or to the relevant governing authority for confirmation.

After the payment of liquidation expenses with priority, the Company's assets shall be distributed in accordance with the following sequence: (i) salaries and labour insurance expenses of employees of the Company; (ii) outstanding taxes; (iii) bank loans, debentures of the Company and other debts of the Company.

Any surplus assets of the Company remaining after payment referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be distributed to its shareholders according to the class of shares and the proportion of shares held in the following sequence:

- (1) In the case of preferential shares, distribution shall be made to holders of such preferential shares according to the par value thereof; if the surplus assets are not sufficient to repay the amount of preferential shares in full, the distribution shall be made to holders of such shares in proportion to their respective shareholdings.
- (2) In the case of ordinary shares, distribution shall be made to holders of such shares in proportion to their respective shareholdings.

During the liquidation period, the Company shall not commence any new business activities.

Article 181. If after putting the Company's assets in order and preparing a balance sheet and an inventory of assets in connection with the liquidation of the Company, the liquidation committee discovers that the Company's assets are insufficient to repay the Company's debts in full, the liquidation committee shall immediately apply to the People's Court for a declaration of insolvency.

After a Company is declared insolvent by a ruling of the People's Court, the liquidation committee shall transfer all matters arising from the liquidation to the People's Court.

Article 182. Following the completion of the liquidation, the liquidation committee shall prepare a liquidation report, a statement of income and expenses received and made during the liquidation period and a financial report, which shall be verified by a Chinese registered accountant and submitted to the shareholders' general meeting or the relevant governing authority for confirmation.

The liquidation committee shall, within thirty (30) days after such confirmation, submit the documents referred to in the preceding paragraph to the companies registration authority and apply for cancellation of registration of the Company, and publish a public announcement relating to the termination of the Company.

CHAPTER 19: PROCEDURES FOR AMENDMENT OF THE COMPANY'S ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Article 183. The Company may amend its Articles of Association in accordance with the requirements of laws, administrative regulations and the Company's Articles of Association.

Article 184. Save as otherwise specified in Articles 61 and 81 of these Articles of Association, the following procedure shall be followed when amending these Articles of Association:

- (1) The board of directors shall adopt a resolution thereon in accordance with these Articles of Associations and prepare a proposal for amendment of the Articles; or the shareholders may present a motion for amendment of the Articles;
- (2) The foregoing proposal shall be furnished to the shareholders and a shareholders' meeting shall be convened for voting on it;
- (3) The amendments presented to the shareholders' meeting shall be adopted through a special resolution.

Article 185. Amendment of the Company's Articles of Association which involves the contents of the Mandatory Provisions of Overseas-Listed Companies' Articles of Association shall become effective upon receipt of approvals by the authorities that are authorised by the State Council to examine and approve Companies.

Article 186. Where amendment of the Articles of Association involves the registered particulars of the Company, procedures for alteration of registration shall be handled in accordance with the law.

CHAPTER 20: NOTICES

Article 187. Subject to the proper compliance of all the applicable laws, rules and regulations (including but not limited to the rules of the designated stock exchanges) and obtaining all the required consent (if any), any notice or document published by the Company (including but not limited to the "Corporate Communication" as defined by the rules of the designated stock exchanges) could be delivered by the following methods:

- (1) by hand;
- (2) by post;
- (3) by sending it to the facsimile number or other number of electronic communication (including but not limited to email address) or website as provided by the addressee to the Company for the said purpose;
- (4) by public announcement;
- (5) by uploading the notice or document to the website of the Company or the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and issuing a notice to the addressee for notifying him/her on the availability of such notice or document on such website (the "Availability Notice"). The Company shall deliver the Availability Notice to the holders of overseas listed foreign shares by hand or by pre-paid post;

(6) by any other methods as agreed between the Company and the addressee or as accepted by the addressee after the notice is received; or

(7) by any other methods as authorized by the relevant regulatory body of the place of listing of the Company or as stipulated by the Articles of Association.

In case of joint holders of shares, all the notices or documents shall be delivered to the holder whose name stands first in the register of members and such notices or documents delivered thereby shall be deemed duly delivered to and received by all such joint holders.

