

Commission has also adopted regulations that restrict foreign investment in Korean securities and regulate the issuance of securities outside Korea by Korean companies, pursuant to its authority under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act.

Under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Laws, if the Korean government deems that:

- the need to do so is inevitable due to the outbreak of natural calamities, wars, conflict of arms or grave and sudden changes in domestic or foreign economic circumstances or other similar situations, the Ministry of Economy and Finance may temporarily suspend payment, receipt or the whole or part of transactions to which the Foreign Exchange Transaction Laws apply, or impose an obligation to safe-keep, deposit or sell means of payment in or to certain Korean governmental agencies or financial institutions; and
- international balance of payments and international finance are confronted or are likely to be confronted with serious difficulty or the movement of capital between Korea and abroad brings or is likely to bring about serious obstacles in carrying out its currency policies, exchange rate policies and other macroeconomic policies, the Ministry of Economy and Finance may take measures to require any person who intends to perform capital transactions to obtain permission or to require any person who performs capital transactions to deposit part of the payments received in these transactions at certain Korean governmental agencies or financial institutions.

Both of these actions are subject to limitations specified by the Foreign Exchange Transaction Laws.

Restrictions Applicable to Shares

Under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Laws, a foreign investor who intends to acquire shares must designate a foreign exchange bank at which he or she must open a foreign currency account and a Won account exclusively for stock investments. Approval is not required for remittance into Korea and deposit of foreign currency funds in the foreign currency account. Foreign currency funds may be transferred from the foreign currency account at the time required to place a deposit for, or settle the purchase price of, a stock purchase transaction to a Won account opened at a financial investment company with a dealing and/or brokerage license. Funds in the foreign currency account may be remitted abroad without any Korean governmental approval.

Dividends on shares of Korean companies are paid in Won. Korean governmental approval is not required for foreign investors to receive dividends on, or the Won proceeds from the sale of, any shares to be paid, received and retained in Korea. Dividends paid on, and the Won proceeds of the sale of, any shares held by a non-resident of Korea must be deposited either in a Won account with the investor's financial investment company with a dealing and/or brokerage license or in its own Won account. Funds in a foreign investor's Won account may be transferred to its foreign currency account or withdrawn for local living expenses up to certain limits. These funds may also be used to make future investments in shares or to pay the subscription price of new shares obtained through the exercise of pre-emptive rights.

Financial investment companies with a dealing and/or brokerage license may open foreign currency accounts with foreign exchange banks exclusively to accommodate foreign investors' stock investments in Korea. Through these accounts, such financial investment companies may enter into limited foreign exchange transactions, such as converting foreign currency funds and Won funds, either as a counterparty to or on behalf of foreign investors, without the investors having to open their own accounts with foreign exchange banks.

Item 10.E. Taxation

The following summary is based upon tax laws, regulations, rulings, decrees, income tax conventions (treaties), administrative practice and judicial decisions of Korea and the United States as of the date of this annual report, and is subject to any change in the laws of Korea or the United States that may come into effect after such date.

United States Taxation

This summary describes certain material U.S. federal income tax consequences for a U.S. holder (as defined below) of acquiring, owning, and disposing of common shares or ADSs. This summary applies to you only if you hold the common shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, including (but not limited to):

- a broker or dealer in securities or currencies;
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for securities holdings;
- a bank or financial institution;
- a life insurance company, real estate investment trust, or regulated investment company;
- a tax-exempt organization, qualified retirement plan, individual retirement account, or other tax-deferred account;
- an entity treated as a partnership or other passthrough entity (or investors therein) for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a person that holds common shares or ADSs that are a hedge or that are hedged against interest rate or currency risks;
- a person that holds common shares or ADSs as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes;
- a person whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar; or
- a person that owns or is deemed to own (directly, indirectly, or constructively) 10% or more of our stock, measured by voting power or value.

In addition, this summary does not discuss the application of the U.S. federal estate and gift taxes, the Medicare net investment income tax or the alternative minimum tax, or any state, local or other tax consequences of purchasing, owning, and disposing of common shares or ADSs. You should consult your own tax advisers concerning the U.S. federal, state, local, and other tax consequences of purchasing, owning, and disposing of common shares or ADSs in your particular circumstances.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations promulgated thereunder, and published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. We have not requested a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to any of the U.S. federal income tax considerations described below, and as a result, the Internal Revenue Service could disagree with portions of this discussion. This summary is for general information purposes only and does not purport to be a complete discussion of all potential tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to acquire common shares or ADSs.

