

CHINA XINHUA EDUCATION GROUP LIMITED

中國新華教育集團有限公司

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(於開曼群島註冊成立之有限公司)

Stock Code 股份代號 : 02779

2023 ANNUAL REPORT 年報



CONTENTS

CORPORATE INFORMATION	2
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT	3
MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS	4
DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT	15
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS	21
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT	55
ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT	70
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	104
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS	111
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	112
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	113
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	115
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT	116
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	117
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	162
DEFINITIONS	163



CORPORATE INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Non-executive Director

Mr. Wu Junbao (吳俊保) (*Chairman*)

Executive Directors

Mr. Zhang Ming (張明)

Mr. Lu Zhen (陸真)

Mr. Wang Yongkai (王永凱)

Independent Non-executive Directors

Mr. Jiang Min (蔣敏)

Mr. Yang Zhanjun

Mr. Yao Heping (姚和平)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Yao Heping (姚和平) (*Chairman*)

Mr. Wu Junbao (吳俊保)

Mr. Jiang Min (蔣敏)

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Jiang Min (蔣敏) (*Chairman*)

Mr. Wu Junbao (吳俊保)

Mr. Yang Zhanjun

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Wu Junbao (吳俊保) (*Chairman*)

Mr. Jiang Min (蔣敏)

Mr. Yang Zhanjun

COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms. Yu Anne (余安妮)

AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Wang Yongkai (王永凱)

Ms. Yu Anne (余安妮)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Cricket Square

Hutchins Drive, P. O. Box 2681

Grand Cayman, KY1-1111

Cayman Islands

HEADQUARTER AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THE PRC

No. 555 Wangjiangxi Road

Hefei City, Anhui Province, PRC

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG

40th Floor, Dah Sing Financial Centre

No. 248 Queen's Road East

Wan Chai

Hong Kong

LEGAL ADVISORS AS TO HONG KONG LAW

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

19th Floor

Edinburgh Tower

The Landmark

15 Queen's Road Central

Hong Kong

AUDITORS

KPMG

Public Interest Entity Auditor registered in accordance with the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council Ordinance Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building

10 Chater Road

Central, Hong Kong

CAYMAN ISLANDS PRINCIPAL SHARE REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER OFFICE

Conyers Trust Company (Cayman) Limited

Cricket Square, Hutchins Drive, P. O. Box 2681

Grand Cayman, KY1-1111

Cayman Islands

HONG KONG BRANCH SHARE REGISTRAR

Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited

Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre

183 Queen's Road East

Wanchai, Hong Kong

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Agricultural Bank of China

Hefei Science and Technology Rural Commercial Bank

Huishang Bank

Hangzhou Bank

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China

COMPANY WEBSITE

<http://www.chinaxhedu.com>

STOCK CODE

02779

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of China Xinhua Education Group Limited, I am pleased to present the annual results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2023.

OVERVIEW OF THE GROUP

The Group is a leading private higher education group in China. We are the largest private higher education provider in the Yangtze River Delta, as measured by the number of full-time student enrollment of the higher education programs. As of 31 December 2023, the Group invested in and operated four educational institutions, namely, (i) Xinhua University, a private university for formal education; (ii) School of Clinical Medicine, an independent college jointly operated by the Group and Anhui Medical University* (安徽醫科大學); (iii) Hongshan College, an independent college jointly operated by the Group and Nanjing University of Finance and Economics; and (iv) Xinhua School, a private secondary vocational school.

The educational mission of the Group is "Rejuvenating the Country and Serving the People through Xinhua Education" (新華教育，興國為民). We are committed to providing applied science education to students and seeks to cultivate high quality talents with applicable skills, potential for future development and an ability and willingness to keep learning.

REVIEW OF RESULTS

The revenue of the Group has increased from RMB625.5 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB642.7 million for the year ended 31 December 2023. For the connotation construction, we have also achieved good results, and the colleges and universities of the Group have improved in terms of majors construction, teaching team, education and teaching.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Looking into the future, the Group will, based on its high-quality resources and rich experience accumulated in the education industry and its position to cultivate high-end application-oriented talents, tap the market potential and opportunities in the higher education industry in China, strengthen the integration of industry and education and school-enterprise cooperation. At the same time, the Group will continue to upgrade the management of its existing educational institutions and provide the students with quality services and educational support to enhance their competitiveness in the labour market.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our students, their parents, all Shareholders and staff who have always supported the development of our Group. Our staff will continue to pursue excellence and progress, foster high-quality talents and create greater value for Shareholders with more excellent results.

