



REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The board of directors (the “Board”) of China Communications Services Corporation Limited (the “Company”) is pleased to present the Report of the Directors of the Company, together with the audited financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (the “Group”) prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for the year ended 31 December 2018.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESSES

The Group is a leading service provider in the PRC that provides integrated comprehensive solutions in the field of informatization and digitalization. We offer telecommunications infrastructure services, including design, construction and project supervision and management; business process outsourcing services, including management of infrastructure for information technology (“network maintenance”), general facilities management (“facilities management”), supply chain and products distribution; and applications, content and other services, including system integration, software development and system support, and value-added services. The major customers of the Group include domestic telecommunications operator customers, domestic non-telecom operator customers such as government agencies, industrial customers and small and medium enterprises, and overseas customers.

RESULTS

Results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2018 and the financial position of the Group as at that date are set out in the audited financial statements on page 103 to page 192 in this annual report.

BUSINESS REVIEW

A fair review of the business, business outlook and the key financial performance indicators of the Group are provided in the “Chairman’s Statement”, “President’s Statement”, “Business Overview” and “Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations” of this annual report. Description of the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Group is disclosed in this section. Particulars of important events affecting the Group that have occurred since the end of the financial year of 2018, if applicable, can also be found in the aforesaid sections.

In addition, more details regarding the Group’s performance in relation to environmental and social-related policies, an account of the Group’s relationships with its key stakeholders, as well as compliance with relevant laws and regulations which have a significant impact on the Group, are provided in the “Environmental, Social and Governance Report” of this annual report.

The above discussion forms part of this “Report of the Directors”.

DIVIDENDS

The Board proposes a final dividend of RMB0.1257 per share and a special dividend of RMB0.0251 per share, and the total dividend is RMB0.1508 per share (pre-tax) for the year ended 31 December 2018. The dividend proposal will be submitted for consideration at the annual general meeting to be held on 21 June 2019 (the “AGM”).

Dividends will be denominated and declared in Renminbi. Dividends will be paid in Renminbi for holders of domestic shares and holders of H shares (including enterprises and individuals) who invest in the H shares of the Company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through the Shanghai Stock Exchange or Shenzhen Stock Exchange (“the Southbound Trading”) (the “Southbound Shareholders”), and dividends for H share shareholders other than the Southbound Shareholders will be paid in Hong Kong dollars. The relevant exchange rate will be the average of the mid-point rates of Renminbi to Hong Kong dollars as announced by the People’s Bank of China for the week prior to the date of approval of declaration of dividends by the AGM. The record date for entitlement to the shareholders’ rights and the relevant arrangements of dividend distribution for Southbound Shareholders are the same as those for the Company’s H share shareholders. The proposed dividends are expected to be paid on or about Friday, 16 August 2019 upon approval at the AGM.

Further details in respect of the dividends and distribution by the Company are set out in note 14 of the audited financial statements on page 148 of this annual report.



For the overseas resident individual shareholders of the Company, pursuant to relevant laws and regulations including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Individual Income Tax, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Individual Income Tax, and the letter dated 28 June 2011 from the State Administration of Taxation to the Inland Revenue Department of Hong Kong, for individual H share shareholders receiving dividends who are Hong Kong or Macau residents or whose country of domicile is a country which has entered into a tax treaty with the PRC stipulating a dividend tax rate of 10%, the Company, as a withholding agent, is required to withhold and pay individual income tax at the rate of 10%. For individual H share shareholders receiving dividends whose country of domicile is a country which has entered in to a tax treaty with the PRC stipulating a dividend tax rate lower than 10%, the Company will withhold the individual income tax at a tax rate of 10%. The Company can process applications on behalf of those shareholders to seek entitlement of the relevant agreed preferential treatments pursuant to relevant regulations, and upon approval by the tax authorities, the extra amount of tax withheld will be refunded. For individual H share shareholders receiving dividends whose country of domicile is a country which has entered into a tax treaty with the PRC stipulating a dividend tax rate higher than 10% but lower than 20%, the Company will withhold the individual income tax at the agreed-upon effective tax rate when distributing dividends and no application procedures will be necessary. For individual H share shareholders receiving dividends whose country of domicile is a country which has not entered into any tax treaty with the PRC or are under other situations, the Company will withhold the individual income tax at a tax rate of 20% when distributing dividends.

For the overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of the Company (including HKSCC Nominees Limited, corporate nominees or trustees, or other organizations or entities that are considered non-resident enterprise shareholders), pursuant to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Enterprise Income Tax, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Enterprise Income Tax and relevant rules and regulations, as a withholding agent, the Company is required to withhold and pay the enterprise income tax at the tax rate of 10% on behalf of the overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders.

For the Southbound Shareholders of the Company, the Shanghai branch of China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited and the Shenzhen branch of China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited, as the nominees of the shareholders of the Southbound Trading, will receive all dividends distributed by the Company and will distribute the dividends to the relevant shareholders under the Southbound Trading through its depository and clearing system. According to the relevant provisions under the "Notice on Tax Policies for Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Pilot Programme (Cai Shui [2014] No. 81)" and "Notice on Tax Policies for Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Pilot Programme (Cai Shui [2016] No. 127)", the Company shall withhold individual income tax at the rate of 20% with respect to dividends received by the Mainland individual investors for investing in the H shares of the Company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through the Southbound Trading. In respect of the dividends for the investment of Mainland securities investment funds in the H shares of the Company listed on Hong Kong Stock Exchange through the Southbound Trading, the tax levied on dividends derived from such investment shall be ascertained by reference to the rules applicable to the treatment of individual income tax. The Company is not required to withhold income tax on dividends derived by the Mainland enterprise investors under the Southbound Trading, and such enterprises shall report the income and make tax payment by themselves.