Unless as otherwise provided for in these Articles of Association, all the notices, materials or written statements issued by the Company to holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares shall be delivered by hand or by pre-paid post to the registered address of each holder of such shares.

Article 188. Any notice or document shall be:

(1) Deemed issued when the envelope containing such notice was put into post-box, and deemed duly received after 48 hours thereafter if it was delivered by post, provided that the address was clearly written, postage fee was pre-paid and the said notice was put inside such envelope.

(2) Deemed delivered on the receiving date (i.e. the sending date) if it was sent by facsimile, in such case the receiving date shall be the date shown on the facsimile transmission report. If it was sent as an electronic message, it shall be deemed delivered on the date when the message was transmitted from the server of the Company or its agent.

(3) Deemed delivered on the date when the availability notice is deemed delivered to the shareholder if the notice or document was uploaded onto the website of the Company.

(4) Deemed delivered on the date when the notice or document is published for the first time if it is published as a public announcement, provided that such announcement shall be published on newspaper provided for the relevant rules.

(5) Deemed delivered at the time it is delivered by hand or (as the case may be) at the time of such delivery is deemed delivered if the notice or document is sent or delivered by any other methods as stipulated in the Articles of Association.

Article 189. If the listing rules in the listing place require the Company to dispatch, mail, distribute, issue or otherwise provide the relevant document of the Company in English and in Chinese, the Company shall be allowed to deliver either the English or the Chinese version in accordance with the choice of the shareholder, provided that the Company has made appropriate arrangement to confirm whether the shareholders would like to receive either the English or the Chinese version and subject to and to the extent as permitted by the applicable laws and regulations.

CHAPTER 21: DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Article 190. The Company shall abide by the following principles for dispute resolution:

(1) Whenever any disputes or claims arise between: holders of the Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares and the Company; holders of the Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares and the Company's directors, supervisors, general manager or other senior officers; or holders of the Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares and holders of Domestic Shares, in respect of any rights or obligations arising from these Articles of Association, the Company Law or any rights or obligations conferred or imposed by the Company Law and other relevant laws and administrative regulations concerning the affairs of the Company, such disputes or claims shall be referred by the relevant parties 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, where such person is the Company, the Company's shareholders, directors, supervisors, general manager, or other senior officers of the Company, shall comply with the arbitration award. Disputes in respect of the definition of shareholders and disputes in relation to the register of shareholders need not be resolved by arbitration.

(2) 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 Centre in accordance with its Securities Arbitration Rules. Once a claimant refers a dispute or claim to arbitration, the other party must submit to the jurisdiction of arbitral body elected by the claimant.

If a claimant elects for arbitration to be carried out at Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, 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 Centre.

(3) If any disputes or claims of rights are arbitrated in accordance with sub-paragraph (1) of this Article, the laws of the PRC shall apply, save as otherwise provided in the laws and administrative regulations.

(4) The award of an arbitral body shall be final and conclusive and binding on all parties.

CHAPTER 22: SUPPLEMENTARY

Article 191. The newspapers required by these Articles of Association for the publication of announcements shall be those designated or required by the relevant State laws and administrative regulations. If it is necessary to make an announcement to holders of Overseas-Listed Foreign-Invested Shares as required by these Articles of Association, the relevant announcement shall at the same time be published in the newspapers designated by the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited in accordance with the provisions for “press announcements” set out therein.

Article 192. The board of directors of the Company shall be responsible for the interpretation of these Articles of Association, and the shareholders in general meeting shall have the right to amend the Articles of Association.

Article 193. These Articles of Association are written in Chinese. If there is any discrepancy between the Chinese version and any other translated versions, the Chinese version shall prevail.

Article 194. In these Articles of Association, reference to “accountancy firm” shall have the same meaning as “auditor”.

**Description of rights of each class of securities
registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”)**

As of December 31, 2020, China Telecom Corporation Limited (“Company”) had two classes of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act: H shares and American depository shares (“ADSs”). Our H shares, listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (“HKSE”), are registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act in connection with the listing of our ADSs (but not for trading). Our ADSs, each representing 100 H shares of the Company, are listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange. This exhibit contains a description of the rights of (i) H shares holders and (ii) ADSs holders. H shares underlying the ADSs are held by The Bank of New York Mellon, as depository (“Depository”), and holders of ADSs will not be treated as holders of the H shares.