Yours faithfully,

Wu Junbao

Chairman

28 March 2024

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

The Group is a leading private higher education group in China. We are the largest private higher education provider in the Yangtze River Delta in terms of total student enrollment in the Yangtze River Delta Region. Due to the implementation of the Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement for the Integrated Development of Higher Quality Education in the Yangtze River Delta Region and the Three-year Action Plan for the Integrated Development of Education in the Yangtze River Delta Region, the Group's influence in terms of running schools will be further expanded, which will improve the quality and accelerate the development of the Group's education business in the future.

“A thriving education makes a thriving country, while a powerful education makes a powerful country.” General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that building powerful education country is a basic project of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and we should give priority to education, deepen education reform, accelerate education modernization, properly provide satisfactory education, and train socialist builders and successors featuring an all-round development in morality, intelligence, physique, art and hardwork. The Group actively responds to the call of the party and the state, and firmly adheres to the lofty mission of “Rejuvenating the Country and Serving the People through Xinhua Education”, and the direction of schools under socialism, and focus on and offer good education. The Group vigorously promotes connotative construction, continuously improves the quality of schools, and plays a great role in improving the quality of workers, promoting employment, upgrading and transforming the service industry, etc.

We are committed to providing high-quality application-oriented formal education services to our students, including formal university education and secondary vocational education covering various mainstream subjects and areas of employment. Through continuous and efficient market research, we strive to design comprehensive and diversified courses to meet employers' preferences and labor market demands. Meanwhile, we actively adjust our major offerings, continuously optimize our teaching conditions by improving our tangible and intangible infrastructure, optimize the educational environment, and strengthen strategic cooperation with various private enterprises and public institutions, in order to help our students acquire useful skills and seek good employment opportunities. As a whole, our graduate employment rate is higher than the average graduate employment rate in the provinces and cities where we operate. The high employment rate will further consolidate our reputation, and to improve our image in the industry, and enable our schools to attract more talented students. With professional and high-quality education, the Group has continuously made outstanding contributions to students and their families, to employers, economic and social development.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND OPERATION UPDATE

Our Schools

As at 31 December 2023, the Group invested and operated four education institutions, namely (i) Xinhua University, a private university for formal education; (ii) School of Clinical Medicine, an independent college jointly operated by the Group and Anhui Medical University* (安徽醫科大學); (iii) Hongshan College, an independent college jointly operated by the Group and Nanjing University of Finance and Economics; and (iv) Xinhua School, a private secondary vocational school.

Xinhua University

Founded in 2000, Xinhua University is a private formal university-level education institution, which provides undergraduate education and continuing education focusing on applied science education, and is one of the first Fifty National Higher Education Institutions with Typical Experience in Graduate Employment* (全國畢業生就業典型經驗50所高校), the Application-Oriented High-level University Construction Unit in Anhui Province* (安徽省應用型高水準大學建設單位) and Project Construction Unit with the Right to Grant Master's Degree* (碩士學位授予權立項建設單位).

As at 31 December 2023, Xinhua University had 10 subordinate colleges and 2 teaching departments, with a total of 59 undergraduate majors, including 4 national-level first-class undergraduate majors in communication engineering, financial management, economics and finance and software engineering. It also introduced a new national-level first-class undergraduate course "Digital Circuits". During the 2023/2024 school year, the number of awards won by students in various disciplinary competitions increased by 29.7% year-on-year, of which the number of national awards increased by 49.5% year-on-year; the number of awards won by teachers in national and provincial teaching competitions increased by 39.0% year-on-year. In addition, as one of the first batch of universities in Anhui Province to undergo a new round of evaluation, the Xinhua University successfully completed the evaluation of undergraduate education teaching by the Ministry of Education, which was unanimously praised by experts.

School of Clinical Medicine

China attaches great importance to medical education, and emphasizes the new medical construction as the starting point, and categorizes and nurtures research, inter-disciplinary and application-oriented talents, so as to nurture more outstanding medical innovative talents for the construction of healthy China.

School of Clinical Medicine is an independent college approved by the Ministry of Education to train full-time undergraduate students. It offers 15 undergraduate majors, while its major offerings focus on clinical medicine.

The number of student enrollment reached 7,325 for the 2023/2024 school year, representing a year-on-year increase of 22.2%. Since our operation, students have had a strong desire to apply for admission to the School of Clinical Medicine, and 3 new enrollment provinces were added this school year and the student yield of the School of Clinical Medicine has ranked among the top schools of similar type in Anhui Province for consecutive years. It has also introduced a new provincial high-level school of public health, and 2 new provincial-level experimental and training centers and the number of its teaching and research projects increased by 35.0% year-on-year.

The construction of the phase I of the new campus project had been officially put into operation in the 2021/2022 school year. The phase II of the project will be built gradually with the increasing number of students. Two rounds of indicator optimization for the conversion have been completed, subject to approval by competent authorities.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Hongshan College

Hongshan College is an independent college approved by the Ministry of Education to train full-time undergraduate students. It offers 15 undergraduate majors, while its major offerings focus on economic management, with literature and law characteristics.