Should the shareholders of the H shares of the Company have any doubt in relation to the aforesaid arrangements, they are recommended to consult their tax advisors for relevant tax impact in mainland China, Hong Kong and other countries (regions) on the possession and disposal of the H shares of the Company.



DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY

The following table sets out information concerning the directors and senior management of the Company as at the date of this report:

Name	Position in the Company	Date of the first appointment
Wang Xiaochu	Honorary Chairman ¹	8 April 2008
Zhang Zhiyong	Chairman Executive Director	16 March 2018 16 March 2018 ²
Si Furong	Executive Director President	21 February 2014 19 December 2013
Zhang Xu	Executive Director Chief Financial Officer Executive Vice President	13 December 2018 14 November 2018 14 November 2018
Li Zhengmao	Non-executive Director	27 November 2012
Shao Guanglu	Non-executive Director	23 June 2017
Siu Wai Keung, Francis	Independent Non-executive Director	28 June 2012
Lv Tingjie	Independent Non-executive Director	26 June 2015
Wu Taishi	Independent Non-executive Director	26 June 2015
Liu Linfei	Independent Non-executive Director	24 June 2016
Xu Chuguo	Executive Vice President	21 July 2014
Liang Shiping	Executive Vice President	3 March 2010
Yan Dong	Executive Vice President Chief Risk Officer	18 June 2013
Chung Wai Cheung, Terence	Company Secretary Deputy Chief Financial Officer	16 October 2006

¹ Honorary Chairman is not a member of the Board and does not have any power or right to vote on any matters considered by the Board.

² Mr. Zhang Zhiyong used to work at the Company from 2006 to 2010. During this period, he held various positions of the Company, including President of the Company, and an executive director from 12 December 2007 to 21 June 2010.

On 16 March 2018, Mr. Sun Kangmin resigned as the Chairman and an executive director of the Company, on the same day, Mr. Zhang Zhiyong was appointed as an executive director and the Chairman of the Company. On 14 November 2018, Ms. Hou Rui resigned as the Chief Financial Officer and an executive vice president of the Company, and Mr. Cheng Hongyan resigned as an executive vice president of the Company, on the same date, Ms. Zhang Xu was appointed as the Chief Financial Officer and an executive vice president of the Company. On 13 December 2018, except for Ms. Hou Rui who resigned as an executive director and Mr. Zhao Chunjun who retired as an independent non-executive director of the Company upon expiry of his term of office, the remaining directors of the fourth session of the Board were re-elected as directors of the fifth session of the Board at the extraordinary general meeting held on the same day, and Ms. Zhang Xu was newly appointed as an executive director of the Company.



SUPERVISORS OF THE COMPANY

The following table sets out information concerning the supervisors of the Company as at the date of this report:

Name	Position in the Company	Date of the first appointment
Han Fang	Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee	11 December 2015
Hai Liancheng	Independent Supervisor	3 August 2006
Si Jianfei	Employee Representative Supervisor	18 June 2013

On 13 December 2018, the supervisors of the fourth session of the Supervisory Committee of the Company, Ms. Han Fang and Mr. Hai Liancheng, were re-elected as supervisors of the fifth session of the Supervisory Committee at the extraordinary general meeting held on the same date. Upon the election by employees, Mr. Si Jianfei continues to serve as the Employee Representative Supervisor in the fifth session of the Supervisory Committee.

Profiles of the directors, supervisors and senior management are set out in the “Profiles of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Management” section of this annual report.

The Company has received, from each of the independent non-executive directors, an annual confirmation of his independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Listing Rules”). The Company considers that all of the independent non-executive directors are independent.

SHARE CAPITAL

The Company was incorporated on 30 August 2006. In December 2006, by way of an initial public offering (the “IPO”), the Company issued 1,484,986,000 H shares with a nominal value of RMB1.00 each at a price of HK\$2.20 per share. At the same time, the promoters of the Company transferred 148,498,600 domestic state-owned shares with a nominal value of RMB1.00 each to the National Council for Social Security Fund of the PRC (the “NSSF”) and converted them into H shares on the basis of one domestic share to one H share. Immediately after the IPO, the registered capital of the Company amounted to RMB5,444,986,000, of which 1,633,484,600 H shares of the Company were listed and traded on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”).

On 9 April 2008, the Company announced the completion of placing a total of 359,365,600 H shares, including an issue of 326,696,000 new H shares and a placement of 32,669,600 H shares on behalf of NSSF upon conversion of the same number of existing domestic shares of the Company allocated to NSSF by China Telecommunications Corporation (“China Telecom”). After the completion of placing, the total issued shares of the Company increased to 5,771,682,000 shares, of which 1,992,850,200 shares were H shares.

As disclosed in the prospectus of the Company dated 27 November 2006, China Telecom entered into equity transfer arrangements with China Mobile Communications Corporation (now known as China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd. (“China Mobile”)) and China United Telecommunications Corporation (now known as China United Network Communications Group Company Limited (“China Unicom”)), respectively. Pursuant to the arrangements, China Telecom agreed to transfer 506,880,000 and 236,300,000 domestic shares to China Mobile and China Unicom, respectively. On 24 March 2009, the equity transfers were formally completed and became effective. On the same date, Guangdong Telecom Industry Group Corporation and Zhejiang Telecom Industry Corporation completed the transfers of 236,313,086 and 87,664,532 domestic shares, respectively, to China Telecom.

