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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, these securities companies and asset management companies 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 foreign investors having to open their own accounts with foreign exchange banks.

Item 10E. Taxation

Korean Taxes

The following summary describes the material Korean tax consequences of ownership of the Registered Debt Securities and ADSs. Persons considering the purchase of the Registered Debt Securities or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the application of the Korean income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction. Reference is also made to a tax treaty between the Republic and the United States entitled "Convention Between the Government of The Republic of Korea and the Government of the United States of America for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and the Encouragement of International Trade and Investment," signed on June 4, 1976 and entered into force on October 20, 1979.

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

- a resident of Korea;
- a corporation organized under Korean law or having 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.

Registered Debt Securities

Taxation of Interest

Pursuant to the Special Tax Treatment Control Law ("STTCL"), when we make payments of interest to you on the Registered Debt Securities, no amount will be withheld from such payments for, or on account of, any income taxes of any kind imposed, levied, withheld or assessed by Korea or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein.

If the tax exemption under the STTCL referred to above were to cease to be in effect, the rate of income tax or corporation tax applicable to the interest on the Registered Debt Securities would be 14% of income for a non-resident without a permanent establishment in Korea. In addition, a tax surcharge called a local income surtax would be imposed at the rate of 10.0% of the income tax or corporation tax (which would increase the total tax rate to 15.4%), unless reduction is available under an applicable income tax treaty. If you are a qualified resident in a country that has entered into a tax treaty with Korea, you may qualify for an exemption or a reduced rate of Korean withholding tax. See the discussion under "—Shares or ADSs—Tax Treaties" below for an additional explanation on treaty benefits.

In order to obtain the benefits of an exemption or a reduced withholding tax rate under a tax treaty, you must submit to us, prior to the interest payment date, such evidence of tax residence as may be required by the Korean tax authorities in order to establish your entitlement to the benefits of the applicable tax treaty.

Taxation of Capital Gains

Korean tax laws currently exclude from Korean taxation gains made by a non-resident without permanent establishment in Korea from the sale of a Registered Debt Security to another non-resident (except where a

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non-resident sells Registered Debt Securities to another non-resident who has permanent establishments in Korea, if any). In addition, capital gains realized from the transfer of Registered Debt Securities outside Korea by non-residents with or without permanent establishments in Korea are currently exempt from taxation by virtue of the STTCL, provided that the issuance of such Registered Debt Securities is deemed to be an overseas issuance under the STTCL. If you sell or otherwise dispose of a Registered Debt Security through other ways than those mentioned above, any gain realized on the transaction will be taxable at ordinary Korean withholding tax rates (which is the lesser of 22.0% (including local income surtax) of the net gain or 11.0% (including local income surtax) of the gross sale proceeds, subject to the production of satisfactory evidence of the acquisition cost of such Registered Debt Securities and net of certain direct transaction costs attributable to the disposal of such Registered Debt Securities), unless an exemption is available under an applicable income tax treaty. See the discussion under “–Shares or ADSs–Tax Treaties” below for an additional explanation on treaty benefits.

Inheritance Tax and Gift Tax

If you die while you are the holder of Registered Debt Securities, the subsequent transfer of the Registered Debt Securities by way of succession will be subject to Korean inheritance tax. Similarly, if you transfer Registered Debt Securities as a gift, the donee will be subject to Korean gift tax and you may be required to pay the gift tax if the donee fails to do so.

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

Shares or ADSs

Dividends on the Shares of Common Stock or ADSs

We will deduct Korean withholding tax from dividends (whether in cash or in shares) paid to you at a rate of 22% (inclusive of 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 the discussion under “–Tax Treaties” below for an additional explanation on treaty benefits.

In order to obtain the benefits of a reduced withholding tax rate under a tax treaty, you must submit to us, prior to the dividend payment date, such evidence of tax residence as may be required by the Korean tax authorities in order to establish your entitlement to the benefits of the applicable tax treaty. Evidence of tax residence may be submitted to us through the ADS depository. 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 Korean withholding tax.