The conversion work progressed in an orderly manner, and the conversion conditions were constantly improved. The construction of the phase I of the new campus project has been completed. The new campus has been approved by regulatory authorities and will be officially launched soon.

Xinhua School

Xinhua School is a private secondary vocational school, which has been awarded as National Key Secondary Vocational School* (國家級重點中等職業學校), Model School for School-Enterprise Cooperation in Hefei* (合肥市校企合作示範校), and Experimental School for Moral Education Innovation in Hefei* (合肥市德育創新實驗學校), provides career-oriented general secondary vocational program with in-depth integration of school-enterprise cooperation, aimed at advancing to undergraduate level. As at 31 December 2023, the school received a total of 74 honorary titles such as “May 4th Red Flag Youth League Committee” of Hefei City and “May 4th Red Flag Youth League Branch Committee” in High-tech Zone.

Student Enrollment

	As at 31 December 2023	As at 31 December 2022
Xinhua University		
Full-time student enrollment	23,834	24,095
Continuing education	15,273	15,888
Subtotal	39,107	39,983
School of Clinical Medicine⁽¹⁾		
Full-time student enrollment	7,325	5,993
Hongshan College⁽¹⁾		
Full-time student enrollment	9,950	9,826
Xinhua School		
Full-time student enrollment	2,732	4,708
Total number of full-time students	43,841	44,622
Total number of students enrolled	59,114	60,510

Note:

- (1) The conversion of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College is subject to approval by the relevant authorities. Accordingly, as of the date of this annual report, the two schools are not consolidated subsidiaries of the Group. After the conversion, the operating results of the two schools will be integrated into the Group.

OPERATION UPDATE AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Significant achievements were made in major and program construction conducted in line with the needs of emerging industries.** The Group continued its efforts to enhance construction of majors based on the development needs of emerging industries and the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries. The colleges and universities of the Group currently have a total of 4 national-level first-class undergraduate majors and 14 provincial-level first-class undergraduate majors. Among them, the School of Clinical Medicine further enriched the types of majors and added a new undergraduate major in biopharmaceutics, and the majors of clinical medicine, nursing and biomedical engineering have been approved to be included in the “Six Excellent and One Top-notch” programme. The Group actively carried out curriculum construction, continuously created high-quality courses, and one course of Xinhua University has been newly included in the national-level first-class undergraduate courses. Currently, Xinhua University has 66 provincial first-class courses, and 7 courses have been recommended by the Education Department of Anhui Province (安徽省教育廳) to participate in the evaluation of new round of national first-class courses.
- Strengthening the introduction and nurturing of talents to build a high-level teaching team.** The Group implemented the strategy of “strengthening schools with talents”, continuously introduced doctors, and talents with an associate senior title and above and cultivated and introduced 187 doctoral teachers to further optimize the structure of the teacher team. At the same time, the Group introduced experts and highly skilled talents from enterprises in the industry to further reinforce the team of “dual-certificate” teachers, thus providing excellent teachers for the nurturing of applied talents and continuing to improve the faculty’s training sessions. The Group strengthened personnel training and carried out 510 training sessions by levels and categories.
- Deepening exchanges and cooperation to effectively give play to the collaborative education effect.** The Group actively promoted school-enterprise and school-local government cooperation. Xinhua University has built several practical education bases and rural revitalization colleges. The School of Clinical Medicine was recognized as a provincial-level practice educational base and provincial-level modern industrial college. The Group deepened international exchanges and cooperation to enhance its international influence by holding international forums. The Group’s colleges and universities carried out educational cooperation with universities including The Ider University in Mongolia and Management and Science University in Malaysia. The Group created an international exchange cloud platform and introduced curriculum resources from famous universities such as Harvard University and the University of Oxford.
- Increasing investment to take modern campuses to a new level.** We continued to increase investment, continuously improved the infrastructure on campus to provide a better working and learning environment for teachers and students. During the year, we built and renovated projects of 246,500 square meters, built 40 laboratory projects such as 5G+, Huawei ICT, virtual simulation, constructed 93 smart classrooms and multimedia classrooms and newly added 164,000 books to the libraries, which further improved the conditions of each school and further optimized the campus environment. Specifically, Xinhua University continued to update and upgrade laboratory equipment to better meet the needs of education and teaching while the library of the new campus of School of Clinical Medicine has been completed, and the east campus has been officially put into operation. Gaochun Campus of Hongshan College with complete facilities, sound functions and superior conditions is about to be put into operation.
- Based on the development needs, social service skills have been continuously strengthened.** We actively performed social service value while achieving our own development. Our colleges and universities provide 10,862 graduates to all walks of life, with an average employment rate of 94.8%. The Group also actively undertook the “Double Thousand Training Project” (雙千培養工程) and other government purchase service projects. With its vigorous development of scientific and technological innovation, Xinhua University’s unmanned vessels and intelligent embedded technology appeared in the 3rd China University Scientific and Technological Achievement Fair (第三屆中國高校科技成果交易會).