According to the equity transfer agreement between China Telecom and China National Postal and Telecommunications Appliances Corporation (now known as China National Postal and Telecommunications Appliances Co., Ltd.) on 28 May 2010, China Telecom agreed to transfer 108,899,720 domestic shares of the Company to China National Postal and Telecommunications Appliances Corporation. On 21 June 2011, the equity transfer was formally completed.



Pursuant to the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting, H shareholders class meeting and the domestic shareholders class meeting of the Company held on 28 June 2011 and as approved by domestic and overseas regulatory authorities, the Company announced the launch of H share and domestic share rights issue plan of an aggregate of 1,154,336,400 new shares, including 398,570,040 H rights shares and 755,766,360 domestic rights shares on the basis of 2 rights shares for every 10 existing shares on 30 December 2011 at the price of HK\$3.19 per H rights share and RMB2.59 per domestic rights share, respectively. On 10 February 2012, dealings in the H rights shares commenced on the Stock Exchange. After completion of the rights issue, the total number of issued shares of the Company was increased to 6,926,018,400 shares, including 2,391,420,240 H shares and 4,534,598,160 domestic shares.

As at 31 December 2018, the share capital of the Company was RMB6,926,018,400 divided into 6,926,018,400 shares with a nominal value of RMB1.00 each. The share capital of the Company was comprised of the following:

Shares	Number of shares	Approximate percentage of issued share capital (%)
Domestic shares (Total)	4,534,598,160	65.47
Domestic shares held by:		
China Telecommunications Corporation	3,559,362,496	51.39
China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd.	608,256,000	8.78
China United Network Communications Group Company Limited	236,300,000	3.41
China National Postal and Telecommunications Appliances Co., Ltd.	130,679,664	1.89
H shares (Total)	2,391,420,240	34.53
Total	6,926,018,400	100.00



MATERIAL INTERESTS AND SHORT POSITIONS IN SHARES AND UNDERLYING SHARES OF THE COMPANY

As at 31 December 2018, the interests or short positions of persons who at any of the Company's general meetings (excluding the directors and supervisors of the Company) are entitled to exercise or control the exercise of 5% or more of the voting power in the shares and underlying shares of equity derivatives of the Company in each class as recorded in the register required to be maintained under Section 336 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "SFO") were as follows:

Name of shareholder	Class of shares	Capacity	Number of shares held	Percentage of the respective class of share (%)	Percentage of the total number of shares in issue (%)
China Telecommunications Corporation	Domestic shares	Beneficial owner	3,559,362,496 (L)	78.49	51.39
China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd.	Domestic shares	Beneficial owner	608,256,000 (L)	13.41	8.78
China United Network Communications Group Company Limited	Domestic shares	Beneficial owner	236,300,000 (L)	5.21	3.41
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	H shares	26,914,618 shares as Interests of controlled corporations; 4,026,000 shares as investment manager; 7,739,496 shares as person having a security interest in shares and 152,303,590 shares as approved lending agent	190,983,704 (L)	7.98	2.76
		Interests of controlled corporations	8,479,024 (S)	0.35	0.12
		Approved lending agent	152,303,590 (P)	6.36	2.20
BlackRock, Inc.	H shares	Interests of controlled corporations	187,877,702 (L)	7.86	2.71
		Interests of controlled corporations	822,000 (S)	0.03	0.01
Citigroup Inc.	H shares	74,000 shares as person having a security interest in shares; 238,400 shares as interests of controlled corporations and 151,398,301 shares as approved lending agent	151,710,701 (L)	6.34	2.19
		Interests of controlled corporations	194,000 (S)	0.00	0.00
		Approved lending agent	151,398,301 (P)	6.33	2.19
Hermes Investment Management Ltd	H shares	Investment manager	121,608,000 (L)	5.08	1.76

Note: (L) – Long Position
(S) – Short Position
(P) – Lending Pool

Save as stated above, as at 31 December 2018, in the register required to be maintained under Section 336 of the SFO, no other persons were recorded as holding any interests or short positions in the shares or underlying shares of the equity derivatives of the Company.



DIRECTORS' AND SUPERVISORS' INTERESTS AND SHORT POSITIONS IN SHARES, UNDERLYING SHARES AND DEBENTURES

As at 31 December 2018, none of the directors and supervisors of the Company had any interests or short positions in the shares, underlying shares of equity derivatives or debentures of the Company or its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) as recorded in the register required to be maintained under Section 352 of the SFO or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers. As at 31 December 2018, the Company had not granted its directors or supervisors, or their respective spouses or children below the age of 18 any rights to subscribe for the shares or debentures of the Company or any of its associated corporations and none of them has ever exercised any such right to subscribe for shares or debentures.

PUBLIC FLOAT

As at the date of this annual report, based on information that is publicly available to the Company and within the knowledge of the directors, the Company has maintained the prescribed public float under the Listing Rules.

DIRECTORS' AND SUPERVISORS' SERVICE CONTRACTS

Each of the directors and supervisors has entered into a service contract with the Company. According to the service contract, each of the contracts has an initial term of three years and is renewable in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company when the initial term expires. These contracts are terminable at the option of either party by giving three months' notice in writing or according to the terms of the contract prior to the expiry of the contract. No such service contract is not determinable by the Company within one year without payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation).