H Shares

This summary of the general terms and provisions of H shares does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to (i) our Articles of Association, which is incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 1.1 of our annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2020 (“2020 Form 20-F”); and (ii) the applicable PRC laws and regulations, insofar as they relate to the material terms of our H shares.

Preemptive Rights (Item 9.A.3 of Form 20-F)

Not applicable.

Type and Class of Securities (Item 9.A.5 of Form 20-F)

As of December 31, 2020, 13,877,410,000 H shares, par value RMB1.00 per share, were issued and outstanding. H shares are ordinary shares of the Company listed on HKSE.

Pursuant to our Articles of Association, we may refuse to recognize any instrument of transfer of H shares unless:

- (1) a fee of HK\$2.50 per instrument of transfer or such higher amount agreed from time to time by the HKSE for the registration of the instrument of transfer and other documents relating to or which affect the right of ownership of H shares has been paid to us;
- (2) the instrument of transfer only relates to H shares;
- (3) the stamp duty chargeable on the instrument of transfer has been duly paid;
- (4) the relevant share certificate(s) and any other evidence which the board of directors may reasonably require to show that the transferor has the right to transfer the shares have been provided;
- (5) if it is intended that the H shares be transferred to joint owners, the maximum number of joint owners shall not be more than four (4); and
- (6) we do not have any lien on the relevant H shares.

In addition, our shareholders are required to comply with restrictions and procedural requirements set forth in the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on HKSE (“Listing Rules”) and the Securities and Futures Ordinance of Hong Kong (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (“SFO”) with respect to transfer of our H shares.

Limitations or Qualifications (Item 9.A.6 of Form 20-F)

Not applicable.

Other Rights (Item 9.A.7 of Form 20-F)

Not applicable.

Rights of H Shares (Item 10.B.3 of Form 20-F)

For dividend rights, voting rights and right to share in any surplus in the event of liquidation, see “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association” of 2020 Form 20-F. Our directors do not stand for reelection at staggered intervals.

Our Articles of Association do not contain provisions concerning any rights to share in the company’s profits, redemption provisions, sinking fund provisions, provisions concerning liability to further capital calls or provisions discriminating against any existing or prospective holder of such securities as a result of such shareholder owning a substantial number of shares. However, see “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association— Restrictions on Large or Controlling Shareholders” of 2020 Form 20-F for certain restrictions on our controlling shareholder. In addition, a shareholder obtaining or consolidating a controlling stake in the Company is potentially subject to, among other things, the mandatory general offer obligation under the Hong Kong Codes on Takeovers and Mergers and Share Buy-backs (“Takeovers Code”).

Requirements to Change the Rights of Holders of H Shares (Item 10.B.4 of Form 20-F)

See “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association—Sources of Shareholders’ Rights” of 2020 Form 20-F.

Limitations on the Rights to Own H Shares (Item 10.B.6 of Form 20-F)

There are no restrictions under PRC law or our Articles of Association on the ability of investors that are not PRC residents to hold H shares and exercise voting rights.

Provisions Affecting Any Change of Control (Item 10.B.7 of Form 20-F)

There is no provision in our Articles of Association that would have an effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of the Company and that would operate only with respect to a merger, acquisition or corporation restructuring involving the Company or any of its subsidiaries. However, a change in control of the Company is potentially subject to, among others, the mandatory general offer obligation under the Takeovers Code.

Ownership Disclosure Threshold (Item 10.B.8 of Form 20-F)

There is no provision in our Articles of Association governing the ownership threshold above which shareholder ownership must be disclosed. Shareholders will, however, be required to disclose their ownership in accordance with the Listing Rules and the SFO.

Differences between the Law of Different Jurisdictions (Item 10.B.9 of Form 20-F)

See “Item 16G. Corporate Governance” of 2020 Form 20-F.

Changes in Capital (Item 10.B.10 of Form 20-F)

See “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association” of 2020 Form 20-F.

Debt Securities (Item 12.A of Form 20-F)

Not applicable.

Warrants and Rights (Item 12.B of Form 20-F)

Not applicable.

Other Securities (Item 12.C of Form 20-F)

Not applicable.

