

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Company is committed to maintaining sound corporate governance standards and procedures to ensure the completeness, transparency and quality of its information disclosure, and strives to achieve more standardized operational procedures and effective management, so as to safeguard shareholders' interests to the greatest extent.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

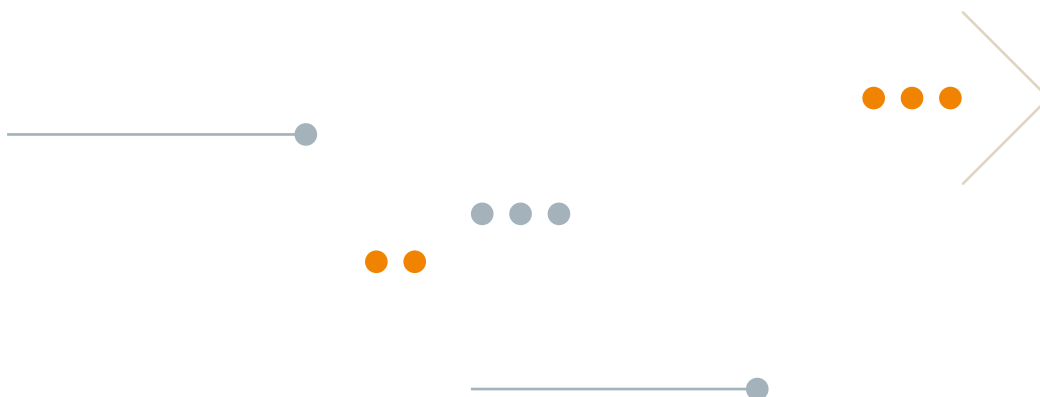
As a joint stock limited company incorporated in the PRC with limited liability and listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange"), the Company has not only complied with the relevant provisions of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules"), but also abided by the PRC Company Law and other applicable laws, regulations and regulatory requirements of Hong Kong and the PRC as basic guidelines for the Company's corporate governance. While strictly complying with relevant laws and regulations, the Group is continually striving to further strengthen its internal control and risk management systems in order to improve its corporate governance standards and transparency.

The Company has been recognized by the capital market for its sound corporate governance over the years. In 2021, the Company continued to receive accolades in respect of its corporate management and ESG performance by international institutions such as *The Asset* and *Corporate Governance Asia*.

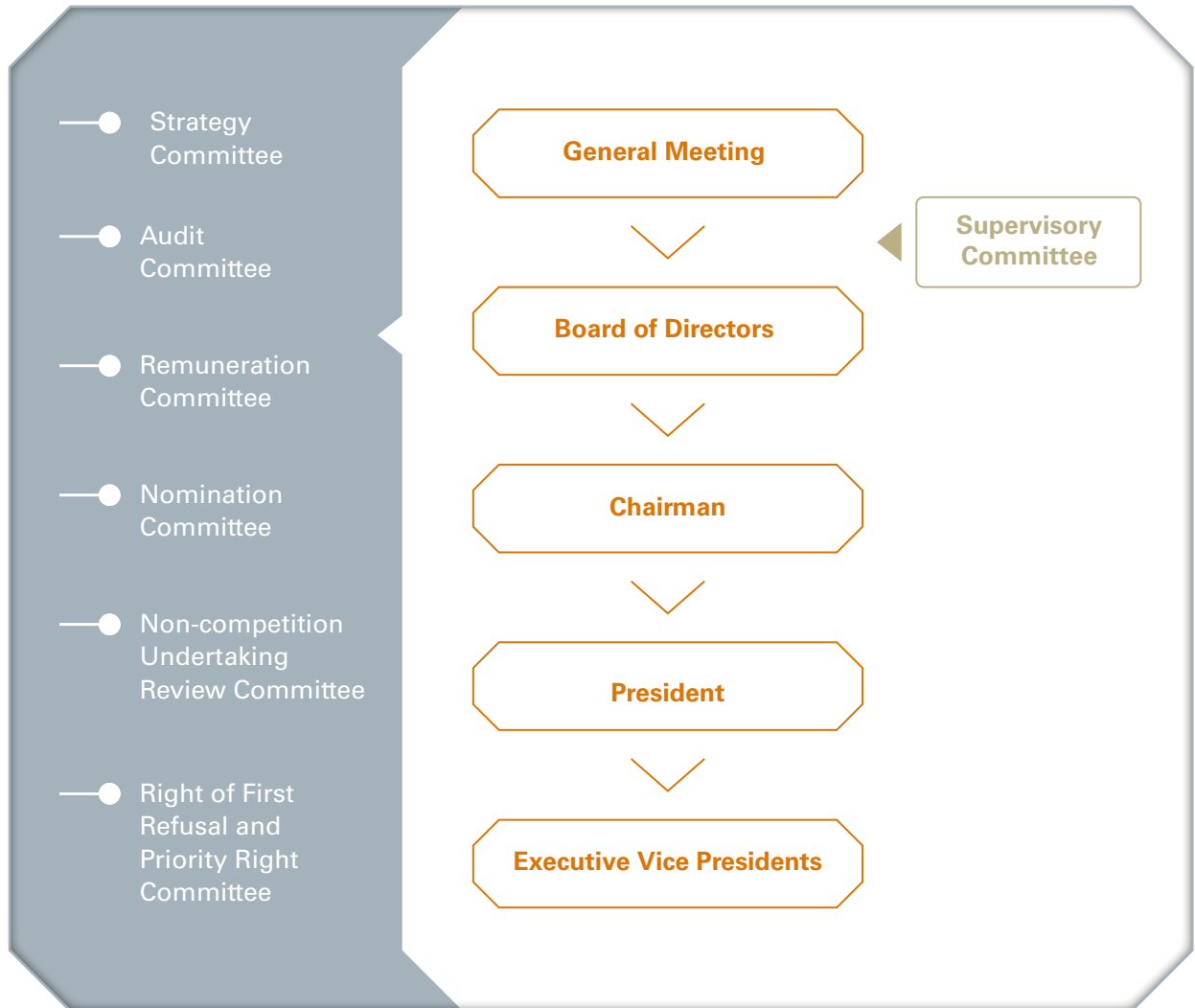
The Board is responsible for performing corporate governance duties, including developing and reviewing the Company's policies and practices on corporate governance; reviewing and monitoring the training and continuous professional development of directors and senior management as well as the Company's policies and practices in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; developing, reviewing and monitoring the code of conduct and compliance manual applicable to employees and directors; and reviewing the Company's compliance with the Corporate Governance Code and disclosure in the Corporate Governance Report.