PERMITTED INDEMNITY PROVISION

The Company has maintained appropriate directors and officers liability insurance coverage for the directors, supervisors and senior management of the Company during the course of the financial year ended 31 December 2018 and such insurance remained in force as of the date of this report.

DIRECTORS' AND SUPERVISORS' INTERESTS IN TRANSACTIONS, ARRANGEMENTS OR CONTRACTS

Save for the transactions, arrangements or contracts set out in the "Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations" section and "Directors' and Supervisors' Service Contracts", "Major Customers and Suppliers", "Preferential Treatment and Non-competition Arrangement with China Tower Corporation Limited" and "Continuing Connected Transactions" in the "Report of the Directors" section of this annual report and note 45 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, no other transaction, arrangement or contract that is significant in relation to the Group's business to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was a party and in which a person who was a Director or Supervisor of the Company or his or her connected entity had, directly or indirectly, a material interest subsisted at any time during the year ended 31 December 2018.

EMOLUMENTS OF THE DIRECTORS AND SUPERVISORS

Based on the overall remuneration policy of the Company and with reference to the payroll standard of the same industry companies in the market, the remuneration of directors and supervisors is determined after taking into account the scope and complexities of their duties. Please refer to note 12 to the audited financial statements for details of the emoluments of the directors and supervisors of the Company in 2018.



PURCHASE, SALE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any securities of the Company during the reporting period.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please refer to pages 193 to 194 of this annual report for a summary of the operating results, assets and liabilities of the Group for each of the years in the five-year period ended 31 December 2018.

BANK LOANS AND OTHER BORROWINGS

Please refer to note 35 to the audited financial statements for details of bank loans and other borrowings of the Group.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Please refer to note 16 to the audited financial statements for movements in the fixed assets of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2018.

DISTRIBUTABLE RESERVES

Please refer to note 48 to the audited financial statements for details of the movements in the reserves of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2018.

DONATIONS

For the year ended 31 December 2018, the Group made charitable and other donations of a total amount of RMB1.26 million.

SUBSIDIARIES, ASSOCIATED COMPANIES AND JOINT VENTURES

Please refer to note 47 and note 22 to the audited financial statements for details of the Company's subsidiaries, the Company's associated companies and joint ventures as at 31 December 2018.

CHANGES IN EQUITY

Please refer to the consolidated statement of changes in equity contained in the audited financial statements (pages 107 to 108 of this annual report).

PLAN OF EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Please refer to note 41 to the audited financial statements for details of the retirement benefits provided by the Group.

PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS

There are no provisions for pre-emptive rights in the Articles of Association requiring the Company to offer new shares to the existing shareholders in proportion to their shareholdings.



MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

For the reporting period, the revenue from sales of goods or rendering of services to the five largest customers (including China Telecom, China Mobile, China Unicom and China Tower) of the Group represented 65.9% of the total revenues of the Group; of which, the revenue from the largest customer of the Group represented 38.9% of the total revenues of the Group. The purchases from the five largest suppliers of the Group accounted for less than 5.0% of the total annual purchases of the Group.

To the knowledge of the Board, other than China Telecom and China Mobile (both of them being the shareholders holding more than 5% of the issued share capital of the Company), Mr. Zhang Zhiyong, Mr. Si Furong, Mr. Li Zhengmao and Mr. Shao Guanglu (positions of them setting out in the “Profiles of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Management” section of this annual report), none of the directors of the Company, their close associates, or any shareholder (holding more than 5% of the issued share capital of the Company) has any interests in such suppliers or customers.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AND NON-COMPETITION ARRANGEMENT WITH CHINA TOWER CORPORATION LIMITED (“CHINA TOWER”)

In July 2014, China Telecom Corporation Limited, a subsidiary of China Telecom, jointly established China Tower with China Mobile and China Unicom. Pursuant to the relevant arrangements for the establishment of China Tower, China Tower has indicated to the Company that:

1. on condition that it will not result in a breach by China Telecom and the Company of the Non-Competition Agreement signed between them, when China Tower invites public tender for the design, construction, supervision and maintenance of its telecommunications towers and related ancillary facilities, China Tower will select the Company on a preferential basis, provided that the terms are the same;
2. in the event of an injection of telecommunications assets into China Tower (acquisition by China Tower), the existing maintenance agreements entered into between the Company and the respective promoters of China Tower will remain valid. Upon the expiration of such maintenance agreements and when China Tower invites tender for the maintenance services, China Tower will consider the Company on a preferential basis, provided that the terms are the same; and
3. China Tower will not compete in contravention of the contents of the Non-Competition Agreement.



CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

China Telecom is the controlling shareholder of the Company. Pursuant to Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, the transactions between the Group and China Telecom and its subsidiaries (excluding the Group and including China Telecom Corporation Limited, collectively the “China Telecom Group”) constitute connected transactions of the Group.

