

Financial investment companies with a securities dealing, brokerage or collective investment license are allowed to open foreign currency accounts with foreign exchange banks exclusively for accommodating foreign investors' stock investments in Korea. Through these accounts, financial companies with a securities dealing, brokerage or collective investment license may enter into foreign exchange transactions on a limited basis, such as conversion of 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 Korean or United States law that may come into effect after such date. Investors in shares of common stock or American depositary shares are advised to consult their own tax advisers as to the Korean, United States or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of such securities, including the effect of any national, state or local tax laws.

Korean Taxation

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

- a resident of Korea;
- a corporation having its head office, principal place of business, or place of effective management in Korea (a Korean corporation); 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.

Taxation of Dividends on Shares of Common Stock or American Depositary Shares

We will deduct Korean withholding tax from dividends (whether in cash or in shares) paid to you at a rate of 22% (including local income surtax). If you are a qualified resident 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 of treaty benefits. If we distribute to you free shares representing a transfer of certain capital reserves or asset revaluation reserves into paid-in capital, such distribution may be subject to a Korean withholding tax.

In order to obtain a reduced rate of withholding tax pursuant to an applicable tax treaty, you must submit to us, prior to the dividend payment date, such evidence of tax residence as the Korean tax authorities may require in order to establish your entitlement to the benefits of the applicable tax treaty. A holder of American depositary shares (“ADSs”) may submit evidence of tax residence to us through the depositary.

Taxation of Capital Gains from Transfer of Common Shares or American Depositary Shares

As a general rule, capital gains earned by non-residents upon transfer of our common shares or ADSs are subject to a Korean withholding tax at the lower of (1) 11% (including local income surtax) of the gross proceeds realized or (2) 22% (including local income surtax) of the net realized gain, subject to the production of satisfactory evidence of acquisition costs and certain direct transaction costs associated with common shares or ADSs, unless exempt from Korean income taxation under an applicable tax treaty between Korea and the country of your tax residence. See “– Tax Treaties” below for a discussion on treaty benefits. Even if you do not qualify for the exemption under a tax treaty, you will not be subject to the foregoing withholding tax on capital gains if you meet certain requirements for the exemption under Korean domestic tax laws discussed in the following paragraphs.

You will not be subject to the Korean income taxation on capital gains realized upon a transfer of our common shares through the Korea Exchange if you (1) have no permanent establishment in Korea and (2) do not own and have never owned (together with any shares owned by any entity with which you have a special relationship and possibly including the shares represented by the ADSs) 25% or more of our total issued and outstanding shares 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 the tax law amendments effective for capital gains recognized or to be recognized from disposition of ADSs on or after January 1, 2008, ADSs are viewed as shares of stock for capital gains tax purposes. Accordingly, capital gains from sale or disposition of ADSs are taxed (if taxable) as if such gains are from sale or disposition of shares of our common stock. It should be noted that (i) capital gains earned by you (regardless of whether you have a permanent establishment in Korea) from a transfer of ADSs outside 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 ADSs is deemed to be an overseas issuance under the STTCL, but (ii) in the case where an owner of the underlying shares of stock transfers ADSs after conversion of the underlying shares into ADSs, the exemption under the STTCL described in (i) will not apply. In the case where an owner of the underlying shares of stock transfers the ADSs after conversion of the underlying shares of stock into ADSs, such person is obligated to file corporate income tax returns and pay tax unless a purchaser or a financial investment company with a brokerage license, as applicable, withholds and pays the tax on capital gains derived from transfer of ADSs, as discussed below.

If you are subject to tax on capital gains with respect to a sale of common shares or ADSs, the purchaser or, in the case of a sale of common shares on the Korea Exchange or through a financial investment company with a brokerage license in Korea, the financial investment company is required to withhold Korean tax from the sales proceeds in an amount equal to 11% (including local income surtax) of the gross realization proceeds and to remit the withheld tax to the Korean tax authority, unless you establish your entitlement to an exemption under an applicable tax treaty or domestic tax law or produce satisfactory evidence of your acquisition costs and certain direct transaction costs associated with common shares or ADSs. To obtain the benefit of a tax exemption pursuant to a tax treaty, you must submit to the purchaser, the financial investment company or the ADR depositary, as the case may be, prior to or at the time of payment, such evidence of your tax residence as the Korean tax authorities may require in support of your claim for treaty benefits. See the discussion under “– Tax Treaties” below for an additional explanation of claiming treaty benefits.