The Board believes that, save as disclosed below, the Company complied with all code provisions as set out in the Corporate Governance Code in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules in force for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Mr. Zhang Zhiyong, the then Chairman of the Company, resigned as an Executive Director and the Chairman of the Company on 30 September 2021, and the Company had yet to appoint a new Chairman before the end of the year. Due to the situation above, no meeting was arranged between the Chairman and the independent non-executive directors without the presence of other directors during the reporting period. However, the Company has internal policies and arrangements to allow all directors of the Company (including the independent non-executive directors) to express their views and raise their concerns to the Company. Upon approval by the Board, Mr. Huang Xiaoqing, an Executive Director and the President of the Company, exercises the powers of the Chairman of the Company with effect from 13 October 2021 until new appointment is made by the Board.



CORPORATE STRUCTURE OF THE COMPANY





GENERAL MEETING

Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association, the general meetings are classified as annual general meeting (the "AGM") and extraordinary general meeting (the "EGM"). The AGM is convened once a year and within six months after the end of a financial year. A resolution will be proposed for consideration in respect of each independent matter. The details of the voting procedures will be set out in the notices of the general meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association and the Listing Rules. In accordance with the Listing Rules, all the resolutions were voted by poll in the general meeting held in 2021.

For the 2020 AGM, a physical meeting was held in Beijing on 18 June 2021, at which the resolutions, including the 2020 financial statements, profit distribution and dividend declaration proposal, appointment of auditors, report of the directors, report of the supervisory committee and the amendments to the Articles of Association, were considered and approved. Shareholders and authorized proxies representing 83.50% of the total voting shares of the Company were present at the AGM, and the percentage of votes cast in favour of each resolution was over 82%.

For the 2021 EGM, a physical meeting was held in Beijing on 22 December 2021, at which the resolutions, including the renewal of the non-exempt continuing connected transactions and proposed new annual caps between the Company and the Company's controlling shareholder, China Telecommunications Corporation, the non-exempt continuing connected transactions and proposed annual caps under the 2021 Financial Services Framework Agreement entered into between the Company and China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd., and the adoption of Share Appreciation Rights Incentive Scheme, its administrative measures and initial grant, were considered and approved. Pursuant to Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules, China Telecommunications Corporation, being a connected person to the Company, abstained from voting on the resolutions related to the connected transactions. Related to the resolutions of connected transactions, shareholders and authorized proxies representing 70.01% of the total voting shares of the Company in relation to such resolutions were present at the EGM, and the percentage of votes cast in favour of each resolution was over 74%. Related to the resolution of the adoption of share appreciation rights incentive scheme, shareholders and authorized proxies representing 84.70% of the total voting shares of the Company in relation to such resolution were present at the EGM, and the percentage of votes cast in favour of that resolution was 89.51%.

The above resolutions at the general meetings were approved and passed by shareholders, and details of the relevant poll results were published on the websites of the Company and "HKExnews" of the Stock Exchange.

SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS TO CONVENE GENERAL MEETINGS AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Pursuant to Article 8.24 of the Company's Articles of Association, shareholders who request for convening an EGM 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 counterpart requisition(s) stating the object of the meeting and requiring the Board to convene an extraordinary general meeting or a class meeting thereof. The Board shall as soon as possible proceed to convene an extraordinary general meeting or a class meeting thereof after receipt of such requisition(s). The amount of shareholdings referred to above shall be calculated as at the date of deposit of the requisition(s).
- (2) If the Board fails to issue a notice of such a meeting within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the requisition(s), the requisitionists may themselves convene such a meeting (in a manner as similar as possible to the manner in which general meetings are convened by the Board) within four (4) months from the date of receipt of the requisition(s) by the Board.