The Company revised the annual caps of engineering related services provided to China Telecom Group and operation support services provided by China Telecom Group in 2015, which were approved by the independent shareholders of the Company at the extraordinary general meeting held on 11 December 2015. The following table sets out the annual caps and actual amounts of the continuing connected transactions of the Group during the year ended 31 December 2018:

Unit: RMB million

	Year ended 31 December 2018		Year ending 31 December 2019	Year ending 31 December 2020	Year ending 31 December 2021
	Annual Caps	Actual Amounts	Annual Caps	Annual Caps	Annual Caps
Engineering related services provided to China Telecom Group	24,000	18,646	26,000	33,000	35,000
Ancillary telecommunications services provided to China Telecom Group	15,600	13,976	20,000	24,000	27,000
Operations support service provided to/by China Telecom Group					
Revenue	3,600	3,092	3,800	4,000	4,200
Expenditure	1,100	704	1,600	2,000	2,400
IT application services provided to/by China Telecom Group					
Revenue	2,900	2,387	3,600	4,300	5,000
Expenditure	490	285	500	500	500
Centralized services provided to China Telecom Group	450	329	450	450	450
Property leasing provided to/by China Telecom Group					
Revenue	220	98	230	240	250
Expenditure	240	238	270	300	330
Supplies procurement services provided to/by China Telecom Group					
Revenue	10,000	3,080	6,000	6,500	7,000
Expenditure	7,000	1,811	5,000	5,200	5,400



CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND CHINA TELECOM

The Company and China Telecom entered into seven continuing connected transactions agreements on 29 September 2015 to govern the continuing connected transactions between the Group and China Telecom Group. These agreements include the Engineering Framework Agreement, the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, the Operation Support Services Framework Agreement, the IT Application Services Framework Agreement, the Centralized Services Agreement, the Property Leasing Framework Agreement and the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement (the "2015 Agreements"). Each of the 2015 Agreements had an initial term expired on 31 December 2018 and, subject to approval from the shareholders (if applicable), the 2015 Agreements would be automatically renewed for a further period of no more than three years each time, unless terminated by either party by giving a written notice three months in advance. All of the 2015 Agreements (excluding the Centralized Services Agreement and the Property Leasing Framework Agreement that did not require independent shareholders' approval under the Listing Rules) were approved by the independent shareholders of the Company at the extraordinary general meeting held on 11 December 2015.

On 28 September 2018, the Company based on the 2015 Agreements and entered into supplemental agreements with China Telecom in respect of the aforementioned seven agreements (the "2018 Supplemental Agreements") to, among other things, renew each of the 2015 Agreements for a further term of three years from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021, change contact information of China Telecom and adjust the terms related to tender process of the Engineering Framework Agreement pursuant to the applicable PRC regulations. Other key terms of each of the 2015 Agreements remain unchanged.

Subject to approval from the shareholders (if applicable), the aforementioned seven amended continuing connected transactions agreements will be automatically renewed for a further period of no more than three years each time, unless terminated by either party by giving a written notice three months in advance. In connection with the entering into the 2018 Supplemental Agreements, the Company also set new annual caps for the three years ending 31 December 2021 in respect of the transactions contemplated under the seven continuing connected transactions agreements (see table above). The 2018 Supplemental Agreements and the new annual caps (excluding the new annual caps for the Property Leasing Framework Agreement and Centralized Services Agreement that did not require any independent shareholders' approval under the Listing Rules) were approved by the independent shareholders of the Company at the extraordinary general meeting held on 13 December 2018.

The Board considers that it is in the interest of the Company to enter into the 2018 Supplemental Agreements and cooperate with China Telecom Group to ensure a stable revenue source from one of the largest telecommunications operators in the PRC so as to benefit the Company's future growth and development.

Details of each of the 2018 Supplemental Agreements are set out below.



ENGINEERING FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Engineering Framework Agreement, the Company agreed to provide certain engineering related services, such as design, construction, project supervision and management for telecommunications infrastructure projects undertaken by China Telecom Group.

The charges for engineering related services rendered under the Engineering Framework Agreement shall be determined at market price or prices obtained through tender process. According to the supplemental agreement to the Engineering Framework Agreement entered into between the Company and China Telecom, the parties amended the thresholds which the project must be determined through tender process under the Engineering Framework Agreement: whenever the value of any design or project supervision and management project exceeds RMB1 million, or the value of any construction project exceeds RMB4 million, the award of the relevant project must be subject to a tender process (with a minimum of three parties tendering bids) in accordance with the Bidding Law of the PRC and Regulation on the Implementation of the Bidding Law of the PRC, except as otherwise provided by related laws and regulations. The amendments were made in accordance with the Provisions on Projects Subject to Tender Process issued under the Order No. 16 of the National Development and Reform Commission of the PRC in March 2018, which increased (i) the threshold for design or project supervision and management projects that must be determined through tender process from RMB0.5 million to RMB1 million, and (ii) the threshold for construction project that must be determined through tender process from RMB2 million to RMB4 million. China Telecom Group (including the Group) has also adjusted the internal guidelines and increased such thresholds accordingly.

In determining the market price, the business and financial department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall collect the relevant market information (including but not limited to the change in price for the same or similar type of services), review and compare the costs and profits of transactions conducted in the most recent year of the same or similar type entered into with China Telecom Group or independent third parties, and prepare fee quotes for review by the marketing department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company. The marketing department or management of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall primarily consider the following factors: (1) cost of service; (2) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to China Telecom Group by other service providers in the market; (3) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to China Telecom Group and independent third parties previously by the Company.

The Company will be given priority by China Telecom Group in the provision of the engineering related services except in the tender process, provided that the terms and conditions offered by independent third parties to China Telecom Group are no more favorable than those offered by the Company for the same type of services, and in return, the Company has undertaken to China Telecom Group that the Company shall not provide services to it on terms which are less favorable than those offered by the Company to independent third parties. The payment for engineering related services provided by the Company under the Engineering Framework Agreement is normally made in accordance with the work progress of practical work following the general market practice in the industry.

ANCILLARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement, the Company agreed to provide to China Telecom Group certain ancillary telecommunications services such as maintenance of network facilities including equipment, ducts and cables, server rooms and base stations; distribution of telecommunications products and services; provision of comprehensive logistics services, including purchasing agent, warehousing, transportation, delivery, testing and inspection, logistics information management and distribution; provision of application, content and other services such as fixed-line value added services, wireless value added services, Internet value added services, and electronic authentication.



The Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement stipulates that the Ancillary Telecommunications Services shall be provided at:

- (1) market price. In determining the market price, the business and financial department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall collect the relevant market information (including but not limited to the change in price for the same or similar type of services), review and compare the costs and profits of transactions conducted in the most recent year of the same or similar type entered into with China Telecom Group or independent third parties, and prepare fee quotes for review by the marketing department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company. The marketing department or management of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall primarily consider the following factors: (i) cost of service; (ii) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to China Telecom Group by other service providers in the market; (iii) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to China Telecom Group and independent third parties previously by the Company;
- (2) in the absence of market price or where the market price cannot be determined, the price shall be agreed between both parties, which shall be the aggregate amount of reasonable costs, the relevant taxes in sales and reasonable profits. In determining such costs and profits, the business and financial departments of the relevant subsidiary of the Company will (i) review and compare the costs and profit margins of similar and comparable transactions conducted in the most recent year entered into with China Telecom Group or independent third parties, or (ii) where such comparison is not practicable, consider for reference the recent profit margins of comparable enterprises engaging in providing similar services in the relevant industry. Factors considered would also include, but not limited to, the scale of the comparable enterprises, quality of services, transaction size, supply and demand, labor cost, local commodity prices and economic development levels.

The Company will be given priority by China Telecom Group in the provision of the ancillary telecommunications services, provided that the terms and conditions offered by independent third parties to China Telecom Group are no more favorable than those offered by the Company for the same services. In return, the Company has undertaken to China Telecom Group that the Company and its subsidiaries shall not provide ancillary telecommunications services to it on terms which are less favorable than those offered by the Company to independent third parties. Subject to the terms and conditions set out above, the payment for the ancillary telecommunications services is made in the manner provided for in each specific contract entered into between the parties with reference to the market practices.

OPERATION SUPPORT SERVICES FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

The Operation Support Services Framework Agreement governs the arrangements between the Group and China Telecom Group with respect to mutual provision of operation support services. Pursuant to this agreement, the Company agreed to provide to China Telecom Group operation support services, including but not limited to facilities management and renovation, network facilities management in relation to buildings used for telecommunications purposes, human resources management, equipment maintenance, advertisement, conferencing services, vehicles, and certain repair and leasing of equipment. China Telecom Group also agreed to provide operation support services such as logistics services, warehousing, medical care, food and beverages, education, hotel and travelling services, labor services and so on to the Company.

The Operation Support Services Framework Agreement shall adopt the same pricing policy as the Ancillary Telecommunications Services Framework Agreement. In addition, in determining the market price of the operation support services provided to the Company by the China Telecom Group, the Company primarily considered the following factors: (i) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to the Company by other service providers in the market; (ii) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to the Company by China Telecom Group and independent third parties previously. Subject to the terms and conditions set out above, the payment for the operation support services is made in the manner provided for in each specific contract entered into between the parties with reference to the market practices.

Each of the parties to the Operation Support Services Framework Agreement will accord priority to the other party in the provision of the operation support services, provided that the terms and conditions offered by independent third parties to the relevant party are no more favorable than those offered by the other party for the same services, and in return, each of the parties has undertaken to the other that it shall not provide services to the other on terms which are less favorable than those offered to independent third parties.



IT APPLICATION SERVICES FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

The IT Application Services Framework Agreement governs the arrangements between the Group and China Telecom Group with respect to mutual provision of IT application services. Pursuant to this agreement, the Company agreed to provide China Telecom Group with telecommunications network support services, software and hardware development and other related IT services. China Telecom Group also agreed to provide to the Company certain IT application services including voice and data, value added services and information application services.

The IT Application Services Framework Agreement shall adopt the same pricing policy as the Engineering Framework Agreement. In addition, in determining the market price of the IT application services provided to the Company by the China Telecom Group, the Company primarily considers the following factors: (i) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to the Company by other service providers in the market; (ii) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to the Company by China Telecom Group and independent third parties previously. Subject to the terms and conditions set out above, the payment for the IT application service is made in the manner provided for in each specific contract entered into between the parties with reference to the market practices.

Each of the parties to the IT Application Services Framework Agreement will accord priority to the other party in the provision of the IT application services, provided that the terms and conditions offered by independent third parties to the relevant party are no more favorable than those offered by the other party for the same services, and in return, each of the parties has undertaken to the other that it shall not provide services to the other on terms which are less favorable than those offered to independent third parties.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Centralized Services Agreement, the centralized services to be provided by the Company to China Telecom Group include:

- (1) the corporate headquarters management function to manage assets of China Telecom's certain retained specialized telecommunications support businesses in the PRC (other than the Group) and any remaining assets, such as hotels, manufacturing plants, schools and hospitals which are not in association with the specialized telecommunications support businesses in the primary service areas of the Group; and
- (2) the provincial headquarters management function to manage remaining assets of China Telecom in the primary service areas of the Group.

Except as otherwise agreed by the parties, the aggregate administrative expenses incurred by the Company for the provision of the centralized services referred to above (all expenses incurred in connection with the above-mentioned headquarters management functions excluding remuneration for the Directors, share appreciation rights and provision of bad debts) will be apportioned pro rata between the Company and China Telecom Group according to the proportional net asset value of each of the relevant parties.