FUTURE PROSPECTS

I. Grasping the policy spirit and serving the construction of an education power

President Xi Jinping emphasised in the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that we should “give priority to the development of education, rely on ourselves to advance science and technology, drive the development with talents, accelerate efforts to build China into a powerhouse of education, technology and talents, keep cultivating talents for the Party and the Country to fully improve the quality of independent talents cultivation”; in December 2023, President Xi Jinping emphasized in the fifth study seminars for members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China that accelerating the construction of a powerful education country to provide strong support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and accelerating the construction of a high-quality education system to provide satisfactory education are not only the requirements of the times, but also the needs of the people. In addition, the organization and implementation of the Plan for a powerful education country is the “main line of work, the first priority, and the No. 1 project” of the education system, which will bring new opportunities for the development of private education and higher education. With the industrial upgrading and the increasing demands for the applied talents from advanced manufacturing and other sectors, the Group will resolutely implement the fundamental task of fostering character and civic virtue, actively practice the applied talent nurturing philosophy of “orientation towards students and output, and continuous improvement”, so as to nurture high-quality applied talents with a sound personality, solid foundation, strong practical ability, international vision, innovative spirit and development potential.

II. Explore internal construction for high-quality education

- (1) We will take the development strategy of industries as the key to promote the construction of disciplines and majors in depth. The Group will closely follow the national and regional development strategies and demands of industrial development to dynamically adjust the layout of disciplines and majors, launch deeper integration of industry and education and school-enterprise cooperation, so as to build higher-level industrial colleges, achieve close combination of the major offerings with the industrial needs and promote the cluster development of advantaged majors. The Group will also actively create premium courses, formulate and improve the applied talents cultivation program, so as to constantly improve the students’ high-quality employment.
- (2) We will create a high-level teaching faculty, actively build a professional and high-quality team of teachers, constantly deepen the construction of the team of “dual-certificate” teachers, advance the effective connection between educational chain, talent chain and industrial chain, and optimize the talent cultivation mechanism where universities and enterprises cooperate to cultivate talents.
- (3) We will take the opportunity of opening up education to the outside world to carry out in-depth international communication and cooperation. We will enhance cooperation and exchanges and actively play the role of social services to improve our level of serving the society in multiple forms including project co-construction and base co-construction. At the same time, we will actively strengthen cooperation and exchanges with overseas universities and colleges, actively promote the sharing of quality teaching resources, the faculty and student sources at home and abroad, continuously widen the platform for international exchanges and cooperation and broaden the students’ vision for development.
- (4) We will take the digital transformation as the driving force and promote digital education in depth. We will continue to improve the level of informationization, increase the construction of the smart campus, build an interactive, intelligent, open and diverse smart teaching environment, and provide students with high-quality learning and living services. Based on meeting students’ individualized needs, we will closely integrate emerging technologies with talent cultivation, education and teaching, disciplines and majors construction, scientific research innovation, and management services, continue to expand the supply of quality education resources, and continue to improve the level of education governance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenue

The Group's revenue consists of the tuition fees and boarding fees received from its students.

The Group's revenue increased by 2.7% from RMB625.5 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB642.7 million for the Reporting Period. This increase was primarily due to the increase in the average tuition fees.

Adjusted revenue

The adjusted revenue consists of the revenue of the Group plus the revenue of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College. This is not an IFRSs measure. The Group has presented this item because the Group considers it is an important supplemental measure of the Group's operational performance used by the Group's management as well as analysts or investors. The following table shows adjusted revenue of the Group for the years presented below:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Revenue	642,660	625,476
Add:		
Revenue of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College	264,791	234,622
Adjusted revenue	907,451	860,098

Other Income

Other income primarily consists of rental and property management income, service income, interest income and the gain on operation of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College.

Other income decreased by 36.4% from RMB52.8 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB33.6 million for the Reporting Period, primarily due to the decrease in interest income and the increase in operation costs of Hongshan College.

Cost of Sales

Cost of sales primarily consists of salaries and benefits paid to our teaching staffs, depreciation and amortization, cost of education-related activities, cost of repairs and student-related costs.

Our cost of sales increased by 3.1% from RMB256.8 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB264.7 million for the Reporting Period, mainly due to the expansion of the school scale and the continuous increase in teaching investment.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Gross Profit

Our gross profit increased by 2.5% from RMB368.7 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB378.0 million for the Reporting Period, primarily due to combined effect of the continuous improvement in our management level and the scale effect brought by the resource integration, which was in line with the growth of our business.