Pursuant to Article 8.6 of the Company's Articles of Association, when the Company convenes a general meeting, shareholder(s) holding 3% or more of the total voting shares of the Company shall have the right to submit new proposals in writing, and the Company shall place such proposals on the agenda for such general meeting if they are matters falling within the functions and powers of shareholders in general meetings.

SHAREHOLDERS' ENQUIRIES

Enquiries or requisitions to convene a general meeting or submit a proposal pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company that the shareholders of the Company wish to make to the Board may be addressed to the Investor Relations Department of the Company by our shareholders' hotline at 852-3699 0000 or by email at ir@chinaccs.com.hk.

COMMUNICATION WITH SHAREHOLDERS

The Board has adopted the shareholders communication policy, which regulates the Company's various regular and irregular daily communication channels with shareholders, including general meeting(s), roadshows and daily meetings. The above arrangements enable shareholders and investors keep abreast of the latest operating status and development prospects of the Company, and also enable the Company to get different opinions from the market in an effective and timely way. The details of the communication with the shareholders are set out in the section of "Investor Relations" of this annual report and the website of the Company.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The leadership and supervision of the Company are vested in the Board, which is responsible for implementing the resolutions passed in general meetings, overseeing the Group's businesses and affairs, approving operation plans and investment proposals, reviewing financial policies and performance, and formulating the basic management systems of the Company. The Board has delegated to the senior management the powers and responsibilities to conduct the day-to-day management and operations of the Group and to organize the implementation of the resolutions of the Board, annual business plans and investment proposals. The senior management must obtain the Board approval before entering into any material transactions in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles of Association. The Articles of Association and the Rules of Procedure for the Board have clearly defined the scope of duties of the Board and the management of the Company.

CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

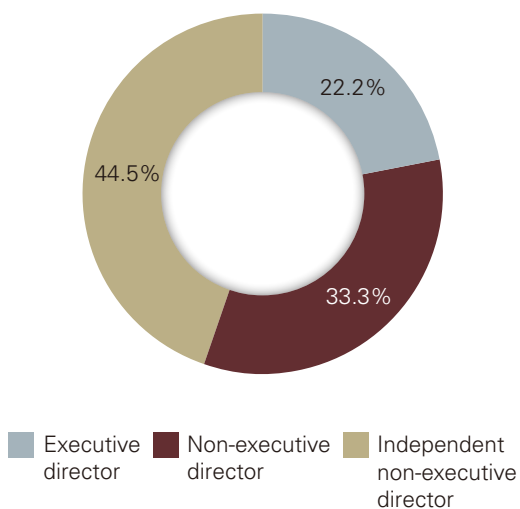
The Company has the positions of Chairman and the President, respectively, and shall arrange different individuals to serve such positions. Our Chairman is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Board and in charge of the Company's overall management. Our President is responsible for the Company's daily operation and management. On 30 September 2021, Mr. Zhang Zhiyong resigned as an Executive Director and the Chairman of the Company. Upon approval by the Board, Mr. Huang Xiaoqing, an Executive Director and the President of the Company, exercises the powers of the Chairman of the Company with effect from 13 October 2021 until new appointment is made by the Board.



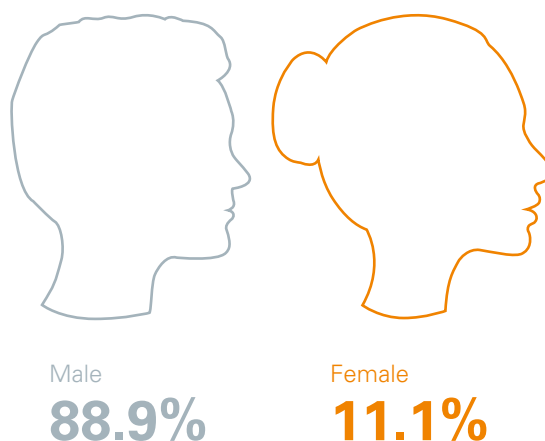
COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD AND DIVERSITY POLICY

As of the date of this report, the Board comprised nine directors, including two executive directors (Mr. Huang Xiaoqing and Ms. Zhang Xu), three non-executive directors (Mr. Gao Tongqing, Mr. Mai Yanzhou and Mr. Huang Zhen) and four independent non-executive directors (Mr. Siu Wai Keung, Francis, Mr. Lv Tingjie, Mr. Wu Taishi and Mr. Liu Linfei).

