

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Spain,

desiring to conclude an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income,

have agreed as follows:

## **CHAPTER I**

### **SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT**

#### **Article 1**

##### **Persons Covered**

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting Parties.

#### **Article 2**

##### **Taxes Covered**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting Party or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are:
  - (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
    - (i) profits tax;
    - (ii) salaries tax; and
    - (iii) property tax;whether or not charged under personal assessment;
  - (b) in the case of Spain:

- (i) the income tax on individuals;
  - (ii) the corporation tax;
  - (iii) the income tax on non residents; and
  - (iv) local taxes on income.
4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes, as well as any other taxes falling within paragraphs 1 and 2 which a Contracting Party may impose in future. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.
5. The existing taxes, together with the taxes imposed after the signature of the Agreement, are hereinafter referred to as “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax” or “Spanish tax”, as the context requires.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **Article 3**

##### **General Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) (i) the term “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” when used in a geographical sense, means the land and sea comprised within the boundary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and any other place where the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China apply;

- (ii) the term “Spain” means the Kingdom of Spain and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory of the Kingdom of Spain, including inland waters, the air space, the territorial sea and any area outside the territorial sea upon which, in accordance with international law and on application of its domestic legislation, the Kingdom of Spain exercises or may exercise in the future jurisdiction or sovereign rights with respect to the seabed, its subsoil and superjacent waters, and their natural resources;
- (b) the term “business” includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
- (c) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (d) the term “competent authority” means:
  - (i) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue or his authorised representative;
  - (ii) in the case of Spain, the Minister of Economy and Finance or his authorised representative;
- (e) the terms “a Contracting Party” and “the other Contracting Party” mean the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or Spain, as the context requires;
- (f) the term “enterprise” applies to the carrying on of any business;
- (g) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting Party” and “enterprise of the other Contracting Party” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting Party and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting Party;
- (h) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting Party, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting Party;

- (i) the term “national”, in relation to Spain means:
    - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of Spain; and
    - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Spain;
  - (j) the term “person” includes an individual, a company, a partnership and any other body of persons;
  - (k) the term “tax” means the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax or Spanish tax, as the context requires.
2. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting Party, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Party for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Party prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Party.

#### **Article 4**

#### **Resident**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting Party” means:
- (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
    - (i) any individual who ordinarily resides in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
    - (ii) any individual who stays in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for more than 180 days during a year of assessment or for more than 300 days in two consecutive years of assessment one of which is the relevant year of assessment provided that he has personal and economic relations with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;

- (iii) a company incorporated in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or, if incorporated outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, being normally managed or controlled in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (iv) any other person constituted under the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or, if constituted outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, being normally managed or controlled in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; and
  - (v) the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- (b) in the case of Spain, any person who, under the laws of Spain, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in Spain in respect only of income from sources in Spain.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1, an individual is a resident of both Contracting Parties, then his status shall be determined as follows:
- (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Parties, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party with which his personal and economic relations are closer (“centre of vital interests”);
  - (b) if the Party in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either Party, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has an habitual abode;
  - (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Parties or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has the right of abode (in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or of which he is a national (in the case of Spain);

- (d) if he has the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is also a national of Spain, or if he does not have the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region nor is he a national of Spain, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1, a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting Parties, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which its place of effective management is situated.

## **Article 5**

### **Permanent Establishment**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:
- (a) a place of management;
  - (b) a branch;
  - (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop; and
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.
3. A building site or construction or installation project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than nine months.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include:
  - (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
  - (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person – other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies – is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting Party an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that Party in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.
6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting Party merely because it carries on business in that Party through a



broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting Party, or which carries on business in that other Party (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **TAXATION OF INCOME**

#### **Article 6**

##### **Income from Immovable Property**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.
2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting Party in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, quarries, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.
3. Any property or right referred to in paragraph 2 shall be regarded as situated where the land, standing timber, mineral deposits, quarries, sources or natural resources are situated.
4. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct

use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

5. Where the ownership of shares or other rights directly or indirectly entitles the owner of such shares or rights to the enjoyment of immovable property, the income derived from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of such right to the enjoyment may be taxed in the Contracting Party in which the immovable property is situated.
6. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise.

## **Article 7**

### **Business Profits**

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting Party shall be taxable only in that Party unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other Party but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting Party carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting Party be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Party in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting Party to determine the profits

to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, or on the basis of such other method as may be prescribed by the laws of that Party, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting Party from determining the profits to be taxed by such apportionment or other method; the method adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.
6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## **Article 8**

### **Shipping and Air Transport**

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting Party from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that Party.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## **Article 9**

### **Associated Enterprises**

1. Where:
  - (a) an enterprise of a Contracting Party participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other

Contracting Party, or

- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting Party and an enterprise of the other Contracting Party,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

- 2. Where a Contracting Party includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Party - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting Party has been charged to tax in that other Party and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Party if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Party shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and for this purpose the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall if necessary consult each other.

