

Hong Kong Corporate and Regulatory Insights

July 2021



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Equity Capital Markets

The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (SEHK) publishes revised Meeting Notification e-Form and guideline

SEHK publishes the revised Meeting Notification e-Form and guideline to meet its view to:

- standardize the presentation of routine information in order to reduce processing time;
- reduce the risk of manual input error through the use of data validation within e-Form fields; and
- assist SEHK in collecting and [analyzing](#) data more efficiently.

Click [here](#) to view the revised Meeting Notification e-Form and guideline.

(HKEx, 31 July 2021)

SEHK publishes two Listing Decisions

SEHK publishes two Listing Decisions, i.e. LD130-2021 and LD131-2021, in relation to the questions of whether one listed company's proposed acquisition of a target company constitutes a reverse takeover, and whether SEHK would waive Rule 14.06B so that the proposed acquisition of a target company by a listed company would not be classified as a reverse takeover, respectively.

Click [here](#) to view LD130-2021 and [here](#) to review LD131-2021.

(HKEx, 30 July 2021)

SEHK takes disciplinary action against two former directors of Farnova Group Holdings Limited (the Company) (Stock Code: 8153)

The GEM Listing Committee of SEHK (the GEM Listing Committee) censures:

- Mr. Qian Gang, former non-executive director and Chairman; and
- Mr. Wang De Qun, former non-executive director.

In 2019, Mr. Qian Gang and Mr. Wang De Qun were notified by the Company of two blackout periods in respect of dealings in the securities of the Company. Despite being so advised, Mr. Qian Gang and Mr. Wang De Qun dealt in the Company's shares during the blackout periods without complying with the provisions of the GEM Listing Rules. Subsequently, both of them failed to respond to enquiries made by SEHK in respect of their breaches.

The GEM Listing Committee further states that in SEHK's opinion, by reason of their failure to discharge their responsibilities under the GEM Listing Rules, had either Mr. Qian Gang or Mr. Wang De Qun remained on the board of directors of the Company, their retention of office would have been prejudicial to the interests of investors.

Click [here](#) to view the statement of disciplinary action.

(HKEx, 19 July 2021)

SEHK publishes Enforcement Bulletin

SEHK publishes its Enforcement Bulletin, setting out the following issues:

- three enforcement priorities on which SEHK will have particular focus going forward: (1) responsibility, (2) controls and culture, and (3) cooperation;
- update on some of the ways in which the changes implemented last year have resulted in a real difference to enforcement in practice; and
- summary of enforcement cases, especially two particular issues of concern emerging from these cases that

are worth highlighting: (1) disclosure and (2) safeguarding of assets.

Click [here](#) to view the Enforcement Bulletin.

(HKEx, 15 July 2021)

SEHK takes disciplinary action against Longrun Tea Group Company Limited (Stock Code: 2898) and its current directors

The Listing Committee censures:

- Longrun Tea Group Company Limited (Stock Code: 2898) (the Company);
- Dr. Chiu Ka Leung (Dr. Chiu), executive director and Chairman; Mr. Jiao Shaoliang (Mr. Jiao), executive director; Ms. Yeh Shu Ping (Ms. Yeh), executive director, Vice-chairman and Chief Executive Officer; Dr. He William (also known as Lu Pingguo) (Dr. He), executive director; Mr. Guo Guoqing (Mr. Guo), independent non-executive director; Mr. Kwok Hok Lun (Mr. Kwok), independent non-executive director; Mr. Lam Siu Hung (Mr. Lam), independent non-executive director; and Dr. Liu Zhonghua (Dr. Liu), independent non-executive director.

SEHK found that the Company has failed to comply with various disclosure and approval requirements in connection with a loan arrangement, under which over RMB137 million was advanced to a connected entity owned by Dr. Chiu and Mr. Jiao. Amongst other things, SEHK also made findings of inaccuracy and delay in relation to the Company's financial results.