Taxation of Capital Gains

As a general rule, capital gains earned by non-residents upon the transfer of the common shares or ADSs would be subject to Korean withholding tax at a rate equal to the lesser of (i) 11.0% of the gross proceeds realized or (ii) 22.0% of the net realized gain (subject to the production of satisfactory evidence of the acquisition costs and certain direct transaction costs arising out of the transfer of such common shares or ADSs), unless such non-resident is exempt from Korean income taxation under an applicable Korean tax treaty into which Korea has entered with the non-resident’s country of tax residence. Please see the discussion under “–Tax Treaties” below for an additional explanation on treaty benefits. Even if you do not qualify for any exemption under a tax treaty, you will not be subject to the foregoing withholding tax on capital gains if you qualify for the relevant Korean domestic tax law exemptions discussed in the following paragraphs.

You will not be subject to Korean income taxation on capital gains realized upon the transfer of our common stocks or ADSs through the Korea Exchange if you (i) have no permanent establishment in Korea and (ii) did not own or have not owned (together with any shares owned by any entity which you have a certain

special relationship with and possibly including the shares represented by the ADSs) 25.0% 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 calendar years prior to the calendar year in which the sale occurs.

It should be noted that (i) capital gains earned by you (regardless of whether you have a permanent establishment in Korea) from the transfer of ADSs outside Korea will be exempted from Korean income taxation provided that ADSs are deemed to have been issued overseas, but (ii) if and when an owner of the underlying shares of stock transfers ADSs after conversion of the underlying shares into ADSs, the exemption described in (i) is not applicable.

If you are subject to tax on capital gains with respect to the sale of ADSs, or of shares of common stock which you acquired as a result of a withdrawal, the purchaser or, in the case of the sale of shares of common stock on the Korea Exchange or through an investment dealer or investment broker under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act, an investment dealer or investment broker is required to withhold Korean tax from the sales price in an amount equal to 11.0% (including resident surtax) of the gross realization proceeds 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 or produce satisfactory evidence of your acquisition cost and transaction costs for the shares of common stock or the ADSs.

However, if you transfer the ADSs following an exchange of the underlying shares of stock owned by you for ADSs, you are obligated to file a corporate income tax return and pay tax on gain realized from such transfer unless a purchaser or an investment dealer or investment broker, as the case may be, withholds and remits the tax on capital gains derived from transfer of ADSs, as discussed above. Further, if you transfer the shares of common stock outside of Korea (excluding a transfer on a foreign exchange) to non-residents or foreign companies without having permanent establishments in Korea, you are obligated to file an income tax return and pay income tax on capital gain realized from such transfer unless exempt under an applicable tax treaty or domestic law. If a purchaser or an investment dealer or investment broker, as the case may be, withhold and remits the tax on capital gains derived from transfer of shares of common stock or ADSs, your obligation to file an income tax return and pay income tax will be exempt.

To obtain the benefit of an exemption from tax pursuant to a tax treaty, you must submit to the purchaser or the investment dealer or the investment broker, or through the ADS depository, 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. Please see the discussion under “Tax Treaties” below for an additional explanation 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, shares of our common stock or ADSs. For example, under the Korea-United States income tax treaty, reduced rates of Korean withholding tax of 16.5% or 11.0% (respectively, including local income surtax, depending on your shareholding ratio) 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. However, under Article 17 (Investment of 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 dividends or capital gains is substantially less than the tax generally imposed by the United States on corporate profits, and (iii) 25.0% 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 you are an individual, and (a) you maintain a

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fixed base in Korea for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the taxable year and your ADSs or shares of common stock giving rise to capital gains are effectively connected with such fixed base or (b) 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 or the investment dealer or the investment broker, as applicable, a certificate as to his tax residence. In the absence of sufficient proof, we, the purchaser or the investment dealer or the investment broker, as applicable, must withhold tax at the normal rates. Further, in order for you to obtain the benefit of a tax exemption on certain Korean source income (e.g., interest, dividends and capital gains) under an applicable tax treaty, Korean tax law requires you (or your agent) to submit 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. Such application should be submitted to the relevant 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 will be treated as the owner of the shares of common stock underlying the ADSs. If the tax authority interprets depository 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 presently at the rate of 10.0% to 50.0%, depending on the value of the ADSs or shares of common stock.