## **Article 10**

### **Dividends**

- 1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.
- 2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting Party of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - (a) 0 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is

a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;

(b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of these limitations.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares, “jouissance” shares or “jouissance” rights, mining shares, founders’ shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Party of which the company making the distribution is a resident.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party derives profits or income from the other Contracting Party, that other Party may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other Party or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment situated in that other Party, nor subject the company’s undistributed profits to a tax on the company’s undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other Party.

## **Article 11**

### **Interest**

1. Interest arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.
2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting Party in which it arises and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the interest. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party shall be taxable only in that other Party if the said resident is the beneficial owner of the interest and:
  - (a) is that Contracting Party or the central bank, a political subdivision or local authority thereof;
  - (b) the interest is paid by the Contracting Party in which the interest arises or by a political subdivision, a local authority or statutory body thereof;
  - (c) the interest is paid in respect of a loan, debt-claim or credit that is owed to, or made, provided, guaranteed or insured by, that Contracting Party or a political subdivision, local authority or export facilitating agency thereof;
  - (d) is a financial institution;
  - (e) is a pension fund that is approved for tax purposes by that other Contracting Party and the income of that fund is generally exempt from tax in that other Party.
4. The term “interest” as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor’s profits, and in particular, income from

government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party in which the interest arises through a permanent establishment situated therein and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting Party when the payer is a resident of that Party. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting Party or not, has in a Contracting Party a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Party in which the permanent establishment is situated.
7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest exceeds, for whatever reasons, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting Party, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **Article 12**

### **Royalties**

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting Party in which they arise and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of

the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, or films, tapes and other means of image or sound reproduction, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting Party when the payer is a resident of that Party. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting Party or not, has in a Contracting Party a permanent establishment in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Party in which the permanent establishment is situated.
6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties exceeds, for whatever reasons, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting Party, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.



**Article 13**  
**Capital Gains**

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that other Party.
3. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting Party from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in that Party.
4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from the alienation of shares or comparable interests deriving more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party. However, this paragraph does not apply to gains derived from the alienation of shares quoted on a stock exchange of either Contracting Party or any other stock exchange as may be agreed between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.
5. Gains from the alienation of shares or other rights, which directly or indirectly entitle the owner of such shares or rights to the enjoyment of immovable property situated in a Contracting Party, may be taxed in that Party.
6. Gains from the alienation of any property, other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, shall be taxable only in the Contracting Party of which the alienator is a resident.

**Article 14**  
**Income from Employment**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15, 17 and 18, salaries, wages and other

similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Party unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting Party. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Party.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting Party shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Party if:
  - (a) the recipient is present in the other Party for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the taxable period concerned, and
  - (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other Party, and
  - (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment which the employer has in the other Party.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting Party may be taxed in that Party.

## **Article 15**

### **Directors' Fees**

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.

## **Article 16**

### **Artistes and Sportsmen**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, income derived by a resident of a Contracting Party as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion

picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting Party, may be taxed in that other Party.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, be taxed in the Contracting Party in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

## **Article 17**

### **Pensions**

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 18, pensions and other similar remuneration (including a lump sum payment) paid to a resident of a Contracting Party in consideration of past employment or self-employment shall be taxable only in that Party.

## **Article 18**

### **Government Service**

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration paid by a Contracting Party or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Party or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that Party.
- (b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting Party if the services are rendered in that Party and the individual is a resident of that Party who:
  - (i) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, has the right of abode therein and in the case of Spain, is a national thereof; or
  - (ii) did not become a resident of that Party solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, pensions (including a lump sum payment) and other similar remuneration paid by, or paid out of funds created or contributed by, a Contracting Party or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Party or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that Party.
- (b) However, if the individual who rendered the services is a resident of the other Contracting Party and the case falls within subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1, any corresponding pension (whether a payment in lump sum or by instalments) shall be taxable only in that other Contracting Party.
3. The provisions of Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 shall apply to salaries, wages, pensions (including a lump sum payment) and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting Party or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

## **Article 19**

### **Students**

Payments which a student who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting Party a resident of the other Contracting Party and who is present in the first-mentioned Party solely for the purpose of his education receives for the purpose of his maintenance or education shall not be taxed in that Party, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that Party.

## **Article 20**

### **Other Income**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting Party, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Party.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income

from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

3. Alimony or other maintenance payment paid by a resident of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party shall, to the extent it is not allowable as a deduction to the payer in the first-mentioned Party, be taxable only in that Party.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **METHODS FOR ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION**

#### **Article 21**

##### **Elimination of Double Taxation**

1. Subject to the provisions of the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region relating to the allowance of a credit against Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax of tax paid in a jurisdiction outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (which shall not affect the general principle of this Article), Spanish tax paid under the laws of Spain and in accordance with this Agreement, whether directly or by deduction, in respect of income derived by a person who is a resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from sources in Spain, shall be allowed as a credit against Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax payable in respect of that income, provided that the credit so allowed does not exceed the amount of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax computed in respect of that income in accordance with the tax laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
2. In Spain, double taxation shall be avoided following either the provisions of its internal legislation or the following provisions in accordance with the internal legislation of Spain:

- (a) Where a resident of Spain derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, may be taxed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Spain shall allow:
  - (i) as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (ii) the deduction of the underlying corporation tax in accordance with the internal legislation of Spain.

Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

- (b) Where in accordance with any provision of the Agreement income derived by a resident of Spain is exempt from tax in Spain, Spain may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 22**

##### **Non-Discrimination**

1. Persons who, in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, have the right of abode or are incorporated or otherwise constituted therein, and, in the case of Spain, are Spanish nationals, shall not be subjected in the other Contracting Party to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which persons who have the right of abode or are incorporated

or otherwise constituted in that other Party (where that other Party is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or nationals of that other Party (where that other Party is Spain) in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting Parties.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party shall not be less favourably levied in that other Party than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Party carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting Party to grant to residents of the other Contracting Party any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.
3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Party.
4. Enterprises of a Contracting Party, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting Party, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Party to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned Party are or may be subjected.

## **Article 23**

### **Mutual Agreement Procedure**

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting Parties result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those Parties, present his case to the competent authority

of the Contracting Party of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 22, to that of the Contracting Party in which he has the right of abode or is incorporated or otherwise constituted (in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or of which he is a national (in the case of Spain). The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting Party, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting Parties.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

## **Article 24**

### **Exchange of Information**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws of the Contracting Parties concerning taxes covered by the Agreement, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1.
2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting Party shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that Party and shall be disclosed only to persons or



authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions. Information shall not be disclosed to any third jurisdiction for any purpose.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting Party the obligation:
  - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting Party;
  - (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting Party;
  - (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).
4. If information is requested by a Contracting Party in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting Party shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other Party may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting Party to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.
5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 be construed to permit a Contracting Party to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

## **Article 25**

### **Members of Government Missions**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of government missions, including consular posts, under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

## **Article 26**

### **Entry into Force**

1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify the other in writing through appropriate channels that the internal procedures required by each Contracting Party for the entry into force of this Agreement have been complied with.
2. The Agreement shall enter into force after a period of three months following the date of receipt of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The provisions of the Agreement shall thereupon have effect:
  - (a) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

in respect of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force;
  - (b) in Spain:
    - (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force;

- (ii) in respect of other taxes, for taxation years beginning on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force; and
- (iii) in all other cases, on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the Agreement enters into force.

## **Article 27**

### **Termination**

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting Party. Either Contracting Party may terminate the Agreement, through appropriate channels, by giving the other Contracting Party written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year beginning on or after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- (a) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

in respect of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax, for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given;

- (b) in Spain:

- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given;

- (ii) in respect of other taxes, for taxation years beginning on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given; and

- (iii) in all other cases, on or after 1 April in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate in ..... on the ..... day of ..... 20...., in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Hong Kong Special  
Administrative Region of the People's  
Republic of China

For the Kingdom of Spain

## PROTOCOL

At the time of signing the Agreement between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Spain for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income (the "Agreement"), the Contracting Parties have agreed upon the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

1. In the Agreement, the term "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax" does not include any penalty or interest (including any sum added to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax by reason of default and recovered therewith and "additional tax" under Section 82A of the Inland Revenue Ordinance) imposed under the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region relating to the taxes to which the Agreement applies by virtue of Article 2.
2. Nothing in the Agreement shall prevent each Contracting Party from applying its domestic laws and measures (including anti-abuse provisions) concerning tax avoidance, whether or not described as such.
3. Ad Articles 10, 11, 12, 13 and 20

The provisions of Articles 10, 11, 12, 13 and 20 shall not apply if it was the main purpose or one of the main purposes of any person concerned with the creation or assignment of shares or other rights in respect of which the dividends are paid, the creation or assignment of debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid, the creation or assignment of rights in respect of which the royalties are paid, the alienation of property out of which the gains are made, the creation or assignment of rights in respect of which income is paid to take advantage of these Articles by means of that creation or assignment.

4. Ad Article 11
  - (a) In the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the term "central bank" in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 3 refers to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

- (b) It is understood that “statutory body” in subparagraph (b) of paragraph 3 only refers to those that perform public functions and which are non-profit in nature.

5. Ad Article 18(2)(a)

It is understood that “funds contributed by” refers to payments that may be made by a Contracting Party to pension schemes recognized for tax purposes in that Contracting Party for the purpose of providing for retirement benefits for individuals who render services to that Party.

6. Ad Article 24

- (a) Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its competent authority for the purposes specified in Article 24 (Exchange of Information) has the authority to obtain and provide upon request information regarding the legal and beneficial ownership of any person.
- (b) The competent authority of a Contracting Party shall forward the requested information as promptly as possible to the other Contracting Party.
- (c) In the case of Spain, should any appeal be made against the decision of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region concerning the transmission of the information to Spain, any delay derived therefore will not be considered in computing the applicable time-limits established by the Tax Legislation in Spain concerning tax administration proceedings.

7. Ad Article 25

It is understood that the term “government missions” means, in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Economic and Trade Office, and in the case of Spain, diplomatic missions and consular posts.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Done in duplicate in..... on the ..... day of ..... 20...., in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Hong Kong Special  
Administrative Region of the People's  
Republic of China

For the Kingdom of Spain