PROPERTY LEASING FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

The Property Leasing Framework Agreement governs the arrangements with respect to the mutual leasing of properties between the Group and China Telecom Group. China Telecom Group currently lease from the Company and its subsidiaries certain properties for use as business premises, offices, equipment storage facilities and sites for network equipment. The Company and its subsidiaries also lease from China Telecom Group certain properties for use as business premises, offices and equipment storage facilities. These arrangements fall within the Property Leasing Framework Agreement.

The rental charges in respect of each property are determined at market price. In determining the market price, the business and financial department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall collect the relevant market information (including but not limited to the change in price for the same or similar type of services), review and compare the costs and profits of transactions conducted in the most recent year of the same or similar type entered into with China Telecom Group or independent third parties, and prepare fee quotes for review by the marketing department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company. The marketing department or management of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall primarily consider the following factors: (1) cost of property depreciation; (2) rental charges of the same or similar type of property provided to China Telecom Group and the Company by independent third parties in the market; (3) rental charges of the same or similar type of property provided to China Telecom Group and independent third parties by the Company previously, or rental charges of the same or similar type of property provided to the Company by China Telecom Group and independent third parties previously. Rental charges are payable monthly in arrears, except as otherwise agreed by the parties. Both parties will review the rental every three years and decide, after negotiation, on whether to adjust the rental charges and the amount of such adjustment.

SUPPLIES PROCUREMENT SERVICES FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement, the Company agreed to provide to China Telecom Group with comprehensive supplies procurement services, including, among others, (i) procurement of imported telecommunications supplies, domestic telecommunications supplies and domestic non-telecommunications supplies; (ii) agency services of supplies procurement; (iii) sales of telecommunications supplies manufactured by the Group; (iv) resale of supplies purchased from independent third parties; and (v) management of biddings, verification of technical specifications, warehousing, transportation and installation services. According to the same agreement, China Telecom agreed to provide to the Group with comprehensive supplies procurement services, including, among others, (i) sales of telecommunications supplies manufactured by China Telecom Group, (ii) resale of supplies purchased from independent third parties; (iii) agency services of supplies procurement; and (iv) warehousing, transportation and installation services.

The price for the provision of comprehensive supplies procurement services under the Supplies Procurement Services Framework Agreement is determined as follows:

- (1) 1% of the contract value at the maximum for procurement services relating to imported telecommunications supplies;
- (2) 3% of the contract value at the maximum for procurement services relating to domestic telecommunications supplies and other domestic non-telecommunications materials;



- (3) for other services:
- (i) market price. In determining the market price, the business and financial department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall collect the relevant market information (including but not limited to the change in price for the same or similar type of services), review and compare the costs and profits of transactions conducted in the most recent year of the same or similar type entered into with China Telecom Group or independent third parties, and prepare fee quotes for review by the marketing department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company. The marketing department or management of the relevant subsidiary of the Company shall primarily consider the following factors: (i) cost of service; (ii) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to China Telecom Group or the Company by other service providers in the market; (iii) prices of the same or similar type of services provided to China Telecom Group and independent third parties by the Company, or prices of the same or similar type of services provided to the Company by China Telecom Group and independent third parties;
 - (ii) in the absence of market price or where the market price cannot be determined, the price shall be agreed between both parties, which shall be the aggregate amount of reasonable costs, the taxes in sales and reasonable profits. In determining such price, the business and financial department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company will review and compare the costs and profits of transactions conducted in the most recent year of the same or similar type entered into with China Telecom Group or independent third parties, take into account factors such as historical price, transaction size, average profit ratio within the relevant industry, supply and demand, labor cost, local commodity prices and economic development levels, and prepare fee proposals for review by the marketing department of the relevant subsidiary of the Company.

The Group will be given priority by China Telecom Group in the provision of comprehensive logistics services, provided that the terms and conditions offered by independent third parties to China Telecom Group are no more favorable than those offered by the Company for the same services, and in return, the Company has undertaken to China Telecom that the Company and its subsidiaries shall not provide supplies procurement related comprehensive logistic services to it on terms which are less favorable than those offered by the Company and its subsidiaries to independent third parties.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHINA TELECOM GROUP FINANCE CO., LTD.

On 22 June 2018, the Company entered into the Capital Contribution Agreement (“Capital Contribution Agreement”) with China Telecom and China Telecom Corporation Limited (“China Telecom Corporation”). Pursuant to the Capital Contribution Agreement, the parties agreed to jointly establish China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd. (“China Telecom Finance”) for the purpose of providing funds and financial management services with a registered capital of RMB5.0 billion, of which China Telecom, China Telecom Corporation and the Company had contributed RMB0.75 billion, RMB3.5 billion and RMB0.75 billion, respectively, representing 15%, 70% and 15% of the total registered capital of China Telecom Finance, respectively. China Telecom Finance, a non-banking financial institution legally established in the PRC on 8 January 2019 with the approval of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (“CBIRC”), is a limited liability company approved by the relevant PRC government authorities (including but not limited to the CBIRC).

On 1 February 2019, the Company and China Telecom Finance entered into the Financial Services Framework Agreement (“Financial Services Framework Agreement”), pursuant to which China Telecom Finance has agreed to provide financial services to the Group, including deposit services, loan services and other financial services. The Financial Services Framework Agreement was with effect from 1 February 2019 until 31 December 2021. Subject to the compliance with relevant laws and regulations and relevant regulatory requirements, both parties shall negotiate and agree on the renewal arrangement. Upon the Financial Services Framework Agreement becoming effective, each of the services under the Financial Services Framework Agreement, except the deposit services, can be provided by China Telecom Finance to the Group immediately in accordance with the business scope of China Telecom Finance as approved by the CBIRC. The deposit services shall be provided after obtaining the approval from the Independent Shareholders at the EGM which will be held on 18 April 2019.