American Depositary Shares (Items 12.D.1 and 12.D.2 of Form 20-F)

The following description of our ADSs is a summary and does not purport to be complete. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the deposit agreement (“Deposit Agreement”) dated November 14, 2002 between the Company, the Depositary, and ADR holders and beneficial owners of American depositary receipts (“ADR”), including the form of ADR. For a full copy of the Deposit Agreement and the form of ADR, please see Exhibit 2.2 of 2020 Form 20-F.

In the following description, references to “you” are to the person registered with the Depositary.

General

Each ADS represents 100 H shares, deposited with the Hong Kong office of The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (“Custodian”), as agent for the Depositary. The principal executive office of the Depositary is located at 240 Greenwich Street, New York, N.Y. 10286.

You may hold ADRs either directly or indirectly through your broker or other financial institution. If you hold ADRs directly, you are an ADR holder. This description assumes you hold your ADRs directly. If you hold the ADRs indirectly, you must rely on the procedures of your broker or other financial institution to assert the rights of ADR holders described in this section. You should consult with your broker or financial institution to find out what those procedures are.

Because the Depositary will actually own the H shares underlying the ADSs, you must rely on it to exercise the rights of a shareholder. The obligations of the Depositary are set out in the Deposit Agreement among us, the Depositary and you, as an ADR holder. The Deposit Agreement and the ADRs are governed by New York law.

Voting

You may instruct the Depositary to vote the H shares underlying your ADRs if we ask the Depositary for your instructions. Otherwise, you will not be able to exercise your right to vote unless you withdraw the H shares. If we ask for your instructions, the Depositary will notify you of the upcoming vote and arrange to deliver our voting materials to you. The materials will:

- describe the matters to be voted on; and
- explain how you, by a certain date, may instruct the Depositary to vote the H shares or other securities, property and cash received by the Depositary or the Custodian in respect thereof (collectively, “Deposited Securities”) underlying your ADRs as you direct. For instructions to be valid, the Depositary must receive them on or before the date specified. The Depositary will try, as far as practical, subject to PRC law and the provisions of our Articles of Association, to vote or to have its agents vote the H shares or other Deposited Securities as you instruct. If the Depositary does not receive your valid instruction, they will deem that you have instructed them to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us to vote such Deposited Securities.

We cannot assure you that you will receive the voting materials in time to ensure that you can instruct the Depositary to vote your H shares, or withdraw the H shares to vote on your own. In addition, the Depositary and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions or for the manner of carrying out voting instructions, provided that any such action or inaction is in good faith. This means that you may not be able to exercise your right to vote and there may be nothing you can do if your H shares are not voted as you requested.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The Depositary has agreed to pay to you the cash dividends or other distributions it receives on H shares or other Deposited Securities, after deducting related fees and expenses. You will receive these distributions in proportion to the number of H shares your ADRs represent.

Cash

The Depositary will convert any cash dividend or other cash distribution we pay in Hong Kong dollars on the H shares into U.S. dollars, if it can do so on a reasonable basis and can transfer the U.S. dollars to the United States. If that is not possible or if any approval from the Chinese government is needed and cannot be obtained, the Deposit Agreement allows the Depositary to distribute the Hong Kong dollars only to those ADR holders to whom it is possible to do so. It will hold the Hong Kong dollars it cannot convert for the account of the ADR holders who have not been paid. It will not invest the Hong Kong dollars and will not be liable for any interest.

Before making a distribution, any withholding taxes that must be paid under PRC law will be deducted. It will distribute only whole U.S. dollars and cents and will round fractional cents to the nearest whole cent. If the exchange rates fluctuate during a time when the Depositary cannot convert the Hong Kong dollars, you may lose some or all of the value of the distribution.

Shares

The Depositary may, or upon our request shall, distribute new ADRs representing any H shares we distribute as a dividend or free distribution, if we furnish it promptly with satisfactory evidence that it is legal to do so. The Depositary will only distribute whole ADRs. It will sell H shares which would require it to issue a fractional ADR and distribute the net proceeds in the same way as it would with cash. If the Depositary does not distribute additional ADRs, each ADR will also represent the new H shares. If we offer or cause to be offered to holders of H shares an option to elect to receive dividends in fully paid H shares instead of cash, the Depositary and our company will consult to determine whether that option will be made available to you and, if so, the related procedures.