Selling and Distribution Costs

Selling and distribution costs primarily consist of student admission expenses, salaries and benefits paid to our sales staff, depreciation and amortization, and advertising expenses.

Selling and distribution costs decreased by 53.2% from RMB7.9 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB3.7 million for the Reporting Period, primarily due to the decrease in student admission expenses and depreciation and amortization.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses primarily consist of salaries and benefits paid to administrative staff, depreciation and amortization, and consultancy expenses.

Administrative expenses decreased by 49.3% from RMB158.4 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB80.3 million for the Reporting Period, mainly due to the decrease in foreign exchange loss.

Finance Costs

Finance costs primarily consist of interest expenses on bank loans and borrowings.

The finance costs incurred for the Reporting Period amounted to approximately RMB14.3 million (31 December 2022: RMB15.8 million), mainly due to the decrease in the interest rate and loan amount of bank loans during the Reporting Period.

Profit before Taxation

The Group's profit before taxation recognized for the Reporting Period was RMB313.2 million, as compared with RMB239.4 million for the year ended 31 December 2022, representing a year-on-year increase of 30.8% which was primarily due to the decrease of foreign exchange loss.

Income Tax

The Group's income tax increased by 56.4% from RMB3.9 million for the year ended 31 December 2022 to RMB6.1 million for the Reporting Period, which was due to the increase of the Group's taxable income.

Profit for the Year

As a result of the combined effects of the above income, costs and expenses, the Group recorded a profit of RMB307.1 million for the Reporting Period, representing a year-on-year increase of 30.4% as compared with RMB235.5 million for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Adjusted Net Profit

Adjusted net profit was derived from the profit for the year after adjusting the foreign exchange gain or loss and the share-based payment expenses, which are not indicative of the Group's operating performances (as presented in the table below). This is not an IFRSs measure. The Group has presented this item because the Group considers it is an important supplemental measure of the Group's operational performance used by the Group's management as well as analysts or investors. The following table shows profit and adjusted net profit of the Group for the years:

	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Profit for the year	307,099	235,511
Add:		
Net foreign exchange loss	15,431	89,669
Share-based payment expenses	7,162	5,608
Adjusted net profit	329,692	330,788

Foreign exchange gain or loss arises from intra-group fundings with different functional currencies. According to IFRS, a similar amount of exchange gain or loss and other comprehensive income arises simultaneously as a result of change in the exchange rate.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FINANCIAL AND LIQUIDITY POSITION

Current Assets and Current Liabilities

The following table sets forth details of our current assets and current liabilities as at the dates indicated:

	As at 31 December	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade receivables	2,885	2,639
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables	226,647	213,229
Cash and bank balances	524,639	322,068
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	754,171	537,936
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Loans and borrowings	50,020	50,020
Contract liabilities	339,995	329,549
Other payables	119,420	128,517
Current taxation	6,064	3,337
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	515,499	511,423
NET CURRENT ASSETS	238,672	26,513

Working Capital and Source of Capital

The Group's cash is mainly used to satisfy the needs of working capital and purchase of property, plant and equipment. During the Reporting Period, the Group has funded for operations primarily with cash and cash equivalents generated from operations. As at 31 December 2023, the Group recorded long-term bank time deposits, cash and bank balances of RMB684.6 million (31 December 2022: RMB502.1 million).

Net Current Assets

As at 31 December 2023, the Group recorded net current assets of RMB238.7 million representing an increase of 800.8% as compared with the RMB26.5 million as at 31 December 2022, which was primarily attributable to the increase in cash and bank balance.

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures consist of purchase or construction cost of property and equipment, prepayment of land lease outlay and other intangible assets.

During the Reporting Period, the Group's capital expenditures were RMB151.9 million (for the year ended 31 December 2022: RMB436.7 million). The Group's capital expenditures were primarily related to the construction of buildings and school facilities and the purchase of equipment and software. The Group has funded these capital expenditures primarily with cash generated from operations.

Bank Loans and Other Borrowings

Bank loans and other borrowings of the Group were mainly working capital loans and specific loans. The bank loans and loan from related party of the Group amounted to RMB546.3 million as at 31 December 2023 (31 December 2022: RMB496.1 million).

Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

As at 31 December 2023, the Group did not have any unrecorded significant contingent liabilities, guarantees or any litigation against us.

Gearing Ratio

The gearing ratio of the Group, which was calculated as total liabilities divided by total assets, was 22.6% as at 31 December 2023, in compare with the figure of 22.8% as at 31 December 2022, there was no significant difference.