Tax Treaties

Korea has entered into a number of income tax treaties with other countries, including the United States, which reduce or exempt Korean withholding tax on the income derived by residents of such treaty countries. For example, under the Korea-U.S. income tax treaty, reduced rates of Korean withholding tax on dividends of 16.5% or 11.0%, respectively (including local income surtax), depending on your shareholding ratio, and an exemption from Korean withholding tax on capital gains are generally available to residents of the United States that are beneficial owners of the relevant dividend income or capital gains. However, under Article 17 (Investment or Holding Companies) of the Korea-U.S. income tax treaty, such reduced rates and exemption do not apply if (1) you are a United States corporation, (2) by reason of any special measures the tax imposed on you by the United States with respect to such dividends or capital gains is substantially less than the tax generally imposed by the United States on corporate profits, and (3) 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-U.S. 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 gives rise to capital gains are effectively connected with such permanent establishment, (b) you are an individual and you maintain a fixed base in Korea for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the taxable year and your common shares, or ADSs 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 a period or periods of 183 days or more during the taxable year.

You should inquire for yourself whether you are entitled to the benefit of an income tax treaty with Korea. 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, the financial investment company, or other withholding agent, as the case may be, a certificate as to his tax residence. In the absence of sufficient proof, we, the purchaser, the financial investment company, or other withholding agent, as the case may be, must withhold tax at the normal rates. Furthermore, in order for you to obtain the benefit of a tax exemption on certain Korean source income

(e.g., dividends or capital gains) under an applicable tax treaty, Korean tax law requires you (or your agent) to submit an application for tax exemption along with a certificate of your tax residency issued by the competent authority of your country of tax residence, subject to certain exceptions. For example, a U.S. resident would be required provide Form 6166 as a certificate of tax residency with the application for tax exemption. Such application should be submitted to an appropriate district tax office by the ninth day of the month following the date of the first payment of such income.

Inheritance Tax and Gift Tax

If you die while holding an ADS or donate an ADS, it is unclear whether, for Korean inheritance and gift tax purposes, you would be treated as the owner of the shares of common stock underlying the ADSs. If the tax authority interprets depositary receipts as the underlying share certificates, you may be treated as the owner of the shares of common stock and your heir or the donee (or in certain circumstances, you as the donor) will be subject to Korean inheritance or gift tax, which ranges from 10% to 50% recently, assessable based on the value of the ADSs or shares of common stock and the identity of the individual against whom the tax is assessed.

If you die while holding a common share or donate a subscription right or a common share, your heir or donee (or in certain circumstances, you as the donor) will be subject to Korean inheritance or gift tax at the same rate as indicated above.

At present, Korea has not entered into any tax treaty relating to inheritance or gift taxes.

Securities Transaction Tax

If you transfer common shares through the Korea Exchange, you will be subject to a securities transaction tax at the rate of 0.15% and an agriculture and fishery special surtax at the rate of 0.15% of the sales price of common shares. If your transfer of common shares is not made through the Korea Exchange, subject to certain exceptions, you will be subject to a securities transaction tax at the rate of 0.5% but will not be subject to an agriculture and fishery special surtax.

Depositary receipts, which the ADSs constitute, are included in the scope of securities transfer subject to securities transaction tax effective starting with transfers occurring on or after January 1, 2011. Nonetheless, transfer of depositary receipts listed on a foreign securities exchange similar to the Korea (e.g. the New York Stock Exchange, the NASDAQ National Market) will not be subject to the securities transaction tax.

In principle, the securities transaction tax, if applicable, must be paid by a transferor of common shares. When a transfer is affected through a securities settlement company, such settlement company is generally required to withhold and remit the tax to the tax authorities. When such transfer is made through a financial investment company only, such financial investment company is required to withhold and remit the tax. Where a transfer is affected by a non-resident who has no permanent establishment in Korea by a method other than through a securities settlement company or a financial investment company, the transferee is required to withhold the securities transaction tax.

Non-reporting or underreporting of securities transaction tax will generally result in the imposition of penalties equal to 20% to 40% of the non-reported or 10% to 40% of underreported tax amount and a failure to timely pay securities transaction tax due will result in penalties of 10.95% per annum of the due but unpaid tax. The penalty is imposed on the party responsible for paying the securities transaction tax or, if the securities transaction tax is to be withheld, on the party that has the withholding obligation.

Certain United States Federal Income Tax Consequences

The following summary describes certain U.S. federal income tax considerations for beneficial owners of our common shares or ADSs that hold the common shares or ADSs as capital assets and are “U.S. holders.” You are a “U.S. holder” if you are for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- (i) a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- (ii) a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or District of Columbia;

(iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source;

(iv) a trust that is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and has one or more U.S. persons with authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust; or

(v) a trust that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

In addition, this summary only applies to you if you are a U.S. holder that is a resident of the United States for purposes of the current income tax treaty between the United States and Korea (the "Treaty"), your common shares or ADSs are not, for purposes of the Treaty, effectively connected with a permanent establishment in Korea and you otherwise qualify for the full benefits of the Treaty.