Rights to Receive Additional Shares

If we offer holders of our securities any rights to subscribe for additional H shares or any other rights, the Depositary may, after consultation with us, make these rights available to you. We must first instruct the Depositary to do so and furnish it with satisfactory evidence that it is legal to do so. If we do not furnish this evidence and/or give these instructions, and the Depositary decides it is practical to sell the rights, the Depositary will, after consultation with us, sell the rights and distribute the proceeds in the same way as it would with cash. The Depositary may allow rights that are not distributed or sold to lapse. In that case, you will receive no value for them.

If the Depositary makes rights available to you, upon your instruction it will exercise the rights and purchase the H shares on your behalf. The Depositary will then deposit the H shares and issue ADRs to you. It will only exercise rights if you pay it the exercise price and any other charges the rights and the Deposit Agreement requires you to pay. U.S. securities laws may restrict the sale, deposit, cancellation and transfer of the ADRs issued as a result of exercise of rights. For example, you may not be able to trade or transfer the ADSs represented by the ADRs issued as a result of exercise of rights freely in the United States.

Other Distributions

The Depositary will send to you anything else we distribute on Deposited Securities by any means it determines is legal, fair and practical. If it cannot make the distribution in that way, the Depositary has a choice. It may decide to sell what we distributed and distribute the net proceeds, in the same way as it would with cash. Or, it may decide to hold what we distributed, in which case the outstanding ADRs will also represent the newly distributed property.

The Depositary is not responsible if it decides that it is unlawful or impractical to make a distribution available to any ADR holders. We have no obligation to register additional ADRs, shares, rights or other securities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. We also have no obligation to take any other action to permit the distribution of additional ADRs, shares, rights or anything else to ADR holders. This means that you may not receive the distributions we make on our H shares or any value for them if it is illegal or impractical for us to make them available to you.

Procedures for Transmitting Notices, Reports and Proxy Soliciting Material

The Company is subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Exchange Act and, accordingly, files certain reports with the SEC. Such reports and communications will be available for inspection and copying at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549.

The Depositary will make available for inspection by ADR holders at its office copies of the Deposit Agreement and any reports and communications, including any proxy soliciting material, received from the Company which are both (a) received by the Depositary as the owner of the Deposited Securities and (b) made generally available to the owners of such Deposited Securities by the Company. The Depositary will also, upon written request, send to ADR holders copies of such reports and communications when furnished by the Company pursuant to the Deposit Agreement. Any such reports and communications, including any such proxy soliciting material, furnished to the Depositary by the Company shall be furnished in English to the extent such materials are required to be translated into English pursuant to any regulations of the SEC.

Reclassifications, Recapitalizations and Mergers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>If we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change the nominal or par value of our H shares• Reclassify, split up or consolidate any of the Deposited Securities• Distribute securities on the H shares that are not distributed to you• Recapitalize, reorganize, merge, liquidate, sell all or substantially all of our assets, or take any similar action | <p>Then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cash, shares or other securities received by the Depository will become Deposited Securities.• Each ADR will automatically represent its equal share of the new Deposited Securities.• The Depository may, and will if we ask it to, ask you to surrender your outstanding ADRs in exchange for new ADRs identifying the new Deposited Securities. |
|---|---|

Amendment, Extension or Termination of the Deposit Arrangements

We may agree with the Depository to amend the Deposit Agreement and the ADRs without your consent for any reason. If the amendment adds or increases fees or charges, except for taxes, other governmental charges, registration fees or certain expenses of the Depository, or prejudices an important right of ADR holders, it will only become effective 30 days after the Depository notifies you of the amendment. At the time an amendment becomes effective, you are considered, by continuing to hold your ADRs, to agree to the amendment and to be bound by the ADRs and the Deposit Agreement as amended.

The Depository will terminate the Deposit Agreement if we ask it to do so by mailing notice of termination to us and the ADR holders at least 90 days prior to the date fixed in the notice of termination. The Depository may also terminate the Deposit Agreement if the Depository has told us that it would like to resign and we have not appointed a new Depository bank within 90 days. In both cases, the Depository must notify you at least 90 days before termination.