If you die while holding a share of common stock or donate a share of common stock, 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 shares of common stock on the Stock Market of the Korea Exchange, you will be subject to securities transaction tax at the rate of 0.15% and an agriculture and fishery special surtax at the rate of 0.15% of the sale price of the shares of common stock. If your transfer of the shares of common stock is not made on the Stock Market of the Korea Exchange, subject to certain exceptions you will be subject to securities transaction tax at the rate of 0.5% and will not be subject to an agriculture and fishery special surtax.

Under the Securities Transaction Tax Law, capital gains from a transfer of depository receipts listed on the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ National Market or other qualified foreign exchanges will be exempt from the securities transaction tax.

In principle, the securities transaction tax, if applicable, must be paid by the transferor of the shares or rights. When the transfer is effected through the Korea Securities Depository, the Korea Securities Depository is generally required to withhold and pay the tax to the tax authorities. When such transfer is made through an investment dealer or investment broker under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act only, such investment dealer or investment broker is required to withhold and pay the tax. Where the transfer is effected by a non-resident without a permanent establishment in Korea, other than through the Korea Securities Depository or an investment dealer or investment broker, the transferee is required to withhold the securities transaction tax for payment to the Korean tax authority.

U.S. Federal Income and Estate Tax Considerations for U.S. Persons

The following is a summary of certain U.S. Federal income and estate tax consequences for beneficial owners of the Registered Debt Securities, common stock and ADSs that are "U.S. Persons." For purposes of this summary, you are a "U.S. Person" if you are any of the following for U.S. Federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. Federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if (1) it is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) it has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

This summary is based on current law, which is subject to change (perhaps retroactively), is for general purposes only and should not be considered tax advice. This summary does not represent a detailed description of the federal income and estate tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances. The discussion set forth below is applicable to you if (i) you are a resident of the United States for purposes of the current income tax treaty between the United States and Korea (the "Treaty"), (ii) your Registered Debt Securities, common stock or ADSs are not, for purposes of the Treaty, effectively connected with a permanent establishment in Korea and (iii) you otherwise qualify for the full benefits of the Treaty. Except where noted, it deals only with Registered Debt Securities, common stock or ADSs held as capital assets, and it does not represent a detailed description of the U.S. Federal income and estate 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 dealer in securities or currencies, a financial institution, a regulated investment company, a real estate investment trust, an insurance company, a tax exempt organization, a person holding the Registered Debt Securities, common stock or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction, constructive sale or straddle, a person owning 10.0% or more of our voting stock, a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings, a person liable for the alternative minimum tax, an investor in a pass-through entity, or a U.S. Person whose "functional currency" is not the U.S. dollar). We cannot assure you that a change in law will not alter significantly the tax considerations that we describe in this summary.

If a partnership holds the Registered Debt Securities, common stock 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 Registered Debt Securities, common stock, or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisor.

Because of the 100 year maturity of the One Hundred Year 7.95% Zero-to-Full Debentures, due April 1, 2096 (the "ZTF Debentures"), it is not certain whether the ZTF Debentures will be treated as debt for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. The discussion below assumes that the ZTF Debentures (as well as the other Registered Debt Securities) will be treated as debt, except that a summary of the consequences to you if the ZTF Debentures were not treated as debt is provided under "Tax Consequences with Respect to Registered Debt Securities Generally—Payments—ZTF Debentures Treated as Equity" below.

The discussion of the tax consequences of ownership of common stock and ADSs below, is based, in part, upon representations made by the Depositary to us and assumes that the Deposit Agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

You should consult your own tax advisor concerning the particular U.S. Federal income and estate tax consequences to you of the ownership of the Registered Debt Securities, common stock and ADSs, as well as the consequences to you arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

Tax Consequences with Respect to Registered Debt Securities Generally

Payments

Except as provided below with regard to original issue discount on the ZTF Debentures, interest payments on a Registered Debt Security will generally be taxable to you as ordinary income at the time it is paid or accrued in accordance with your method of accounting for tax purposes. Principal payments on an amortizing Registered Debt Security generally will constitute a tax-free return of capital to you.