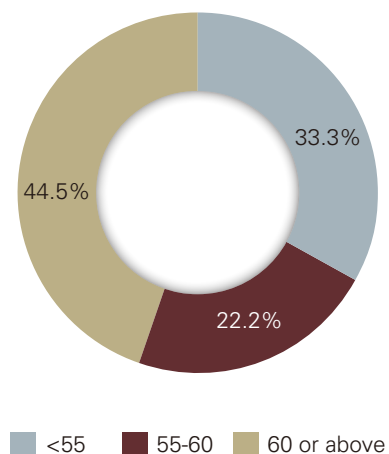
COMPOSITION



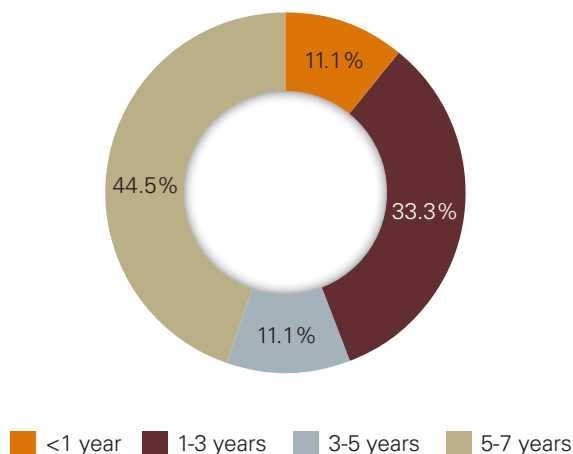
GENDER



AGE GROUP



YEARS OF SERVICES IN THE BOARD





The Company has adopted a board diversity policy, which sets out the approach to achieve diversity on the Board. The Company's board diversity policy gives a number of considerations in aspects including skill, knowledge, professional experience, gender and age. The Board comprises professionals with diversified backgrounds including telecommunications industry, power industry, finance, audit, legal, management and academics, which is in line with the Company's board diversity policy. The Nomination Committee of the Board will also review the Board structure at least annually. The Board has four independent non-executive directors, of which two independent non-executive directors (Mr. Siu Wai Keung, Francis and Mr. Wu Taishi) possess accounting professional qualification in compliance with Rules 3.10 and 3.10A of Chapter 3 of the Listing Rules. The profiles of the directors are set out in the "Profiles of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Management" section of this annual report and the Company's website.

As of the date of this report, to the best knowledge of the directors, the members of the Board did not have any financial, business, family or other material connection with each other, in particular between the Chairman and the President, and all of them are free to make independent judgments.

The Company has received the written annual confirmation of independence from each of the independent non-executive directors pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules, and considers all independent non-executive directors to be independent.

The Company has also arranged appropriate insurance cover in respect of possible legal actions against its directors, supervisors and senior management.

Directors devoted sufficient time and efforts to the business of the Company. The Company also requires the directors to disclose the number of positions they hold in public companies or organizations and provide the Company with the time they devoted to the relevant positions. In order to further strengthen the interactive communications with directors, supervisors and the management of the Company, the Company organized an online meeting in 2021 to allow the directors and supervisors to obtain the latest information on the progress of the Company's corporate reform.

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") as set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules to govern securities transactions by the directors and supervisors of the Company. The Company has made specific enquiries to the directors and supervisors, and each of the directors and supervisors has confirmed his/her compliance with the Model Code in connection with the transactions of the Company's securities in the reporting period.





NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The Company follows a formal, considered and transparent procedure for the appointments of new directors. The Nomination Committee of the Board first considers and discusses the nomination and appointment of a new director, and also based on the board diversity policy and makes recommendations to the Board for decision. The Board shall recommend the candidate(s) at the general meeting and the candidate(s) shall be elected at the general meeting each for a term of three years (including non-executive directors), effective from the date of election. If an independent non-executive director serves more than 9 years in the Company, his further appointment should be subject to a separate resolution to be approved by shareholders. The papers to shareholders accompanying that resolution should include the reasons why the Board believes he is still independent and should be re-elected.

Among the board members of the Company, except for Mr. Gao Tongqing, Mr. Mai Yanzhou, Mr. Huang Xiaoqing and Mr. Huang Zhen, the term of office of other directors are all three years, commencing from the EGM on 13 December 2018 approving the appointment of the fifth session of the Board. The term of office of Mr. Gao Tongqing and Mr. Mai Yanzhou commenced from 15 June 2020 (the date of the AGM approving their appointments) until the expiration of the term of office of the fifth session of the Board. The term of office of Mr. Huang Xiaoqing commenced from 21 October 2020 (the date of the EGM approving his appointment) until the expiration of the term of office of the fifth session of the Board. The term of office of Mr. Huang Zhen commenced from 25 February 2022 (the date of the EGM approving his appointment) until the expiration of the term of office of the fifth session of the Board. The directors of the Company are all eligible for re-election at the expiration of the term of office.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Pursuant to the Company's Articles of Association and the Listing Rules, the Board shall convene at least four meetings a year to review and approve its financial and operational performance, and consider and approve the overall strategy and policies of the Company.

The Company Secretary assists the Chairman in preparing the agenda for Board meetings. Unless stipulated otherwise by the Board in advance, the time and place for any Board meeting shall be notified to all directors at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda and related documents of the Board meetings will be dispatched to all directors at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting. The Board and each of the directors may contact the senior management independently if necessary and obtain additional information from the Company so that the directors can make informed decisions with relevant information.

All minutes of the Board meetings record the details of resolutions considered and decisions made, and are kept by meeting secretary and open for inspection by the directors. A director shall abstain from voting on any board resolution approving any proposal in which he or any of his associates has a material interest, nor shall he be counted in the quorum present at the meeting. In 2021, the Board held six meetings and passed one written resolution. In addition to general matters such as review of the annual and interim financial statements, dividend distribution, Corporate Governance Report, ESG Report and budget, the Board also considered other resolutions, including the appointment of new auditor, the amendments to the articles of association of the Company, the resolution regarding mixed-ownership reform through introduction of strategic investors and the capital injection of China Comservice Supply Chain Management Company Ltd., continuing connected transactions and major transactions, adoption of the share appreciation rights incentive scheme, adoption of Rules of Procedure for the General Meeting and the Rules of Procedure for the Board, adoption of the Rules of Procedures for the Management, adoption of financial administrative measures, appointment of non-executive director and review of the structure and composition of the Board, implementation of the initial grant of the share appreciation rights incentive scheme, establishment of the Strategic Customer Service Centre and the management remuneration, etc.