After termination, the Depository and its agents will be required to do only the following under the Deposit Agreement:

- (1) collect distributions on the Deposited Securities; and
- (2) deliver H shares and other Deposited Securities upon cancellation of ADRs.

One year after termination, the Depository will, if practical, sell any remaining Deposited Securities by public or private sale. After that, the Depository will hold the money it received from the sale, as well as any other cash it is holding under the Deposit Agreement, for the benefit of the ADR holders that have not surrendered their ADRs. It will not invest the money and has no liability for interest. The Depository's only obligations will be to account for the money and other cash and with respect to indemnification. After termination our only obligations will be with respect to indemnification and to pay certain amounts to the Depository.

Rights of ADR Holders to Inspect the Transfer Books of the Depository and the List of ADR Holders

The Depository shall keep books, at its office, for the registration of ADRs and transfers of ADRs which at all reasonable times shall be open for inspection by the ADR holders and the Company provided that such inspection shall not be for the purpose of communicating with ADR holders in the interest of a business or object other than the business of the Company or a matter related to the Deposit Agreement or the ADRs.

Restrictions on the Right to Transfer or Withdraw the Underlying Securities

The Company may restrict, in such manner as it reasonably deems appropriate, after consultation with the Depository, transfers of ADSs if such transfers may result in the total number of H shares represented by ADSs beneficially owned by an ADR holder or beneficial owner exceeding the limits under applicable law (including but not limited to the Listing Rules) or the Company's Articles of Association.

The Depository will issue ADRs if you or your broker deposit H shares or evidence of rights to receive H shares with the Custodian. Upon payment of its fees and expenses and of any taxes or charges, if applicable, such as stamp taxes or stock transfer taxes or fees, the Depository will register the appropriate number of ADRs in the names you request and will deliver the ADRs at its office to the persons you request.

You may turn in your ADRs at the Depository's office. Upon payment of its fees and expenses and of any taxes or charges, such as stamp taxes or stock transfer taxes or fees, if applicable, the Depository will deliver:

- the underlying H shares to an account designated by you; and
- any other Deposited Securities underlying the ADR at the office of the Custodian. Or, at your request, risk and expense, the Depository will deliver the Deposited Securities at its office.

You have the right to cancel your ADRs and withdraw the underlying H shares at any time except:

- when temporary delays arise because the Depository or the Custodian has closed its transfer books in connection with voting at a shareholders' meeting or the payment of dividends;
- when you or other ADR holders seeking to withdraw H shares owe money to pay fees, taxes and similar charges; or
- when it is necessary to prohibit withdrawals in order to comply with any laws or governmental regulations that apply to ADRs or to the withdrawal of H shares or other Deposited Securities.

This right of withdrawal may not be limited by any other provision of the Deposit Agreement.

Limitations on the Depository's Liability

The Deposit Agreement expressly limits our obligations and the obligations of the Depository, which will not affect our liability under U.S. securities laws. It also limits our liability and the liability of the Depository. We and the Depository:

- are only obligated to take the actions specifically set forth in the Deposit Agreement without negligence or bad faith;
- are not liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or circumstances beyond our control from performing our obligations under the Deposit Agreement;
- are not liable if either of us exercises any discretion permitted under the Deposit Agreement;
- have no obligation to become involved in a lawsuit or other proceeding related to the ADRs or the Deposit Agreement on your behalf or on behalf of any other party; and
- may rely upon any advice of or information from legal counsel, accountants, persons depositing shares, any registered holders or other persons believed by it in good faith to be competent to give such advice or information.

In the Deposit Agreement, we and the Depository agree to indemnify each other under certain circumstances.

Requirements for Depository Actions

Before the Depository will issue or register a transfer of an ADR, make a distribution on an ADR, or permit withdrawal of H shares, the Depository may require:

- payment of stock transfer or other taxes or other governmental charges and transfer or registration fees charged by third parties for the transfer of any H shares or other Deposited Securities;
- production of satisfactory proof of the identity and genuineness of any signature or other information it deems necessary;

- compliance with laws or governmental regulations relating to ADRs or to the withdrawal of Deposited Securities; and
- compliance with reasonable regulations it may establish, from time to time, consistent with the Deposit Agreement, including presentation of transfer documents.