Future Plan for Material Investments and Capital Assets

The Group did not have other plans for material investments and capital assets as at the 31 December 2023 and up to date of this annual report.

Material Acquisitions and Disposals of Subsidiaries and Associated Companies

Save as disclosed herein, there was no material acquisition and disposal of subsidiaries and associated companies by the Company during the Reporting Period.

Significant Investments Held by the Group

Save as disclosed herein, there was no significant investment held by the Group during the Reporting Period.

Foreign Exchange Risk Management

The Group's presentation currency is RMB. Most revenues and expenditures of the Group are denominated in RMB. As at 31 December 2023, balances of several banks were denominated in USD or HKD. So far, the Group has not entered into any financial instruments used for hedging purpose. The management will continue to pay attention to foreign exchange risk, and will consider hedging against significant foreign currency risks by using financial instruments when necessary.

Pledge of Assets

As at 31 December 2023, no assets of the Group were pledged.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Human Resources

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has approximately 2,504 employees (31 December 2022: 2,297). All of our employees are based in the PRC. In accordance with the relevant laws and regulations in the PRC, the Group has participated in the employee social security programs managed by local governments, including housing, retirement pension, medical insurance, maternity insurance and unemployment insurance. The Board believes that the Group is maintaining a favorable working relationship with our employees, and we have experienced no major labor disputes during the Reporting Period.

Grant of Share Options

On 5 June 2023, the Company has granted 71,900,000 share options to certain eligible persons under the share option scheme adopted by the Company on 8 March 2018 to subscribe for the ordinary Shares of HK\$0.01 each in the share capital of the Company at the exercise price of HK\$0.764 for each Share, subject to acceptance by the grantees. For further details, please refer to the announcements of the Company dated 5 June 2023 and 6 June 2023 respectively.

Off-Balance Sheet Commitments and Arrangements

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has not conducted any off-balance sheet transaction.

Events after the Reporting Period

Save as described herein, there was no event occurred subsequent to 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report that would cause material impact on the Group.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman and non-executive Director

Mr. Wu Junbao (吳俊保), aged 58, the founder of the Group, was appointed as the chairman and a non-executive Director of the Company on 27 October 2017.

Mr. Wu has more than 20 years of experience in education. The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Wu:

Period	Company	Position
September 1999 to September 2017	Xinhua Group	General manager
September 1999 to present	Xinhua Group	Chairman and director
June 2000 to present	Xinhua University	Chairman and director
November 2018 to present	China East Education Holdings Limited, a company whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 667)	Non-executive director

Mr. Wu obtained the qualification as a senior economist granted by the Personnel Bureau of Hefei City* (合肥市人事局) in July 2004. He graduated from Anhui Institute of Business Administration* (安徽工商管理學院) in Hefei City, Anhui Province, the PRC with a master's degree in business administration in December 2003.

Executive Directors

Mr. Zhang Ming (張明), aged 46, joined the Group in April 2018 and was appointed as an executive Director on 31 October 2018.

Mr. Zhang has more than 20 years of experience in education management. The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Zhang:

Period	Company	Position
July 2000 to May 2010	Anhui Xinhua Group Investment Co., Ltd.	Executive deputy principal/principals of the Xinhua computer schools in Jiangxi, Henan and Anhui
May 2010 to April 2018	Xinhua Education Group	Vice president/executive vice president/president
April 2018 to present	Xinhua Group	President

Mr. Zhang graduated from Anhui College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering* (安徽機電學院, currently known as Anhui Polytechnic University* (安徽工程大學)) in July 2000 with a bachelor's degree in textile engineering, and another executive master's degree in business administration from the University of Science and Technology of China* (中國科學技術大學) in July 2011.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Lu Zhen (陸真), aged 48, joined the Group in October 2014 and was appointed as an executive Director of the Company on 27 October 2017.

Mr. Lu has more than 10 years of experience in education. The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Lu:

Period	Company	Position
July 1999 to February 2005	Hefei Meiling Co., Ltd.* (合肥美菱股份有限公司)	Business manager
February 2005 to February 2009	Hefei Meiling Home Appliances Industrial and Trading Company Limited* (合肥美菱家電工貿有限公司)	General manager for Anhui division
August 2009 to November 2011 and December 2013 to October 2014	Xinhua Education Group	Deputy head/marketing operation manager/general manager of computer business department
November 2011 to November 2013	Shandong Xinhua Computer College* (山東新華電腦學院)	Deputy principal/principal
October 2014 to present	Xinhua University	Deputy principal/executive director/executive deputy principal
March 2015 to present	Xinhua Group	Assistant to the president/director/vice president/executive vice president
November 2018 to present	China East Education Holdings Limited, a company whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange (stock code: 667)	Non-executive director

Mr. Lu graduated from Zhengzhou Institute of Textile Industry* (鄭州紡織工學院, currently known as Zhongyuan University of Technology (中原工學院)) in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province, the PRC with a bachelor degree majoring in mechanical engineering in July 1999 and graduated from Nanjing University (南京大學) in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, the PRC with a degree of master of business administration in March 2009.