This summary is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and regulations (including proposed regulations), rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, as well as the Treaty, all of which are subject to change, perhaps retroactively. It is for general purposes only and you should not consider it to be tax advice. In addition, it is based in part on representations by the ADS depository and assumes that each obligation under the deposit agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. This summary does not represent a detailed description of all the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances, and does not address the effects of any state, local or non-U.S. tax laws. In addition, it does not represent a detailed description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including if you are:

- a bank;
- a dealer in securities or currencies;
- an insurance company or one of certain financial institutions;
- a regulated investment company;
- a real estate investment trust;
- a tax-exempt entity;
- a trader in securities that has elected to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;
- a person holding common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, conversion, constructive sale or integrated transaction or a straddle;
- a person liable for the alternative minimum tax;
- a partnership or other pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a person who owns or is deemed to own 10% or more of our voting stock; or
- a person whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

If a partnership holds our common shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our common shares or ADSs, you are urged to consult your tax advisor.

You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the particular U.S. federal tax consequences to you of the ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs as well as any consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

American Depositary Shares

If you hold ADSs, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you generally will be treated as the owner of the underlying common shares that are represented by such ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of common shares for ADSs will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

The U.S. Treasury Department has expressed concerns that intermediaries in the chain of ownership between holders of ADSs and the issuer of the securities underlying the ADSs may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for U.S. holders of ADSs. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax, described below, applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. holders. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Korean taxes and the availability of the reduced rate of tax for dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. holders, each as described below, could be affected by actions taken by intermediaries in the chain of ownership between the holder of an ADS and our company.

Distributions on Common Shares or American Depositary Shares

Subject to the discussion below under “Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules,” the gross amount of distributions on our common shares or ADSs (including amounts withheld to reflect Korean withholding tax) will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Such income (including withheld taxes) will be includable in your gross income as ordinary income on the day you actually or constructively receive it, in the case of our common shares, or the day actually or constructively received by the ADS depository, in the case of ADSs. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code.

With respect to non-corporate U.S. holders, certain dividends received in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2013 from a qualified foreign corporation may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. A qualified foreign corporation includes a foreign corporation that is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States which the U.S. Treasury Department determines to be satisfactory for these purposes and which includes an exchange of information provision. The U.S. Treasury Department has determined that the Treaty meets these requirements, and we believe we are eligible for the benefits of the Treaty. A foreign corporation is also treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid by that corporation on shares (or ADSs backed by such shares) that are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Our common shares will generally not be considered readily tradable for these purposes. U.S. Treasury Department guidance indicates that securities such as our ADSs, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, are treated as readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States for these purposes. There can be no assurance that our ADSs will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in later years. Non-corporate U.S. holders that do not meet a minimum holding period requirement during which they are not protected from a risk of loss or that elect to treat the dividend income as “investment income” pursuant to Section 163(d)(4) of the Code will not be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation regardless of our status as a qualified foreign corporation. In addition, the rate reduction will not apply to dividends if the recipient of a dividend is obligated to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. This disallowance applies even if the minimum holding period has been met. Furthermore, non-corporate U.S. holders will not be eligible for the rate reduction if we are a passive foreign investment company (as discussed below under “Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules”) in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or were a passive foreign investment company in the preceding taxable year. If you are a non-corporate U.S. holder, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the application of these rules given your particular circumstances.

The amount of any dividend paid in Korean Won will equal the U.S. dollar value of the Korean Won received calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date you receive the dividend, in the case of our common shares, or the date received by the ADS depository, in the case of ADSs, regardless of whether the Korean Won are converted into U.S. dollars. If the Korean Won received are not converted into U.S. dollars on the day of receipt, you will have a basis in the Korean Won equal to their U.S. dollar value on the date of receipt. Any gain or loss realized on a subsequent conversion or other disposition of the Korean Won will be treated as United States source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to certain significant conditions and limitations, Korean taxes withheld from dividends (at a rate not exceeding the rate provided in the Treaty) will be treated as foreign income taxes eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability. See “– Korean Taxation – Taxation of Dividends on Shares of Common Stock or American Depositary Shares” for a discussion of the Treaty rate. Korean taxes withheld in excess of the

rate provided in the Treaty will not be eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax until you exhaust all effective and practical remedies to recover such excess withholding, including the seeking of competent authority assistance from the Internal Revenue Service. For purposes of the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on our common shares or ADSs will be treated as income from sources outside the United States and will generally constitute passive category income. If you do not elect to claim a credit for any foreign taxes paid during a taxable year, you may instead elect, subject to certain limitations, to claim a deduction in respect of such foreign taxes, provided that you apply this election to all foreign taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year.