The Depositary may refuse to deliver, transfer, or register transfers of ADRs generally when the transfer books of the Depositary are closed or at any time if the Depositary thinks it is advisable to do so.

English Summary
of
Agreement on the Disposal of Equity Interest in E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd
Between
Registrant
and
China Telecommunications Corporation
Dated March 26, 2021

On March 26, 2021, the Registrant and China Telecommunications Corporation entered into an agreement (the “Disposal Agreement”), pursuant to which the Registrant agreed to sell and China Telecommunications Corporation agreed to purchase all the share capital in E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd (“E-surfing Pay”) with an investment amount of RMB500,000,000 held by the Registrant (collectively “E-surfing Pay Shares”).

Consideration and Payment

Pursuant to the Disposal Agreement, the consideration for disposing E-surfing Pay is RMB3,897 million. China Telecommunications Corporation shall pay the consideration in the amount of RMB3,897 million in cash within five business days after the date on which the approval of People’s Bank of China is obtained (the “Effective Date”). In addition, the Disposal Agreement provides that during the period between December 31, 2020 (the “Appraisal Benchmark Date”) and the date of payment of the disposal consideration (the “Completion Date”), the rights and obligations attached to the E-surfing Pay Shares shall be enjoyed and carried out by the Registrant; after the Completion Date, the rights and obligations attached to the E-surfing Pay Shares shall be enjoyed or carried out by China Telecommunications Corporation. The parties have agreed that E-surfing Pay shall not pay dividends to its shareholders between the Appraisal Benchmark Date and the Completion Date.

Conditions Precedent

The transaction contemplated under the Disposal Agreement is conditional upon several conditions, including:

- (a) None of the relevant government authorities have published or promulgated any laws, rules, regulations, or policies that prohibit, materially affect or delay the completion of the disposal; and the relevant government authorities and courts having jurisdiction have not issued any order or injunctions, or initiated any investigations, to restrict, prohibit, or otherwise object to the completion of the disposal; and
- (b) All approvals, consents, filings or certificates from the governments or their agents required for the Disposal Agreement and the disposal (including the approval of the People’s Bank of China) have been obtained, except for legal procedures, as well as relevant documentations, that can only be processed after the completion in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Completion

After the Effective Date of the Disposal Agreement and upon the fulfilment or waiver of all the conditions precedent under the Disposal Agreement, unless otherwise agreed, the parties should complete the disposal on the date of the payment of the disposal consideration.

English Summary
of
Agreements on the Disposal of Equity Interest in China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited
Among
Registrant
and
China Telecom Global Limited
and
China Telecommunications Corporation
and
Guang Hua Properties Limited
Dated March 26, 2021

On March 26, 2021, the Registrant and its wholly owned subsidiary, China Telecom Global Limited, entered into agreements (the “Disposal Agreements”) with China Telecommunications Corporation and its subsidiary, Guang Hua Properties Limited, pursuant to which, the Registrant and China Telecom Global Limited respectively agreed to sell, and China Telecommunications Corporation and Guang Hua Properties Limited agreed to purchase, 75% of the share capital in China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited (“China Telecom Leasing”) from the Registrant and 25% of the share capital in China Telecom Leasing from China Telecom Global Limited (collectively “China Telecom Leasing Shares”).

Consideration and Payment

Pursuant to the Disposal Agreements, the consideration of disposing the China Telecom Leasing Shares is RMB175 million, to be paid in cash within five business days after the date on which the approval of Tianjin Finance Bureau is obtained by China Telecommunications Corporation and Guang Hua Properties Limited in the amount of RMB131 million and RMB44 million, respectively. In addition, the Disposal Agreements provide that during the period between December 31, 2020 (the “Appraisal Benchmark Date”) and the date of registration of transfer of China Telecom Leasing Shares (the “Completion Date”), the rights and obligations attached to the China Telecom Leasing Shares shall be enjoyed or carried out by the Registrant and China Telecom Global Limited (as applicable); after the Completion Date, the rights and obligations attached to the China Telecom Leasing Shares shall be enjoyed or carried out by the China Telecommunications Corporation and Guang Hua Properties Limited (as applicable). The parties have agreed that China Telecom Leasing shall not pay dividends to its shareholders between the Appraisal Benchmark Date and the Completion Date.