China Telecom holds approximately 51.39% of the total issued share capital of the Company. Therefore, China Telecom is a controlling shareholder and a connected person of the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. China Telecom Corporation is a subsidiary of China Telecom, and thus a connected person of the Company under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules as an associate of the Company's substantial shareholder. Accordingly, the transaction contemplated under the Capital Contribution Agreement constitutes a connected transaction of the Company, and the Financial Services Framework Agreement also constitutes a continuing connected transaction of the Company.

Please refer to the Company's announcement dated 22 June 2018 and 1 February 2019, and the circular dated 27 February 2019 for details.

The independent non-executive directors of the Company have confirmed that all the continuing connected transactions for the year ended 31 December 2018 to which the Group was a party:

1. had been entered into by the Group in the ordinary and usual course of business;
2. had been entered into on normal commercial terms or better; and
3. had been entered into according to the agreements governing them on terms that are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the shareholders of the Company as a whole.

The independent non-executive directors have further confirmed that:

The values of the continuing connected transactions entered into between the Group and its connected persons which are subject to annual caps have not exceeded their respective annual caps or revised annual caps.

The auditors of the Company have performed procedures in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) "Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" and with reference to Practice Note 740 "Auditor's Letter on Continuing Connected Transactions under the Hong Kong Listing Rules" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants on the continuing connected transactions and issued a letter to the Board to advise that:

1. nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that the continuing connected transactions disclosed above have not been approved by the Board;
2. for transactions involving the provision of goods or services by the Group, nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that the transactions were not, in all material respects, in accordance with the pricing policies of the Company;
3. nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that the transactions were not entered into, in all material respects, in accordance with the relevant agreements governing such transactions;
4. with respect to the actual amounts of the continuing connected transactions, nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that those actual amounts have exceeded the annual caps disclosed in the previous announcement dated 29 September 2015 of the Company which were approved by the independent shareholders of the Company on 11 December 2015.

COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE

Please see the "Corporate Governance Report" set out in this annual report for details of our compliance with the Corporate Governance Code.

MATERIAL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

As at 31 December 2018, so far as the directors are aware, the Company was not involved in any material litigation or arbitration and no material litigation or claims had been made against, or were pending or threatened against the Company.



RISK FACTORS

The following section lists out the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Group. It is a non-exhaustive list and there may be other risks and uncertainties further to the key risk areas outlined below.

1. The business of the Group may be affected by the economic, political and social conditions as well as government policies in China

As substantially all businesses, assets and operations of the Group are located in China, the Group's operating results, financial status and business prospect depend on the economic, political and social developments of China to a large extent.

In recent years, China is one of the countries with the fastest pace of economic growth around the globe in terms of GDP. However, the current growth rate may not be sustainable. Moreover, any future disaster, such as natural disaster and outbreak of epidemics would potentially slow down the level of economic activities, and in turn affect the economic growth of China, Asia and even the world. If any of the above mentioned reasons causes serious economic downturn in China, the Group's financial status, operating results and prospect may be adversely affected.

2. The business of the Group hinges on the investment and operating conditions in the Chinese telecommunications sector

Demands in the Group's services will be affected by the level of capital expenditures of the fixed-line, broadband and mobile telecommunications infrastructure of the telecommunications operators in China. Such decreases in capital expenditures may have adverse effect to the Group's revenue and profits.

Moreover, in the event that the competition in the Chinese telecommunications sector continues to intensify, the telecommunications operator customers of the Group may be under the pressure to reduce prices of their products or services, thus leading to the decrease in their revenue. If that happens, such telecommunications customers may reduce the service fees to our Company in relation to certain businesses for cost cutting, with a view to maintaining their profitability.

3. The business of the Group is working capital intensive in respect of services offered to customers

During our course of business, the Group shall incur considerable working capital expenditures to make procurements for goods and services required for the provision of services to the clients of the Group and for the completion of projects. In the past, the Company has satisfied the working capital needs primarily by cash from operating activities and its own fund. A deficiency in working capital may affect the Group's business, financial status and operating results. Moreover, the Group's customers may delay payment or default in accounts receivables, which may have adverse effect on the cash flows, working capital, financial status and operating results of the Company.

4. The Group is under certain risks in relation to international business and operation

The Group is dedicated in expanding into overseas market and strategically expanding overseas operations. The expansion into markets outside China will subject us to considerable risks, including differences in business environment, high entry barrier imposed on foreign enterprises, existing market players, exchange rate fluctuations, legal and regulatory requirements, potentially unfavorable tax liabilities, inexperience in new markets, competition in the local markets and protectionism.

Part of our business is conducted overseas and mainly located in developing countries and regions, where the local political and economic conditions are often unstable and such factors are beyond our control. As we have engaged in overseas business, we are subject to various risks related to the countries and regions where we operate.



AUDITORS

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP were engaged as the international and domestic auditors of the Company respectively for the year ended 31 December 2018. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP have audited the accompanying financial statements, which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. A resolution for the reappointment of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants LLP as the international and domestic auditors of the Company for the year ending 31 December 2019 will be proposed at the upcoming AGM.

By order of the Board
Zhang Zhiyong
Chairman

Beijing, PRC
28 March 2019