Further, in certain circumstances, if you have held our common shares or ADSs for less than a specified minimum period during which you are not protected from risk of loss, or are obligated to make payments related to the dividends, you will not be allowed a foreign tax credit for foreign taxes imposed on dividends paid on our common shares or ADSs. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital, causing a reduction of your adjusted basis in our common shares or ADSs (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized by you on a subsequent disposition of our common shares or ADSs), and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange. Consequently, such distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would generally not give rise to foreign source income and you would generally not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Korean withholding tax imposed on such distributions unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against U.S. federal income tax due on other foreign source income in the appropriate category for foreign tax credit purposes. However, we do not expect to determine earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should expect that a distribution will be reported and generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

Distributions of our common shares (including ADSs) or rights to subscribe for our common shares that are received as part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders (including holders of ADSs) generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax to recipient common shareholders (including holders of ADSs). Consequently, such distributions will not give rise to foreign source income and you will not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Korean withholding tax unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against U.S. tax due on other income derived from foreign sources.

Disposition of Common Shares or American Depositary Shares

Subject to the discussion under “— Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules,” upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common shares or ADSs, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized upon the sale, exchange or other disposition and your adjusted tax basis in our common shares or ADSs, as the case may be. The capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange or other disposition, our common shares or ADSs have been held for more than one year. Capital gains of individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss you recognize on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common shares or ADSs will generally be treated as United States source gain or loss. Consequently, you may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Korean tax imposed on the disposition of our common shares or ADSs unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources.

You should note that any Korean securities transaction tax generally will not be treated as a creditable foreign tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes, although you may be entitled to deduct such taxes, subject to applicable limitations under the Code.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based upon the past and projected composition of our income and valuation of our assets, we do not believe that we were a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”) for 2010, and we do not expect to be a PFIC in

2011 or to become one in the foreseeable future, although there can be no assurance in this regard. However, PFIC status is a factual determination that is made annually. Accordingly, it is possible that we may become a PFIC in the current or any future taxable year due to changes in valuation or composition of our income or assets.

In general, we will be considered a PFIC for any taxable year if either:

- at least 75% of our gross income is passive income; or
- at least 50% of the value of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

The 50% of value test is based on the average of the value of our assets for each quarter during the taxable year. For this purpose, passive income generally includes dividends, interest, royalties and rents (other than royalties and rents derived in the active conduct of a trade or business and not derived from a related person). Certain proposed U.S. Treasury regulations and other administrative pronouncements from the Internal Revenue Service provide special rules for determining the character of income and assets derived in the active conduct of a banking business for purposes of the PFIC rules. Specifically, these rules treat certain income earned by a non-U.S. corporation engaged in the active conduct of a banking business as non-passive income. Although we believe we have adopted a reasonable interpretation of the proposed U.S. Treasury regulations and administrative pronouncements, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will follow the same interpretation. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the application of these rules.

If we own at least 25% by value of another company's stock, we will be treated, for purposes of the PFIC rules, as owning our proportionate share of the assets and receiving our proportionate share of the income of that company.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our common shares or ADSs, you will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any "excess distribution" that you receive and any gain you realize from the sale or other disposition (including a pledge) of our common shares or ADSs. These special tax rules generally will apply even if we cease to be a PFIC in future years. Distributions you receive in a taxable year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions you received during the shorter of the three preceding taxable years or your holding period for our common shares or ADSs will be treated as excess distributions. Under these special tax rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over your holding period for our common shares or ADSs;
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year, and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year in which we are a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income; and
- the amount allocated to each other year will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for that year, and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

In certain circumstances, you could make a mark-to-market election, under which in lieu of being subject to the special rules discussed above, you will include gain on our common shares or ADSs on a mark-to-market basis as ordinary income, provided that our common shares or ADSs are regularly traded on a qualified exchange or other market. Our common shares are listed on the Korea Exchange, which must meet certain trading, listing, financial disclosure and other requirements to be treated as a qualified exchange under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations for purposes of the mark-to-market election, and no assurance can be given that the common shares are or will continue to be "regularly traded" for purposes of the mark-to-market election. Our ADSs are currently listed on the New York Stock Exchange, which constitutes a qualified exchange, although there can be no assurance that the ADSs are or will be "regularly traded." If you make a valid mark-to-market election, you will include in each year as ordinary income the excess of the fair market value of your common shares or ADSs at the end of the year over your adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs. You will be entitled to deduct as an ordinary loss each year the excess of your adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs over their fair market value at the end of the year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. If you make an effective mark-to-market election, any gain you recognize