The attendance record of the Company's directors in Board meetings, board committee meetings and general meeting(s) in 2021 were as follows:

Attendance in 2021/Meeting convened during period of appointment							
	Board of Directors	Audit Committee	Remuneration Committee	Non-competition Undertaking Review Committee	Independent Board Committee	AGM	EGM
Executive Directors							
Huang Xiaoqing	6/6	-	-	-	-	1/1	1/1
Zhang Xu	6/6	-	-	-	-	1/1	1/1
Non-executive Directors							
Gao Tongqing	6/6 ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	0/1	0/1
Mai Yanzhou	6/6 ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	0/1	0/1
Independent Non-executive Directors							
Siu Wai Keung, Francis	6/6	2/2	1/1	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Lv Tingjie	6/6 ⁽³⁾	2/2	1/1	2/2	1/1 ⁽⁴⁾	0/1	1/1
Wu Taishi	6/6	-	1/1	-	1/1	1/1	1/1
Liu Linfei	6/6	2/2	-	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Resigned Director							
Zhang Zhiyong ⁽⁵⁾	3/3 ⁽⁶⁾	-	-	-	-	1/1	1/1

Notes:

1. Mr. Gao Tongqing appointed another director to attend five meetings.
2. Mr. Mai Yanzhou appointed another director to attend six meetings.
3. Mr. Lv Tingjie appointed another director to attend one meeting.
4. Mr. Lv Tingjie appointed another director to attend one meeting.
5. Mr. Zhang Zhiyong resigned as an executive director of the Company on 30 September 2021.
6. Mr. Zhang Zhiyong appointed another director to attend one meeting.

DIRECTOR'S TRAINING

Newly appointed directors will receive trainings provided by the Company upon the appointment, so as to ensure that they have adequate understanding of the Company's business and they are fully aware of their duties as directors under the laws and regulations. The Company engaged external lawyers to provide the new directors appointed during the reporting period with trainings on issues including directors' duties and the Listing Rules.

The Company distributed board memorandum to directors each month, setting out updates on major business and financial position of the Company to facilitate the directors to discharge their duties. In addition, the Company also issued latest information regarding corporate governance, anti-corruption and directors' responsibilities under the Listing Rules and other applicable laws and regulations to the directors, ensuring their awareness of their responsibilities under the laws and regulations. All the directors were also encouraged to participate in continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills to ensure that their contributions to the Board remain informed and relevant.

In 2021, the training records of the directors of the Company were as follows:

	Attend training and/or seminar relevant to the Company's industry and business, director's duties and/or corporate governance	Give a speech at the meeting relevant to the Company's industry and business, director's duties and/or corporate governance	Read information relevant to the Company's industry and business, director's duties and/or corporate governance; and/or read regular updates issued by the Company
Executive Directors			
Huang Xiaoqing	✓	✓	✓
Zhang Xu	✓	✓	✓
Non-executive Directors			
Gao Tongqing	✓	✓	✓
Mai Yanzhou	✓	✓	✓
Independent Non-executive Directors			
Siu Wai Keung, Francis	✓	✓	✓
Lv Tingjie	✓	✓	✓
Wu Taishi	✓	-	✓
Liu Linfei	✓	✓	✓

BOARD COMMITTEES

As an important part of a sound corporate governance practice, the Board has set up five board committees since the listing of the Company: the Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Non – competition Undertaking Review Committee and the Right of First Refusal and Priority Right Committee, and all of which are responsible for the supervision of the overall affairs of the Company in various areas and assistance of discharging its responsibilities. All the five board committees comprise of independent non-executive directors to ensure full expression of independent and objective views and to fulfill each of its responsibilities of review and supervision. In August 2019, the Company newly set up a Strategy Committee to further enhance its corporate governance. The list of members of each committee is published on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange.

Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee is chaired by the Chairman of the Company and consists of five directors, including Mr. Zhang Zhiyong, the then executive director, Mr. Huang Xiaoqing, an executive director, Mr. Gao Tongqing and Mr. Mai Yanzhou, the non-executive directors and Mr. Lv Tingjie, an independent non-executive director. The Strategy Committee is mainly responsible for studying and making recommendations on the mid-to-long-term plan for development strategy, operating objectives and development direction of the Group. In 2021, the Strategy Committee did not hold any meeting.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee consists of three independent non-executive directors: Mr. Siu Wai Keung, Francis (Chairman), who has accounting or related financial management expertise, Mr. Lv Tingjie and Mr. Liu Linfei. The Audit Committee is mainly responsible for reviewing the interim and annual financial statements of the Company to ensure a true and fair view of the state of affairs, reviewing interim and annual results of the Company after consulting with external auditors, and making recommendations to the Board. In addition, the Audit Committee is also responsible for examining the appointment of external auditors, considering and supervising the financial reporting procedures and the risk management and internal control systems of the Company, reviewing the effectiveness of the internal audit of the company, overseeing the execution of the connected transactions, and also listening to the external auditor's audit memorandum. The Audit Committee makes an assessment of the effectiveness of the Group's risk management and internal control at least once a year. In addition, the Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing the adequacy of resources of the Group's accounting and financial reporting function.