Although interest payments to you are currently exempt from Korean taxation, if the Korean law providing for the exemption is repealed, then, in addition to interest payments on the Registered Debt Securities and original issue discount (as defined below) on the ZTF Debentures, you will be required to include in income any additional amounts and any Korean tax withheld from interest payments notwithstanding that you in fact did not receive such withheld tax. You may be entitled to deduct or credit such Korean tax (up to the Treaty rate), subject to applicable limitations in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Your election to deduct or credit foreign taxes will apply to all of your foreign taxes for a particular taxable year. Interest income on a Registered Debt Security (including additional amounts and any Korean taxes withheld in respect thereof) and original issue discount on a ZTF Debenture generally will constitute foreign source income and generally will be considered passive category income for purposes of computing the foreign tax credit. You may be denied a foreign tax credit for Korean taxes imposed with respect to the Registered Debt Securities where you do not meet a minimum holding period requirement during which you are not protected from risk of loss. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Original Issue Discount

The ZTF Debentures were issued with original issue discount, or OID, for U.S. Federal income tax purposes equal to the difference between (i) the sum of all scheduled amounts payable on the ZTF Debentures (including the interest payable on such ZTF Debentures) and (ii) the "issue price" of the ZTF Debentures. The "issue price" of each ZTF Debenture is the first price at which a substantial amount of the ZTF Debentures was sold to the public (other than to an underwriter, broker, placement agent or wholesaler). If you hold ZTF Debentures, then you generally must include OID in gross income in advance of the receipt of cash attributable to that income, regardless of your method of accounting. However, you generally will not be required to include separately in income cash payments received on the ZTF Debentures, even if denominated as interest.

The amount of OID includible in income by the initial holder of a ZTF Debenture is the sum of the "daily portions" of OID with respect to the ZTF Debenture for each day during the taxable year or portion of the taxable year in which such holder held such ZTF Debenture, or accrued OID (for a discussion relevant to subsequent purchasers, see "Market Discount" and "Bond Premium," below). The daily portion is determined by allocating to each day in any "accrual period" a pro rata portion of the OID allocable to that accrual period. The "accrual period" for a ZTF Debenture may be of any length and may vary in length over the term of the ZTF Debenture, provided that each accrual period is no longer than one year and each scheduled payment of principal or interest occurs on the first day or the final day of an accrual period. The amount of OID allocable to any accrual period other than the final accrual period is an amount equal to the product of the ZTF Debenture's adjusted issue price at the beginning of such accrual period and its yield to maturity (determined on the basis of compounding at the close of each accrual period and properly adjusted for the length of the accrual period). OID allocable to a final accrual period is the difference between the amount payable at maturity and the adjusted issue price at the beginning of the final accrual period. The "adjusted issue price" of a ZTF Debenture at the beginning of any accrual period is equal to its issue price increased by the accrued OID for each prior accrual period (for

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subsequent purchasers, determined without regard to the amortization of any acquisition or bond premium, as described below) and reduced by any payments previously made on such ZTF Debenture. Under these rules, you will have to include in income increasingly greater amounts of OID in successive accrual periods. We are required to provide information returns stating the amount of OID accrued on ZTF Debentures held of record by persons other than corporations and other exempt holders.

As discussed above, although interest payments to you are currently exempt from Korean taxation, if the Korean law providing for the exemption is repealed, then Korean withholding tax may be imposed at times that differ from the times at which you are required to include interest or OID in income for U.S. Federal income tax purposes and this disparity may limit the amount of foreign tax credit available.

Market Discount

If you purchase a Registered Debt Security other than a ZTF Debenture for an amount that is less than its stated redemption price at maturity, or, in the case of a ZTF Debenture, its adjusted issue price, the amount of the difference will be treated as "market discount" for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, unless that difference is less than a specified de minimis amount. Under the market discount rules, you will be required to treat any payment, other than qualified stated interest (as defined in the Code), on, or any gain on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of, a Registered Debt Security as ordinary income to the extent of the market discount that you have not previously included in income and are treated as having accrued on the Registered Debt Security at the time of its payment or disposition. In addition, you may be required to defer, until the maturity of the Registered Debt Security or its earlier disposition in a taxable transaction, the deduction of all or a portion of the interest expense on any indebtedness attributable to the Registered Debt Security.