For purposes of this summary, you are a "U.S. holder" if you are the beneficial owner of a common share or an ADS and are:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a U.S. domestic corporation; or
- otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis with respect to income from the common share or ADS.

In general, if you are the beneficial owner of ADSs, you will be treated as the beneficial owner of the common shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and no gain or loss will be recognized if you exchange an ADS for the common share represented by that ADS.

Dividends

The gross amount of cash distributions that you receive generally will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Any dividends you receive (including any withheld taxes) generally will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation as foreign source dividend income and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Dividends paid in Won will be included in your income in a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date that you receive the dividend (or the depository receives the dividend, in the case of ADSs), regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. If such a dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income.

Subject to certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, the U.S. dollar amount of dividends received by an individual with respect to our common shares or ADSs will be subject to taxation at reduced rates if the dividends are “qualified dividends.” Dividends paid on the common shares or ADSs will be treated as qualified dividends if (i) the common shares or ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States or we are eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive tax treaty with the United States that the U.S. Treasury determines is satisfactory for purposes of this provision and that includes an exchange of information program; (ii) we were not, in the year prior to the year in which the dividend was paid, and are not, in the year in which the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company as defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which we refer to as a PFIC, and (iii) certain holding period requirements are met. The ADSs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and will qualify as readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States so long as they are so listed. In addition, the U.S. Treasury has determined that the Korea-United States income tax treaty (the “Treaty”) meets the requirements for reduced rates of taxation, and we believe we are eligible for the benefits of that Treaty. Based on our audited financial statements, we believe that we were not a PFIC in our 2021 and 2022 taxable years. In addition, based on our current expectations regarding our income, assets and activities, we do not anticipate becoming a PFIC for our 2023 taxable year. Therefore, we believe that dividends received by U.S. holders with respect to either common shares or ADSs will be “qualified dividends.” Holders should consult their own tax advisers regarding the availability of the reduced dividend tax rate in light of their own particular circumstances.

Distributions of additional shares in respect of common shares or ADSs that are made as part of a pro-rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Sale or Other Disposition

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss you realize on a sale or other disposition of common shares or ADSs generally will be treated as U.S. source capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the common shares or ADSs were held for more than one year. Your ability to offset capital losses against ordinary income is limited. Long-term capital gain recognized by an individual U.S. holder generally is subject to taxation at reduced rates.

If a U.S. holder sells or otherwise disposes of our common shares or ADSs in exchange for currency other than U.S. dollars, the amount realized generally will be the U.S. dollar value of the currency received at the spot rate on the date of sale or other disposition (or, if the shares are traded on an established securities market at such time, in the case of cash basis and electing accrual basis U.S. holders, the settlement date). An accrual basis U.S. holder that does not elect to determine the amount realized using the spot exchange rate on the settlement date will recognize foreign currency gain or loss equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount received based on the spot exchange rates in effect on the date of the sale or other disposition and the settlement date. If an accrual basis U.S. holder makes the election described above, it must be applied consistently from year to year and cannot be revoked without the consent of the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS. A U.S. holder should consult its own tax advisors regarding the treatment of any foreign currency gain or loss realized with respect to any currency received in a sale or other disposition of the common shares or ADSs.

Foreign Tax Credit Considerations

Dividends paid on the common shares or ADSs will constitute income from sources without the United States for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. As a result of recent changes to the U.S. foreign tax credit rules, for taxable years beginning on or after December 28, 2021, Korean tax generally will need to satisfy certain additional requirements in order to be considered a creditable tax for a U.S. holder, except in the case of a U.S. holder that is eligible for, and properly claims, the benefits of the Treaty. We have not determined whether these requirements have been met, and, accordingly, no assurance can be given that any Korean tax will be creditable for U.S. holders. Alternatively, a U.S. holder may elect to deduct Korean withholding taxes in computing such U.S. holder's taxable income (provided that the U.S. holder elects to deduct, rather than credit, all foreign income taxes paid or accrued for the relevant taxable year), subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. tax law.

Any Korean securities transaction tax or agriculture and fishery special surtax that you pay will not be creditable for foreign tax credit purposes.

The calculation of foreign tax credits and, in the case of a U.S. holder that elects to deduct foreign taxes, the availability of deductions involve the application of complex rules that depend on a U.S. holder's particular circumstances. You should consult your own tax advisers regarding the creditability or deductibility of such taxes.