Conditions Precedent

The transactions contemplated under the Disposal Agreements are conditional upon several conditions, including:

- (a) None of the relevant government authorities have published or promulgated any laws, rules, regulations, or policies that prohibit, materially affect or delay the completion of the disposals; and the relevant government authorities and courts having jurisdiction have not issued any order or injunctions, or initiated any investigations, to restrict, prohibit, or otherwise object to the completion of the disposals; and

- (b) All approvals, consents, filings or certificates from the governments or their agents required for the Disposal Agreements and the disposals, including the approval of Tianjin Financial Bureau for the disposals, and consents by important third-parties, have been obtained, except for legal procedures, as well as relevant documentations, that can only be processed after the completion in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Completion

Upon the fulfilment or waiver of all the conditions precedent under the Disposal Agreements, unless otherwise agreed, parties should complete the registration of the transfer of the China Telecom Leasing Shares within 20 business days from the date on which Tianjin Finance Bureau approved the disposals.

List of Significant Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2020

Name	Jurisdiction of Incorporation
China Telecom Global Limited (formerly known as China Telecom (Hong Kong) International Limited)	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
China Telecom (Europe) Limited	London, United Kingdom
China Telecom System Integration Co., Limited	The People's Republic of China
China Telecom (Americas) Corporation	Delaware, United States of America
China Telecom Best Tone Information Service Co., Limited	The People's Republic of China
China Telecom (Macau) Company Limited (formerly known as China Unicom (Macau) Company Limited)	Macau Special Administrative Region
Tianyi Telecom Terminals Company Limited (formerly known as Unicom Huasheng Telecommunications Technology Company Limited)	The People's Republic of China
E-surfing Pay Co., Ltd (formerly known as Bestpay Co., Ltd.)	The People's Republic of China
E-surfing Internet of Things Technology Co., Ltd.	The People's Republic of China
E-surfing Smart Home Technology Co., Ltd.	The People's Republic of China
Tianyi Capital Holding Co., Ltd.	The People's Republic of China
China Telecom Leasing Corporation Limited	The People's Republic of China
China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd.	The People's Republic of China

Certification

I, Ke Ruiwen, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 20-F of China Telecom Corporation Limited (the “Company”);

2. Based on my knowledge, this annual report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this annual report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this annual report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this annual report;

4. The Company’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Company and have:

a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this annual report is being prepared;

b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this annual report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this annual report based on such evaluation; and

d) Disclosed in this annual report any change in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this annual report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The Company’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Company’s auditors and the audit committee of the Company’s board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 28, 2021

/s/ Ke Ruiwen

Name: Ke Ruiwen

Title: Executive Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Certification

I, Zhu Min, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 20-F of China Telecom Corporation Limited (the “Company”);

2. Based on my knowledge, this annual report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this annual report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this annual report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this annual report;

4. The Company’s other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Company and have:

a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Company, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this annual report is being prepared;

b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this annual report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this annual report based on such evaluation; and

d) Disclosed in this annual report any change in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this annual report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The Company’s other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Company’s auditors and the audit committee of the Company’s board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company’s ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Date: April 28, 2021

/s/ Zhu Min

Name: Zhu Min

Title: Executive Director, Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

Certification

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, the undersigned officer of China Telecom Corporation Limited (the “Company”), hereby certifies, to his knowledge, that the Company’s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2020 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: April 28, 2021

/s/ Ke Ruiwen

Name: Ke Ruiwen

Title: Executive Director, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate disclosure document.

Certification

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, the undersigned officer of China Telecom Corporation Limited (the “Company”), hereby certifies, to his knowledge, that the Company’s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2020 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: April 28, 2021

/s/ Zhu Min

Name: Zhu Min

Title: Executive Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate disclosure document.

April 28, 2021

Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549-7561

Dear Sirs/Madams:

We have read Item 16F of China Telecom Corporation Limited's Form 20-F dated April 28, 2021, and have the following comments:

1. We agree with the statements made in the first, second and last sentences of paragraph 1 and in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Item 16F, for which we have a basis on which to comment on, and we agree with, the disclosures.
2. We have no basis on which to agree or disagree with the statements made in the third and fourth sentences of paragraph 1 and in paragraph 5 of Item 16F.

Yours truly,

/s/ Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China