Any market discount will be considered to accrue ratably during the period from the date of acquisition to the maturity date of the Registered Debt Security, unless you elect to accrue on a constant interest method. Your election to accrue market discount on a constant interest method is to be made for the taxable year in which you acquired the Registered Debt Security, applies only to that Registered Debt Security and cannot be revoked. You may elect to include market discount in income currently as it accrues, on either a ratable or constant interest method, in which case the rule described above regarding deferral of interest deductions will not apply. Your election to include market discount in income currently, once made, applies to all market discount obligations acquired by you on or after the first taxable year to which your election applies and may not be revoked without the consent of the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). You should consult your own tax advisor before making this election.

Bond Premium

If you purchase a ZTF Debenture for an amount that is greater than its adjusted issue price but equal to or less than the sum of all amounts payable on the ZTF Debenture after the purchase date, you will be considered to have purchased that ZTF Debenture at an "acquisition premium." Under the acquisition premium rules, the amount of OID that you must include in gross income with respect to a ZTF Debenture for any taxable year will be reduced by the portion of the acquisition premium properly allocable to that year.

If you purchase a Registered Debt Security for an amount in excess of the sum of all amounts payable on the Registered Debt Security after the purchase date other than qualified stated interest, you will be considered to have purchased the Registered Debt Security at a "premium" and, if such Registered Debt Security is a ZTF Debenture, you will not be required to include any OID in income. You generally may elect to amortize the premium over the remaining term of the Registered Debt Security on a constant yield method as an offset to interest when includible in income under your regular accounting method. In the case of instruments that provide for alternative payment schedules, bond premium is calculated by assuming that (a) you will exercise or not exercise options in a manner that maximizes your yield, and (b) we will exercise or not exercise options in a manner that minimizes your yield (except that we will be assumed to exercise call options in a manner that

maximizes your yield). If you do not elect to amortize bond premium, that premium will decrease the gain or increase the loss you would otherwise recognize on disposition of a Registered Debt Security. Your election to amortize premium on a constant yield method will also apply to all debt obligations held or subsequently acquired by you on or after the first day of the first taxable year to which the election applies. You may not revoke the election without the consent of the IRS. You should consult your own tax advisor before making this election.

Sale, Exchange and Retirement of Registered Debt Securities

When you sell, exchange or retire a Registered Debt Security, you will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount you receive (not including an amount equal to any accrued qualified stated interest, which will be taxable as ordinary income to the extent not previously included in income) and your adjusted tax basis in the Registered Debt Security. Your tax basis in a Registered Debt Security other than a ZTF Debenture will generally be your cost of obtaining the Registered Debt Security increased by any market discount included in income and reduced by payments of principal you receive and any bond premium that you elect to amortize. Your adjusted tax basis in a ZTF Debenture will, in general, be your cost therefor, increased by any market discount and OID previously included in income and reduced by any cash payments on the ZTF Debentures and any bond premium that you elect to amortize. Your gain or loss realized on selling, exchanging or retiring a Registered Debt Security will generally be treated as United States source income. Consequently, you may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Korean tax imposed on the disposition of Registered Debt Securities unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources. Except as described above with respect to market discount, your gain or loss will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if, at the time of the sale, exchange or retirement of a Registered Debt Security, you have held the Registered Debt Security for more than one year. If you are an individual and the Registered Debt Security being sold, exchanged or retired is a capital asset that you held for more than one year, you may be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any capital gain recognized. Your ability to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations.

ZTF Debentures Treated as Equity

If the ZTF Debentures were treated as equity for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, amounts deemed paid with respect to the ZTF Debentures would be deemed dividends for U.S. Federal income tax purposes to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. Federal income tax purposes).

You would include the amounts deemed paid by us on the ZTF Debentures (before reduction for Korean withholding tax, if any) as dividend income when actually or constructively paid by KEPCO. Section 305 of the Code, which would apply to the ZTF Debentures if they were treated as equity for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, requires current accrual of dividends under principles similar to the accrual of OID. Amounts treated as dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations.

Tax Consequences with Respect to Common Stock and ADSs

In general, for U.S. Federal income tax purposes, holders of ADSs will be treated as the owners of the underlying common stock that is represented by such ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of common stock by holders of ADSs will not be subject to U.S. Federal income tax. However, the U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that intermediaries in the chain of ownership between the holder of an ADS and the issuer of the security underlying the ADS may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by the holders of ADSs. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate holders. Accordingly, the analysis of creditability of Korean taxes and the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders, each described below, could be affected by future actions that may be taken by such intermediaries.