Dr. Chiu and Mr. Jiao were found to have failed to discharge their director's duties and undertakings in failing to act honestly and in good faith in the interests of the Company as a whole, act for proper purpose, avoid actual and potential conflicts of interest and duty,

disclose fully and fairly their interests in the loan agreement and apply such degree of skill, care, and diligence as may reasonably be expected to comply with the Listing Rules to the best of their ability and to use their best endeavors to procure the Company's compliance with the Listing Rules.

All the above directors have failed to discharge their director's duties and undertakings to comply with the Listing Rules to the best of their ability and to use their best endeavors to address the Company's auditors' concerns and/or avoid the disclaimers and to ensure the Company had adequate and effective internal controls to procure the Company's compliance with the Listing Rules.

Click [here](#) to view the statement of disciplinary action.

(HKEx, 14 July 2021)

SEHK takes disciplinary action against Winshine Science Company Limited (Stock Code: 209) and six directors

The Listing Committee criticizes:

- Winshine Science Company Limited (Stock Code: 209) (the Company);
- Mr. Lin Shao Peng, non-executive director; Mr. Lai Ming Wai, former independent non-executive director; and Mr. Lau Shun Pong Johnson, former independent non-executive director; and

censures:

- Mr. Wei Guo, former executive director and chief executive officer; Mr. Xing Wei, former executive director and chairman; and Mr. Li Fang, former independent non-executive director.

SEHK states that Mr. Wei Guo procured fund transfers, loans, and/or payments to recipients outside the Group totaling over

RMB9 million, including unsecured and interest-free loans to his wholly-owned company, without informing the board. After the Company's auditors raised issues relating to these transactions, an internal control review was conducted, which identified significant and material internal control deficiencies. The Company's previous internal control reviews covered only selected internal control cycles on a rotation basis, but not all material controls. This was a deviation from the Corporate Governance Code.

It also states that by reason of Mr. Wei Guo's and Mr. Xing Wei's respective willful and/or persistent failure to discharge their responsibilities under the Listing Rules, had either of them remained on the board of directors of the Company, his retention of office would have been prejudicial to the interests of investors.

Click [here](#) to view the statement of disciplinary action.

(HKEx, 12 July 2021)

SEHK publishes new forms and guide

SEHK publishes new Announcement Forms, Return e-Forms, and Meeting Notification e-Form and guidelines to assist new applicants, Main Board and GEM issues with the compliance with the Listing Rules and administrative procedures. They:

- highlight Listing Rules disclosure and specific compliance requirements on (i) the content of listed issuers' documents (e.g. announcements, circulars) and (ii) particular transactions which are the subject of those documents;
- facilitate the provision of information required by SEHK in specific circumstances;
- set out documentary requirements in respect of transactions and corporate actions taken by listed issuers; and
- provide templates and forms specified under the Listing Rules.

It also publishes new Form Filing Video Guide for Return e-Forms, with a view to:

- standardize the presentation of routine information in order to reduce processing time;
- reduce the risk of manual input error through the use of data validation within e-Form fields; and
- assist SEHK in collecting and analyzing data more efficiently.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view the new checklists and forms.

(HKEx, 10 July 2021)

SEHK appoints Listing Review Committee and Listing Committee members

SEHK publishes the new membership of the Listing Review Committee and the Listing Committee, with immediate effect. The membership of the Listing Review Committee is expanded from 23 to 25 members this year to accommodate the committee's workload.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to view the membership of both committees.

(HKEx, 9 July 2021)

SEHK publishes revised Enforcement Policy Statement and revised Enforcement Sanctions Statement

SEHK publishes a revised Enforcement Policy Statement (the Policy Statement) and a revised Enforcement Sanctions Statement

(the Sanctions Statement) to reflect changes to enforcement-related Listing Rules.