In 2021, the Audit Committee held two meetings, and mainly reviewed the resolutions of the audited financial report of the Company of 2020, interim report of 2021, report on connected transactions, report on internal control and risk management and appointment of independent auditors. The Audit Committee also met with the external auditors separately to discuss the matters found during the audit and other issues that might be raised by the auditors.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee consists of three independent non-executive directors: Mr. Wu Taishi (Chairman), Mr. Siu Wai Keung, Francis and Mr. Lv Tingjie. The Remuneration Committee is mainly responsible for making recommendations to the Board on the Company's policy and structure for remunerations of all directors, on the establishment of a formal and transparent procedure for developing remuneration policy and the remuneration packages of directors.

In 2021, the Remuneration Committee held one meeting and passed one written resolution, and mainly reviewed the resolution regarding the adoption of the share appreciation rights incentive scheme, its administrative measures and initial grant, as well as the initial grant proposal of the share appreciation rights incentive scheme.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee consists of three independent non-executive directors: Mr. Lv Tingjie (Chairman), Mr. Wu Taishi and Mr. Liu Linfei. The Nomination Committee is mainly responsible for making recommendations to the Board on the appointment or reappointment of directors and reviewing the structure, size and composition (including the skills, knowledge and professional experience) of the Board annually. The details of the board diversity policy has been set out under "Composition of the Board and Diversity Policy" of this section.

In 2021, the Nomination Committee passed one written resolution, and mainly reviewed the resolution regarding the recommendation for the appointment of a non-executive director, as well as reviewing the structure and composition of the Board.



Non-Competition Undertaking Review Committee

The Non-competition Undertaking Review Committee consists of three independent non-executive directors: Mr. Lv Tingjie (Chairman), Mr. Siu Wai Keung, Francis and Mr. Liu Linfei. The Non-competition Undertaking Review Committee is mainly responsible for monitoring the implementation of the non-competition undertakings given by China Telecom to the Company.

In 2021, the Non-competition Undertaking Review Committee held two meetings, and mainly reviewed the implementation of the non-competition undertakings by China Telecom, and made their recommendations to the Board.

The Company has received a letter issued to the Company by China Telecom stating that they were not in breach of any non-competition undertakings in 2021. The letter has been reviewed by the Non-competition Undertaking Review Committee and the Board.

Right of First Refusal and Priority Right Committee

The Right of First Refusal and Priority Right Committee consists of three independent non-executive directors: Mr. Liu Linfei (Chairman), Mr. Siu Wai Keung, Francis and Mr. Wu Taishi. The Right of First Refusal and Priority Right Committee is mainly responsible for monitoring the enforcement of the right of first refusal and priority right granted by China Telecom since the Company was listed and protecting the interests of independent shareholders when such right of first refusal or priority right is exercised. Meeting(s) are held when necessary according to the Right of First Refusal and Priority Right Committee Charter. In 2021, the Right of First Refusal and Priority Right Committee did not hold any meeting.

Independent Board Committee

Pursuant to the relevant requirements under the Listing Rules, a listed company shall establish an Independent Board Committee (which shall consist only of independent non-executive directors) to advise independent shareholders in relation to transactions that are subject to independent shareholder's approval (such as connected transactions) as to whether the terms of the relevant transaction or arrangement are fair and reasonable and whether such a transaction or arrangement is in the interests of the Company and its shareholders as a whole.

The Company held an Independent Board Committee meeting on 22 October 2021, at which all independent non-executive directors of the Company attended. The Independent Board Committee mainly reviewed the resolutions regarding the renewal of non-exempt continuing connected transactions with China Telecom and proposed new annual caps, and the non-exempt continuing connected transactions under the 2021 Financial Services Framework Agreement entered into between the Company and China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd. and proposed annual caps, and made its recommendations to the independent shareholders. Details of such resolutions and the Independent Board Committee's recommendation were contained in the circular dispatched to shareholders on 1 December 2021.



SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

The Company established a Supervisory Committee pursuant to the PRC Company Law. The Supervisory Committee consists of three members: Ms. Ye Lichun (the chairperson), Mr. Hai Liancheng (the external independent supervisor) and Mr. Si Jianfei (the employee representative supervisor). Except for Ms. Ye Lichun, the term of service of the supervisors are three years, commencing from the EGM on 13 December 2018 approving the fifth session of the Supervisory Committee. The supervisors may serve consecutive terms if re-elected upon the expiry of their terms of service. The term of service of Ms. Ye Lichun commenced from 25 February 2022 (the date of the EGM approving her appointment) until the expiration of the term of office of the fifth session of the Supervisory Committee. The Supervisory Committee is a standing supervisory institution of the Company and is accountable and reports to all the shareholders. The Supervisory Committee normally meets at least twice a year.