Mr. Wang Yongkai (王永凱), aged 66, joined the Group in March 2003 and was appointed as an executive Director of the Company on 27 October 2017.

Mr. Wang has more than 18 years of experience in education and financial matters. The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Wang:

Period	Company	Position
March 2003 to present	Xinhua Group	Chief financial officer/deputy general manager/director/executive president
December 2004 to present	Xinhua University	Director

Mr. Wang obtained the qualification as a senior economist granted by the Personnel Bureau of Hefei City in December 2008. He graduated from Hefei Rural Economic Management Cadre College* (合肥農村經濟管理幹部學院, currently known as Anhui Economic Management Cadre College* (安徽經濟管理幹部學院)) in Hefei City, Anhui Province, the PRC majoring in financial accounting and statistics in July 1989 and graduated from China Europe International Business School* (中歐國際工商學院) in Shanghai, the PRC with a degree of master of business administration in October 2011.

Independent non-executive Directors

Mr. Jiang Min (蔣敏), aged 59, was appointed as an independent non-executive Director of the Company on 30 September 2019. Mr. Jiang has more than 30 years of experiences in legal practices. Mr. Jiang graduated from Anhui University* (安徽大學) in July 1987 and July 1990 with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in law, respectively. Mr. Jiang received his lawyer qualification certificate (律師資格證書) from Ministry of Justice of the PRC in March 1989.

The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Jiang:

Period	Company	Position
September 1990 to December 1995	Anhui Jingji Law Offices* (安徽省經濟律師事務所)	Attorney
January 1996 to present	Anhui Tianhe Law Offices* (安徽天禾律師事務所)	Partner
May 2002 to present	All China Lawyers Association* (中華全國律師協會)	Executive director and vice president
April 2005 to December 2021	Anhui Lawyers Association* (安徽省律師協會)	President and honorary president
May 2012 to June 2016	Fourth and Fifth Merger and Acquisition Audit Committee of listed companies of China Securities Regulatory Commission	Member

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Period	Company	Position
June 2014 to June 2020	Tsingtao Brewery Co., Ltd.* (青島啤酒股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange (stock code: 600600) and the Stock Exchange (stock code: 00168)	Independent non-executive director
May 2016 to May 2022	Shandong Pharmaceutical Glass Co., Ltd.* (山東省藥用玻璃股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange (stock code: 600529)	Independent non-executive director
December 2016 to May 2020	Sunshine Power Co., Ltd.* (陽光電源股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (stock code: 300274)	Independent non-executive director
January 2019 to January 2022	Keda Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd.* (科大智能科技股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange (stock code: 300222)	Independent non-executive director
May 2019 to present	Qingdao Port International Co., Ltd.* (青島港國際股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange (stock code: 601298) and the Stock Exchange (stock code: 06198)	Independent non-executive director

Mr. Yang Zhanjun, aged 54, was appointed as an independent non-executive Director of the Company on 27 October 2017.

The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Yang:

Period	Company	Position
March 2008 to December 2017	Keiser University	Associate dean of business/vice chancellor of international affairs
February 2018 to present	American Higher Education Alliance	Senior executive

Mr. Yang was awarded a degree of master of business administration from Florida International University in Miami, the U.S., in December 2002.

Mr. Yao Heping (姚和平), aged 61, was appointed as an independent non-executive Director of the Company on 17 November 2022.

The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Yao:

Period	Company	Position
April 1995 to present	Anhui ANLI Material Technology Co., Ltd. (安徽安利材料科技股份有限公司), a company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (stock code: 300218)	Deputy general manager/general manager/ chairman of the board

Mr. Yao obtained a bachelor degree in Agricultural Mechanization (農業機械化) from Anhui Agricultural University (安徽農業大學). He graduated from Party School of Anhui Provincial Committee of C.P.C. (中共安徽省委黨校) with a major in law and obtained a postgraduate degree. He is a senior economist* (高級經濟師) and a State Council Special Allowance Expert* (享受國務院特殊津貼專家). Mr. Yao is a certified public accountant and a senior member of The Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (中國註冊會計師協會).

Mr. Yao was awarded the honorary titles of National Model Worker, Outstanding Entrepreneur of Anhui Province and Technical Leader of Anhui Province. He currently serves as a deputy to the People's Congress of Anhui Province, a member of the Finance and Economics Committee of the People's Congress of Anhui Province, and the vice-chairman of the Federation of Industry and Commerce of Anhui Province.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Huang Yuan (黃源), aged 60, joined the Group in January 2015. Mr. Huang has been the vice president of the Xinhua Group since January 2015, and the chairman of the board of supervisors of Xinhua University since March 2015.