Specified Foreign Financial Assets

Certain U.S. holders that own "specified foreign financial assets" with an aggregate value in excess of US\$50,000 on the last day of the taxable year or US\$75,000 at any time during the taxable year are generally required to file an information statement along with their tax returns, currently on IRS Form 8938, with respect to such assets. "Specified foreign financial assets" include any financial accounts held at a non-U.S. financial institution, as well as securities issued by a non-U.S. issuer (which would include the common shares and ADSs) that are not held in accounts maintained by financial institutions. Higher reporting thresholds apply to certain individuals living abroad and to certain married individuals. Regulations extend this reporting requirement to certain entities that are treated as formed or availed of to hold direct or indirect interests in specified foreign financial assets based on certain objective criteria. U.S. holders who fail to report the required information could be subject to substantial penalties. In addition, the statute of limitations for assessment of tax would be suspended, in whole or part. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of these rules to their investment in the common shares or ADSs, including the application of the rules to their particular circumstances.

U.S. Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Rules

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries are subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding unless the holder provides an accurate taxpayer identification number and makes any other required certification or otherwise establishes an exemption. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. holder will be allowed as a refund or credit against the U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner.

Korean Taxation

The following summary of Korean tax considerations applies to you so long as you are not:

- a resident of Korea;
- a corporation with its head office, principal place of business or place of effective management in Korea; or
- engaged in a trade or business in Korea through a permanent establishment or a fixed base to which the relevant income is attributable or with which the relevant income is effectively connected.

Please consult your own tax advisers as to the Korean, state, local and other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs.

Taxation of Dividends on Common Shares or ADSs

We will deduct Korean withholding tax from dividends paid to you (whether payable in cash or in shares) at a rate of 22.0% (inclusive of local income tax). If you are a qualified resident and a beneficial owner of the dividends in a country that has entered into a tax treaty with Korea, you may qualify for a reduced rate of Korean withholding tax. See “–Tax Treaties” below for a discussion on treaty benefits. If we distribute to you free shares representing a transfer of earning surplus or certain capital reserves into paid-in capital, that distribution may be subject to Korean withholding tax.

Taxation of Capital Gains from Transfer of Common Shares or ADSs

As a general rule, capital gains earned by non-residents upon transfer of our common shares or ADSs are subject to Korean withholding tax at the lower of (1) 11.0% (inclusive of local income tax) of the gross proceeds realized or (2) subject to the production of satisfactory evidence of acquisition costs and certain direct transaction costs of the common shares or ADSs, 22.0% (inclusive of local income tax) of the net realized gain, unless exempt from Korean income taxation under the applicable Korean tax treaty with the non-resident’s country of tax residence. See “–Tax Treaties” below for a discussion on treaty benefits. Even if you do not qualify for an exemption under a tax treaty, you will not be subject to the foregoing withholding tax on capital gains if you qualify under the relevant Korean domestic tax law exemptions discussed in the following paragraphs.

In regard to the transfer of our common shares through the Korea Exchange, you will not be subject to the withholding tax on capital gains (as described in the preceding paragraph) if you (1) have no permanent establishment in Korea and (2) did not own or have not owned (together with any shares owned by any person with which you have a certain special relationship) 25% or more of the total issued and outstanding shares, which may include the common shares represented by the ADSs, at any time during the calendar year in which the sale occurs and during the five consecutive calendar years prior to the calendar year in which the sale occurs.

Under Korean tax law, ADSs are viewed as shares of common stock for capital gains tax purposes. Accordingly, capital gains from the sale or disposition of ADSs are taxed (if such sale or disposition constitutes a taxable event) as if such gains are from the sale or disposition of the underlying common shares. Capital gains that you earn (regardless of whether you have a permanent establishment in Korea) from a transfer of ADSs outside of Korea will generally be exempt from Korean income taxation by virtue of the Special Tax Treatment Control Law of Korea, or the STTCL, provided that the issuance of the ADSs is deemed to be an overseas issuance under the STTCL. However, if you transfer ADSs after having converted the underlying common shares, such exemption under the STTCL will not apply and you will be required to file a transfer income tax return or a corporate income tax return and pay tax in Korea with respect to any capital gains derived from such transfer unless the purchaser or a financial investment company with a brokerage license, as applicable, withholds and pays such tax.