The primary duties of the Supervisory Committee are to supervise the financial activities of the Group, to review the financial statements and other financial information prepared and presented by the Board at the general meeting(s); to supervise the performance of duties of the directors and other senior management; to prevent them from abusing power; and to deal with the directors or to initiate legal actions against the directors on behalf of the Company. In 2021, the Supervisory Committee held two meetings, details of which are set out in the “Report of the Supervisory Committee” of this annual report.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

At the annual general meeting of 2020, the shareholders of the Company approved the amendments to the Articles of Association. Due to the change of registered address of the Company, the Board amended the relevant provisions of the Articles of Association. The amended Articles of Association were published on the websites of the Company and “HKExnews” of the Stock Exchange.

COMPANY SECRETARY

The Company Secretary, Mr. Chung Wai Cheung, Terence, is an employee of the Company and has appropriate understanding of the Company’s business. The Company Secretary is responsible for supporting the daily operation of the Board and ensuring the compliance with the policies and procedures of the Board. All of the directors can access to opinions of the Company Secretary to ensure that the procedures of the Board conform to the applicable laws and regulations. The profile of the Company Secretary is set out in the section of “Profiles of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Management” in this annual report. The Company Secretary met the requirement on professional training under the Rule 3.29 of the Listing Rules in 2021.

REMUNERATION OF THE AUDITORS

The international and domestic auditors of the Company are PricewaterhouseCoopers and PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP, respectively. The external auditors have provided audit services to the Company since they were initially appointed at the 2020 annual general meeting on 18 June 2021. The remuneration (including VAT) received by the external auditors for the audit services and non-audit services provided to the Company during the year amounted to RMB28.6 million and RMB0.2 million respectively.



DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The directors are not aware of any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, and therefore the directors continue to adopt the going concern approach in preparing financial statements.

The responsibility statement of PricewaterhouseCoopers, our external auditors, regarding its Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements of the Group is set out on pages 133 to 138 of this annual report.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

Risk Management and Internal Control System

The Board of Directors of the Company is fully responsible for establishing and maintaining an appropriate and effective risk management and internal control system to safeguard the investment of the shareholders and the assets of the Group. The Company has set up an internal control system and risk management mechanism in compliance with the COSO standards and defined management structure and its authority, which aims at ensuring the efficient utilization of the resources of the Company to achieve its business targets and safeguard its assets, with a view to preventing unauthorized utilization or disposal of the resources of the Company, securing appropriate accounting records to provide reliable financial evidence for internal use or external dissemination, so as to ensure that its operating activities are in compliance with relevant laws and rules. The above control system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Company attaches great importance to risk management in the course of its daily operation. With a decade of development since the listing, the Company has established a risk management culture appropriate to its business practices. The Company put in place a set of practicable risk management methods as well as a sound organization structure and management mechanism for risk management, which solidified risk management procedures, enhanced risk management efficiency and basically established a comprehensive risk management mechanism. In 2021, the Company took into account the requirements of Rule C.2 of the Corporate Governance Code of the Stock Exchange and continued to strengthen the identification, classification and assessment and control of risks and closely monitored any possible material risks, without any material risk issue during the year. After strict identification and assessment and analysis of risks, the Company conducted assessment on the potential risks that the Company may be exposed to in 2022, such as market risks and financial risks, and proposed practicable corresponding solutions. The Company formulated the annual risk management report which sets out the risk management work in 2021 and the assessment of material risks and the control plan for 2022.

Since its listing in 2006, the Company has formulated the internal control manual, internal control assessment rules and other systems based on the COSO internal control framework. Over the years, the Company has striven to improve the systems related to internal control and risk management in light of the changes in internal and external operating environments and business development requirements. In 2021, according to the internal and external regulatory requirements, as well as in response to the strategy of corporate transformation, the Company adapted to the changes in its operation management and policy environment and completed the revision of the internal control manual, and optimized and improved the internal control authority list. We revised the provisions on the R&D projects, guarantee business, capital expenditure, capital management, external investment management, costs and other business processes, and strengthened the management and supervision measures, such as the general control of information system to ensure that the internal control manual satisfies the Company's management needs.



The Company has established an internal audit division, which is responsible for organizing the Company's daily risk management and internal control assessment, and reporting to the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors to ensure that the Board and management maintain and operate a sound risk management and internal control system in accordance with established procedures and standards. In 2021, the Company further strengthened audit supervision, and attached importance to the audit rectification and the utilization of the results of audit, so as to foster management improvement and to prevent loophole. The above work plays an important role in supporting the Board, the management and the risk management and internal control assessment.