The Policy Statement provides important information about SEHK's approach to and objectives of enforcement, and also sets out SEHK's latest enforcement priorities of: responsibility, controls and culture, and cooperation. These priorities, which will replace the enforcement themes in place since 2017, describe the areas in which SEHK is targeting its enforcement resources.

The Sanctions Statement has also been updated to reflect current enforcement policy, and the changes to the Listing Rules relating to disciplinary sanctions and powers which came into effect on 3 July 2021.

Click [here](#) to view the Policy Statement and [here](#) to review the Sanctions Statement.

(HKEx, 8 July 2021)

SEHK takes disciplinary action against China Fortune Investments (Holding) Limited (Stock Code: 8116) and 9 directors

The GEM Listing Committee censures:

- China Fortune Investments (Holding) Limited (Stock Code: 8116) (the Company);
- Mr. Stephen William Frostick, executive director; Mr. Xu Jing An, independent non-executive director; Ms. Li Ka Ki, former executive director; Mr. Liu Yun Ming, former executive director; and Ms. Ching Wai Han, former independent non-executive director,

and the Listing Review Committee on review;

criticizes:

- Mr. Cheng Chun Tak, executive director and former Chairman; Mr. Huang Sheng Lan, non-executive director; Mr. Chang

Jun, independent non-executive director; and Mr. Lee Chi Hwa Joshua, former independent non-executive director.

The case concerns the Company's subsidiary entering into loan transactions and disposing of properties in the PRC without informing or obtaining authorisation from the Company. The loans were not recorded in the Company's books and records, and the disposals of properties were not announced as required under the GEM Listing Rules. This led to delayed publication of the Company's financial statements, and a suspension of trading in the Company's shares for over two years.

There were clear deficiencies in the Company's internal controls and oversight in respect of the operation and affairs of its subsidiaries for which all of the directors, both executive and non-executive, were responsible. The GEM Listing Committee also directs the directors to attend training.

Click [here](#) to view the statement of disciplinary action.

(HKEx, 7 July 2021)

Financial Services Regulation

Revised Supervisory Policy Manual (SPM) Module CG-5 on Remuneration Systems

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) issued a revised version of the SPM module CG-5 “Guideline on a Sound Remuneration System” as a guidance note on 29 July 2021.

The changes incorporated in the revised SPM module are mainly to:

- update the existing guidelines following the most recent guidance issued by the Financial Stability Board on sound remuneration practices, and in particular on the use of remuneration tools to address potential misconduct risks;
- strengthen the Financial Stability Board's oversight on the formulation and implementation of remuneration systems and related control processes;
- provide guidance in relation to the adoption of group remuneration policies and approval of remuneration packages of senior management and key personnel for foreign bank branches; and
- update the existing guidelines to align with the remuneration disclosure requirements in the Banking (Disclosure) Rules.

Please click [here](#) to view the circular.

HKMA, 29 July 2021

Regtech Adoption Practice Guide

The HKMA published the second issue of the Regtech Adoption Practice Guide. This issue focuses on Regtech solutions assisting Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) efforts in the area of

ongoing monitoring of customers.

Ongoing monitoring of customers has been selected as the focus area given its importance within AML/CFT. Many operational challenges associated with Regtech adoption in this area are caused by the manual processes in collating relevant, complete, and up-to-date information in relation to customers and their transactions. This information is essential to understanding whether the purpose and intended nature of the customer's activities are commensurate with its risk profile and the nature of the business relationship. The application of advanced technologies such as machine learning and cognitive solutions is nascent in the space of ongoing AML/CFT monitoring. These are prime growth areas that can benefit significantly from increased Regtech adoption. The guide will help banks assess whether they have the appropriate governance, controls, skills, infrastructure and underlying data to enable them to apply Regtech solutions in this area.

Please click [here](#) to view the circular.

HKMA, 26 July 2021

IA, 23 July 2021

The HKMA hosts virtual symposium on Commercial Data Interchange

The HKMA hosted a symposium on the Commercial Data Interchange (CDI) on 22 July 2021.