If you are subject to tax on capital gains with respect to the sale of ADSs, or of our common shares you acquired as a result of a withdrawal, the purchaser or, in the case of the sale of the common shares on the Korea Exchange or through a financial investment company with a brokerage license in Korea, such financial investment company, is required to withhold Korean tax on capital gains from the sales price in an amount equal to the lower of (1) 11.0% (inclusive of local income tax) of the gross realization proceeds or (2) subject to the production of satisfactory evidence of acquisition costs and certain direct transaction costs of the common shares or ADSs, 22.0% (inclusive of local income tax) of the net realized gain, and to make payment of these amounts to the Korean tax authority, unless you establish your entitlement to an exemption under an applicable tax treaty or domestic tax law. See “–Tax Treaties” below for a discussion on claiming treaty benefits.

Tax Treaties

Korea has entered into a number of income tax treaties with other countries (including the United States), which would reduce or exempt Korean withholding tax on dividends on, and capital gains on transfer of, the common shares or ADSs. For example, under the Korea-United States income tax treaty, reduced rates of Korean withholding tax of 16.5% or 11.0% (depending on your shareholding ratio and inclusive of local income tax) on dividends and an exemption from Korean withholding tax on capital gains are available to residents of the United States that are beneficial owners of the relevant dividend income or capital gains, subject to certain exceptions. However, under Article 17 (Investment or Holding Companies) of the Korea-United States income tax treaty, such reduced rates and exemption do not apply if (i) you are a United States corporation, (ii) by reason of any special measures, the tax imposed on you by the United States with respect to such dividend income or capital gains is substantially less than the tax generally imposed by the United States on corporate profits and (iii) 25% or more of your capital is held of record or is otherwise determined, after consultation between competent authorities of the United States and Korea, to be owned directly or indirectly by one or more persons who are not individual residents of the United States. Also, under Article 16 (Capital Gains) of the Korea-United States income tax treaty, the exemption on capital gains does not apply if (a) you have a permanent establishment in Korea and any shares of common stock in which you hold an interest and which give rise to capital gains are effectively connected to such permanent establishment, (b) you are an individual and you maintain a fixed base in Korea for an aggregate of 183 days or more during a given taxable year and your ADSs or common shares giving rise to capital gains are effectively connected with such fixed base or (c) you are an individual and you are present in Korea for an aggregate of 183 days or more during a given taxable year.

You should inquire for yourself whether you are entitled to the benefit of a tax treaty between Korea and the country where you are a resident. It is the responsibility of the party claiming the benefits of an income tax treaty in respect of dividend payments or capital gains to submit to us, the purchaser or the financial investment company, as applicable, a certificate as to his tax residence. In the absence of sufficient proof, we, the purchaser or the financial investment company, as applicable, must withhold tax at the normal rates. Furthermore, in order for you to claim the benefit of a tax rate reduction or tax exemption on certain Korean source income (such as dividends or capital gains) under an applicable tax treaty, Korean tax law requires you (or your agent) to submit an application (for a reduced withholding tax rate, the "application for entitlement to a reduced tax rate," and in the case of exemptions from withholding tax, the "application for tax exemption" along with a certificate of your tax residency issued by a competent authority of your country of tax residence, subject to certain exceptions) as the beneficial owner of such Korean source income, or a B0 application. For example, a U.S. resident would be required to provide a Form 6166 as a certificate of tax residency together with the application for entitlement to reduced tax rate or the application for tax exemption. Such application should be submitted to the withholding agent prior to the payment date of the relevant income. Subject to certain exceptions, where the relevant income is paid to an overseas investment vehicle (which is not the beneficial owner of such income), or an OIV, a beneficial owner claiming the benefit of an applicable tax treaty with respect to such income must submit its B0 application to such OIV, which must submit an OIV report and a schedule of beneficial owners (as well as the B0 applications collected from each beneficial owner, if such beneficial owner is applying for a tax exemption) to the withholding agent prior to the payment date of such income. Effective January 1, 2020, an OIV that was not established for the purpose of unjustifiably reducing income tax liabilities in Korea and bears tax liabilities in the country of its residence is deemed to be a beneficial owner of Korean source income for income tax purposes. Starting from January 1, 2022, an OIV is deemed to be a beneficial owner of the Korean source income if (i) under the applicable tax treaty, the OIV bears tax liabilities in the country in which it is established or the OIV is deemed to be the beneficial owner of the Korean source income, and (ii) the Korean source income is eligible for the treaty benefits under the tax treaty. The benefits under a tax treaty between Korea and the country of such OIV's residence will apply with respect to the relevant income paid to such OIV, subject to certain application requirements as prescribed by the Corporate Income Tax or Individual Income Tax Law. In the case of a tax exemption application, the withholding agent is required to submit such application (together with the applicable OIV report in the case of income paid to an OIV) to the relevant district tax office by the ninth day of the month following the date of the payment of such income.