The Company has formulated guidelines on information disclosure management to regulate the disclosure of the periodical result announcements, sensitive information and other important information of the Company and to make proper disclosure in accordance with the requirements of the Stock Exchange. The Company has established a progressive accountability, verification and reviewing system, to ensure the truthfulness, accuracy and timeliness of information disclosure. The Company will appoint external independent advisors, such as legal advisors, for reviewing and verifying when necessary. The Executive Vice President and the Company Secretary of the Company are responsible for coordinating and organizing information disclosure to ensure the compliance of the information disclosure. The Company Secretary is responsible for the daily management of information disclosure, including the disclosure of inside information. The Company also has the Office of the Board to assist in the detailed work regarding information disclosure.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Stock Exchange, to ensure connected transactions are carried out according to the pricing policy or mechanism under the framework agreements and to regulate and enhance the management of connected transactions, the Company has formulated the "Administrative Measures of Connected Transactions of China Communications Services Corporation Limited". The Company enters into a connected transaction framework agreement with China Telecommunications Corporation and applies for the annual caps of connected transactions every three years. At the end of each year, the Company evaluates the connected transactions entered into in each province in the previous year. In order to ensure the compliance and effective operation of connected transactions on financial services with China Telecom Group Finance Co., Ltd., the Company has formulated the "Administrative Measures of Connected Transactions on Financial Services of China Communications Services Corporation Limited", through transaction verifying mechanism, daily monitoring mechanism, price checking mechanism and contingency planning mechanism, providing safeguards for the internal control of connected transactions on financial services, to ensure compliance with relevant regulatory requirements. The Company develops the monthly budget for deposit services, monitors the total amount of deposits of the provincial companies, and ensures that the caps of connected transactions is not exceeded. In addition, the risk identification and control targets for connected transactions formulated by the Company are set out in the internal control manual. A series of internal control procedures have been established in respect of the submission, confirmation and delivery of budgets for connected transactions, signing and execution of contracts, reconciliation with connected parties, data verification, accounting, verification of information disclosure and information disclosure, and on-going improvements are made to the management process for connected transactions.



Annual Risk Management and Internal Control Assessment

The Company continues to focus on strengthening internal control and risk management and has sound internal control and management systems in place. The main internal control and risk management measures of the Company in 2021 are summarized as below:

In 2021, the internal audit division of the Company took the lead in organizing self-assessment for internal control within the whole Group. During the year, the Company continued its risk-oriented internal control self-assessment, which was organized from top to bottom and under a unified manner. With the changes in the Company's internal and external environments as well as the continuous expansion of its business scale, the Company increased its attention to comprehensive risk management. On the basis of its risk-oriented internal control self-assessment system and a comprehensive assessment, the Company identified the key areas and processes to focus on according to the major risks that might be faced by the Company during the year, and effectively and adaptively prepare the list of contents to be addressed for the self-assessment in the year, so as to accomplish a comprehensive and well-targeted inspection and assessment, which covered all of its subsidiaries.

The internal control self-assessment was conducted under the supervision of the Company's working group on risk management and control processes, led by the audit division, and organized and coordinated by the relevant departments. With the business departments playing a leading role in dealing with the risk management issues at source, the Company further promoted the effective combination between the self-assessment and daily operation management and ensured the effectiveness of the self-assessment work. The business departments were to decide on the persons responsible, exert themselves as the first line of defense of risk management, and instill the risk prevention awareness into all areas of the Company's operations, so as to enhance the effectiveness of their self-assessment efforts and promote the improvement of their management.

After the completion of the assessment, the Company focused on prevention of material risks, and reviewed and examined the design and implementation of its internal control and risk management systems. The Company also formulated practical and effective rectification measures in relation to defects identified during the self-assessment, aiming to make on-going improvements to the internal control system and process so that it could function better to prevent risks and contribute to good management practice. Meanwhile, in the subsequent internal audit, attention was paid to the effectiveness of the internal control for various businesses and inspection was made on assessment of internal control and rectification of defects, so as to ensure that the assessment is effective.



In 2021, the Company further improved the internal audit system, and continued to promote the execution of audit project plan and conduct comprehensive internal audit. The Company made independent and objective supervision and assessment of the operation activities and the appropriateness, compliance and effectiveness of its internal control, with an aim to enhance its operation and create more value for the Company, improve the processes for risk management, control and corporate governance and contribute to the fulfillment of its strategic goals. In light of the requirement on annual key risk control and the characteristics of its operation and management, the internal audit in this year mainly included, among others, economic accountability audit, revenues and expenses audit and audit for construction work with focuses on relevant matters such as income and cost accounting, cash management, and product distribution business management. Upon the request of the management of the Company and in light of the needs of relevant business departments, the internal audit division made use of the data from the audit and the audit outcomes to hold the audit joint meeting, so as to provide advice for the decision-making and operation and management activities of the Company.

In 2021, the Company continued to promote audit standardization and widely applied the standard audit plan to various special audits based on its audit informatization system. The Company utilized informatization audit measures to manage the audit projects so as to improve audit quality and achieve full audit coverage. In 2021, the Company completed not only the planned economic accountability audit, but also the revision of internal control manual and the special audit on the efficiency of internal control process, and promoted the implementation of strategic control to all levels of the Company.

The Board continued to monitor and supervise the risk management and internal control systems of the Company through the Audit Committee, and conducted an annual review on the risk management and internal control systems of the Company and its subsidiaries for the financial year ended 31 December 2021. After receiving the report from the internal audit division as to the effectiveness of the relevant systems and the relevant confirmation from the management to the Board, the Board considered that the risk management and internal control systems of the Company were stable, healthy, proper, effective and adequate, and has satisfied the requirements under Rule C.2 of the Corporate Governance Code of the Stock Exchange regarding risk management and internal control.