The CDI is one of the major initiatives under the "Fintech 2025" strategy unveiled by the HKMA in June this year. The CDI will be a venue through which data owners (consumers, businesses) can share data with banks via data providers (fintechs, utilities, payment gateways), with consent. CDI will allow service providers get relevant, authenticated data. It is a consent-based data infrastructure that

aims to enable more efficient financial intermediation in the banking system and enhance financial inclusion in Hong Kong. A pilot launch of the CDI is expected towards the end of this year. The symposium was organized with the aim of assisting financial institutions and potential data providers to better understand the CDI initiative and how they could contribute to and benefit from its development.

The symposium highlighted the current status and road map of the development of the CDI, and the support the HKMA would offer along the way. During the symposium, the HKMA also announced the launch of the Commercial Data Interchange Innovation Hub (Hub) with a view to further facilitating the development and adoption of the CDI. It serves to assist in the matchmaking between potential data providers and data users. Prospective CDI participants are encouraged to seek the HKMA's advice on potential business cases through the Hub.

Please click [here](#) to view the press release.

HKMA, 22 July 2021

Supervisory Policy Manual (SPM): CS-1 "Group-wide Approach to Supervision of Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions"

Following consultation with two industry Associations, namely the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the DTC Association, the HKMA issued a revised version of "Group-wide Approach to Supervision of Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions." The SPM was revised primarily to:

- reflect the current supervisory approach and practices adopted by the HKMA in relation to locally incorporated authorized institutions which form part of a banking, financial or commercial group;

- incorporate relevant principles in international standards concerning the supervision of financial conglomerates; and
- cater for consequential changes arising from amendments to the Banking Ordinance, relevant rules made under the Ordinance, and supervisory guidelines.

Please click [here](#) to view the circular.

HKMA, 20 July 2021

SFC, 19 July 2021

HKMA Releases the Guideline on Fund Certification for Carried Interest Tax Concession

The HKMA issued a guideline on the certification of funds under Schedule 16D to the Inland Revenue Ordinance (IRO) in relation to tax concessions for carried interest (Guideline).

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Carried Interest) Ordinance 2021 (Ordinance) was enacted to give profits tax and salaries tax concessions in relation to eligible carried interest received by, or accrued to, qualifying persons and qualifying employees on or after 1 April 2020 from the provision of investment management services to certified investment funds. The tax concessions aim to attract more private equity funds to operate and be managed in Hong Kong, thereby promoting the development of the investment management and related professional services industries in Hong Kong.

Examples of a qualifying person include a person who carries out investment management services in Hong Kong, or arranges such services to be carried out in Hong Kong, for a certified investment fund as defined under the Ordinance, and a person a

corporation licensed under Part V of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) (SFO) to carry on, or an authorized financial institution registered under that Part for carrying on, a business in any regulated activity under the SFO. A qualifying employee is an individual who is employed by a qualifying person or the associated corporation, or the associated partnership, of a qualifying person who is a corporation or a partnership, if the associated corporation or the associated partnership carries on a business in Hong Kong. Such individual carries out the associated corporation, or the associated partnership, of a qualifying person who is a corporation or a partnership, if the associated corporation or the associated partnership carries on a business in Hong Kong.

The Guideline sets out the criteria for certification of funds by the HKMA and other matters in relation to the HKMA's certification. With immediate effect, the certification scheme is open to applications by funds.

Please click [here](#) to view the press release.

HKMA, 16 July 2021

FSTB, 16 July 2021

Cross-Agency Steering Group (Steering Group) announces next steps to advance Hong Kong's green and sustainable finance strategy

The Steering Group announced the next steps to advance its collaborative strategy to bolster Hong Kong's position as a leader in green and sustainable finance and help transition the financial ecosystem towards carbon neutrality. As priorities, the Steering Group will focus on climate-related disclosures and sustainability reporting, carbon market opportunities, and the launch of the new Centre for Green and Sustainable Finance (Centre).