Distributions on Common Stock or ADSs

The gross amount of distributions (other than certain distributions of common stock or rights to subscribe for common stock) to holders of common stock or ADSs (including amounts withheld in respect of Korean withholding taxes) will be treated as dividend income to such holders, 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 the gross income of a holder as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by the holder, in the case of common stock, or by the Depositary, 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. Persons, certain dividends paid by a qualified foreign corporation and received by such holders in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2013 may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. A qualified foreign corporation includes a foreign corporation that is eligible for the benefits of an income tax treaty with the United States, if such treaty contains an exchange of information provision and the United States Treasury Department had determined that the treaty is satisfactory for purposes of the legislation. The United States Treasury Department has determined that the Treaty, which contains an exchange of information provision, is (in the absence of additional guidance) satisfactory for these purposes. In addition, we believe we are eligible for the benefits of the United States-Korean income tax treaty. However, 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. Shares of our common stock will generally not be considered readily tradable for these purposes. However, United States Treasury Department guidance indicates that our ADSs, which are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. 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. Persons 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. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the foregoing rules to their particular circumstances.

The amount of any dividend paid in Won will equal the United States dollar value of the Won received calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the dividend is received by the holder, in the case of common stock, or by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs, regardless of whether the Won are converted into U.S. dollars. If the Won received as a dividend are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, a holder will have a basis in the 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 Won will be treated as United States source ordinary income or loss. The amount of any distribution of property other than cash will be the fair market value of such property on the date of distribution.

The maximum rate of withholding tax on dividends paid to you pursuant to the Treaty is 16.5%. You will be required to properly demonstrate to us and the Korean tax authorities your entitlement to the reduced rate of withholding under the Treaty. Subject to certain conditions and limitations, Korean withholding taxes (up to the Treaty rate) will be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against your U.S. Federal income tax liability. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the common stock or ADSs will be treated as foreign source income and will generally constitute passive category income. Further, in certain circumstances, if you have held common stock 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 common stock or ADSs. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances including the possible adverse impact on creditability to the extent you are entitled to a refund of any Korean tax withheld or a reduced rate of withholding.

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 in the adjusted basis of the common stock or ADSs (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized by the investor on a subsequent disposition of the common stock or ADSs), and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange of property. Consequently, such distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would not give rise to foreign source income and you generally would 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. tax due on other foreign source income in the appropriate category for foreign tax credit purposes. However, we do not expect to keep earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. Federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

Distributions of common stock or rights to subscribe for common stock that are received as part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. Federal income tax. Consequently such distributions will not give rise to foreign source income and you generally 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. The basis of the new common stock or rights so received will be determined by allocating your basis in the old common stock between the old common stock and the new common stock or rights received, based on their relative fair market value on the date of distribution. However, the basis of the rights will be zero if (i) the fair market value of the rights is less than 15% of the fair market value of the old common stock at the time of distribution, unless the taxpayer elects to determine the basis of the old common stock and of the rights by allocating between the old common stock and the rights the adjusted basis of the old common stock or (ii) the rights are not exercised and thus expire.

Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of ADSs or Common Stock

Upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of ADSs or common stock, 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 the ADSs or common stock. The capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange or other disposition, the ADSs or common stock have been held by you for more than one year. Under current law, long-term capital gains of individuals are, under certain circumstances, taxed at lower rates than items of ordinary income. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss recognized by you will generally be treated as U.S. 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 ADSs or common stock 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 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.

Estate and Gift Taxation

As discussed above in “–Korean Taxes–Registered Debt Securities–Inheritance Tax and Gift Tax” and “–Korean Taxes–Shares or ADSs–Inheritance Tax and Gift Tax,” Korea may impose an inheritance tax on your heir who receives ADSs and will impose an inheritance tax on an heir who receives common stock or Registered Debt Securities. The amount of any inheritance tax paid to Korea may be eligible for credit against the amount of U.S. Federal estate tax imposed on your estate. Prospective purchasers should consult their personal tax advisors to determine whether and to what extent they may be entitled to such credit. Korea also imposes a gift tax on the donation of any property located within Korea. The Korean gift tax generally will not be treated as a creditable foreign tax for United States tax purposes.