The Steering Group supports the efforts by the International Sustainability Standards Board under the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation (IFRS Foundation) to develop a new standard which would be built on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures framework.

In addition, the Steering Group has set up a Carbon Market Work Stream (CMWS) co-chaired by the SFC and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited to assess the feasibility of developing Hong Kong as a regional carbon trading centre to strengthen collaboration in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

To facilitate the retention of resources, data and analytics which support the transition to a more sustainable development pathway, the Steering Group launched the Centre for Green and Sustainable Finance to help the financial industry manage the risks and capture the opportunities presented by climate change. The Centre is a cross-sector platform which coordinates the efforts of financial regulators, Government agencies, industry stakeholders, and academia in capacity building, thought leadership and policy development.

Please click [here](#) to view the article.

SFC, 15 July 2021

Update on Enhanced Competency Framework on Private Wealth Management (ECF-PWM)

The HKMA launched the Certified Private Wealth Professional Associate (CPWPA) certification by the Private Wealth Management Association (PWMA) to recognize and incentivize staff of PWMA member institutions who are seeking to enhance their skill set and advance their career within the private wealth management industry. The CPWPA certification will equip practitioners with the necessary technical and

market knowledge and skills to perform their duties and conduct business ethically and in a professional manner.

The newly launched CPWPA certification primarily targets Relevant Practitioners who have passed the Certified Private Wealth Professional (CPWP) certification examinations but have not yet met the work experience requirements for CPWP certification, Client Service Assistants, Assistants to Relevant Practitioners, as well as Middle and Back Office staff involved in the private wealth management business.

In addition, the PWMA, together with the HKMA and the Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute, has enhanced the syllabus for ECF CPWP Module one having regard to industry feedback.

Please click [here](#) to view the Circular.

HKMA, 14 July 2021

Executives' Meeting of East Asia-Pacific (EMEAP) Central Banks Agreed to Promote Green Bond Investment through Asian Bond Fund

The Executives' Meeting of East Asia-Pacific Central Banks (EMEAP) announced that the members have reached an agreement to promote investment in green bonds through the Asian Bond Fund (ABF). This is aimed at helping to strengthening local currency-denominated green bond markets in the region. The EMEAP ABF Oversight Committee has requested IHS Markit, an index provider of the iBoxx ABF Index, that it reviews the rule of the Index to promote the inclusion of green bonds. The details will therefore be based on the outcome of the review and disclosed once confirmed by IHS Markit.

The current ABF was established in 2005 to support the development of local currency-

denominated bond markets in the region. The ABF, comprising the Pan-Asia Bond Index Fund and eight single-market funds, tracks the iBoxx ABF Index and is managed passively by private-sector fund managers with the BIS as the administrator. It invests in local currency-denominated bonds in EMEAP economies other than Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

Please click [here](#) to view the press release.

HKMA, 12 July 2021

SFC and Canadian securities regulators establish Fintech cooperation agreement

The SFC has entered into an agreement with eight members of the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) to establish a financial technology (Fintech) cooperation framework. Under the agreement, the SFC, and these CSA members will cooperate on information sharing and referrals between their innovation functions.

Please click [here](#) to view the article.

SFC, 8 July 2021

IA, 7 July 2021

Circular to Licensed Corporations and Associated Entities – Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Financing of Terrorism

The SFC issued a circular to all licensed corporations and associated entities on 7 July 2021 in connection with three statements published by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The three statements are summarized below for reference:

- 1) [FATF Statement on High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action](#)

The FATF advised its members to refer to the list of high-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action adopted in February 2020, namely Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The statement can be found [here](#). While the aforesaid February 2020 statement may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime, the FATF's call for action on these high-risk jurisdictions remains in effect.

2) FATF Statement on Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring

FATF issued an updated statement on Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring which can be found [here](#). The statement sets out the list of jurisdictions that have committed to resolve swiftly strategic deficiencies in their regime to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing within agreed timeframes and are subject to increased monitoring.

3) Outcomes from the FATF Plenary, 20-25 June 2021

The FATF also published various other outcomes of its recent Plenary session. They include:

- the adoption of a guidance on Proliferation Financing Risk Assessment and Mitigation;
- the revision of the Interpretive Note to Recommendation 15 to clarify that like financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions, virtual asset service providers must now identify,

assess, and take actions to mitigate their proliferation financing risks;

- the release of a white paper on potential amendments to Recommendation 24 on the transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons for public consultation; and
- the publication of two reports which form part of FATF's initiative to explore the benefits, efficiencies and cost savings that technology can offer as well as the challenges that digital transformation presents for AML/CFT.

Please click [here](#) to view the Circular.

SFC, 7 July 2021

“HKMC Retire 3” Brand Launch and Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC) Annuity Plan Promotional Offer

The HKMC announced the launch of promotion for the "HKMC Retire 3" brand which covers its retirement planning products, namely the Reverse Mortgage Programme (RMP), the HKMC Annuity Plan, and the Policy Reverse Mortgage Programme (PRMP). The new brand highlights the three products as a solution for retirees to create lifelong streams of income, enabling them to enjoy wonderful and worry-free retirement lives.

Following the launch of "HKMC Retire 3", the HKMC Annuity Plan will offer a premium discount to encourage customers to turn their accumulated wealth into a lifelong, guaranteed and stable retirement income. Customers who successfully apply for the HKMC Annuity Plan during the promotion period between 7 July and 31 December 2021 may enjoy a premium discount of up to an

amount equivalent to two percent of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes account balance.

Please click [here](#) to view the press release.

HKMA, 6 July 2021

Financial Reporting Council (FRC) completes first investigation with working papers obtained under MoU with the Supervision and Evaluation Bureau of the PRC Ministry of Finance

The FRC adopted an investigation report in relation to a failure by the auditor of a listed entity to identify a material misstatement in the earnings per share presented in the consolidated financial statements of the listed entity. This is the first investigation report completed using audit working papers obtained with the assistance of the Supervision and Evaluation Bureau of the PRC Ministry of Finance under the FRC's Memorandum of Understanding with the SEB.

Please click [here](#) to view the press release for more details of the investigation.

FRC, 2 July 2021

Data Protection

Privacy Commissioner meets with internet groups on proposed amendments to the PDPO

The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (Privacy Commissioner) met with representatives of the Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) to discuss the proposed amendments to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) to combat doxxing (the Amendments).

Doxxing is a matter of serious concern. It was reiterated that the Amendments only concern unlawful doxxing acts and the related enforcement powers of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD).

The PCPD will continue its dialogue with all stakeholders and will meet with relevant stakeholders where necessary.

Click [here](#) to read the media statement.

PCPD, 9 July 2021

PCPD Launches “Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection Programme – Partnering Schools Recognition Scheme 2021” cum “Mobile Game Apps Design Competition for Secondary School Students”

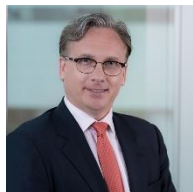
From July 2021 to December 2021, the PCPD implements the "Student Ambassador for Privacy Protection Programme – Partnering Schools Recognition Scheme 2021" (SAP) for secondary school students to foster a culture of respecting and protecting personal data privacy in campus. This is particularly important as online learning, social networking, and entertainment has become an integral part of daily lives.

Teaching videos will be distributed to schools to explain to students the importance of protecting personal data privacy.

Click [here](#) to read the media statement.

PCPD, 2 July 2021

Contacts



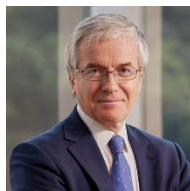
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