Mr. Huang has more than 20 years of experience in education. The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Huang:

Period	Company	Position
September 2002 to March 2004	Anhui Xinhua Real Estate Co., Ltd.* (安徽新華房地產有限公司)	Vice general manager and manager of procurement department
March 2004 to April 2008	Anhui New East Cuisine Education Institute	Principal
April 2008 to January 2015	Xinhua Education Group	Vice general manager
January 2015 to present	Xinhua Group	Vice president
March 2015 to present	Xinhua University	Chairman of the board of supervisors

Mr. Huang graduated from Renmin University of China* (中國人民大學) in Beijing, the PRC with a degree of master of business administration in November 2008.

DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Ni Zheng (倪徵), aged 47, joined the Group in December 2012 and was appointed as the chief officer of international operations on 31 October 2017.

The following table shows the key working experience of Mr. Ni:

Period	Company	Position
December 2012 to April 2016 and July 2017 to September 2018	Xinhua University	Deputy principal
April 2016 to July 2017	Hefei Xinhua Experimental Middle School* (合肥新華實驗中學)	Chairman
August 2016 to January 2017	Anhui Youbangxue Education and Technology Company Limited* (安徽優邦學教育科技有限公司)	General manager
January 2017 to July 2017	Anhui Youbangxue Education and Technology Company Limited* (安徽優邦學教育科技有限公司)	Vice general manager, general manager of the business department No. 1 and the head of the branding operation department
July 2017 to August 2018	Xinhua Group	General manager of the investment department and the head of the education development department
August 2018 to August 2022	Xinhua Group	Investment director
August 2022 to present	Hongshan College	Executive dean

Mr. Ni graduated from Huainan Normal College* (淮南師範專科學校, currently known as Huainan Normal University* (淮南師範學院)) in Huainan City, Anhui Province, the PRC majoring in Chinese language and literature in July 2000 and graduated from Guizhou University* (貴州大學) in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, the PRC with a degree of master of business administration in June 2017.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The Board is pleased to present the report of the Directors together with the audited consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Group is a leading private higher education provider in the Yangtze River Delta. Analysis of the principal activities of the Group during the year ended 31 December 2023 is set out in the note 1 to the consolidated financial statements.

BUSINESS REVIEW

A fair review of the business of the Group during the year ended 31 December 2023 as required by Schedule 5 to the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong), including an analysis of the Group's financial performance, an indication of likely future developments in the Group's business and the Group's key relationships with its stakeholders who have a significant impact on the Group and on which the Group's success depends, is set out in the sections headed "Chairman's Statement" on page 3 and "Management Discussion and Analysis" on pages 4 to 14. These discussions form part of this annual report. Events affecting the Company that have occurred since the end of the financial year are set out in the section headed "EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD" on page 14.

SUBSIDIARIES

Details of the principal subsidiaries of the Company are set out in note 14 to the consolidated financial statements.

RESULTS

The results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2023 are set out in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income on page 112 of this annual report.

DIVIDEND POLICY

Policy on payment of dividend is in place setting out the principles and guidelines that the Company intends to apply in relation to the declaration, payment or distribution of its net profits as dividends to its shareholders. The Company does not have any pre-determined dividend payout ratio. The declaration and payment of dividends shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Board after taking into account the Company's financial performances, working capital requirements, future prospects and other factors and the applicable regulations. The policy shall be reviewed periodically and submitted to the Board for approval if amendments are required.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 18 June 2024 and a notice convening the AGM will be published on the websites of the Company (<https://www.chinaxh.edu.com>) and the Stock Exchange (<https://www.hkexnews.hk>), respectively, and despatched to the Shareholders in due course.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FINAL DIVIDEND

The Board recommended the payment of a final dividend of HK6.32 cents per share (equivalent to approximately RMB5.73 cents per share) for the Reporting Period (2022: HK6.56 cents per share). The final dividend is subject to the approval of the Shareholders at the AGM and the final dividend will be payable on or around Tuesday, 9 July 2024 to the Shareholders whose names appear on the register of members of the Company on Wednesday, 26 June 2024.

CLOSURE OF THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS

For Determining the Eligibility to Attend and Vote at the AGM

The register of members of the Company will be closed from Thursday, 13 June 2024 to Tuesday, 18 June 2024, both days inclusive, in order to determine the identity of the Shareholders who are eligible to attend and vote at the AGM to be held on Tuesday, 18 June 2024, during which period no share transfers will be registered. To be eligible to attend and vote at the AGM, all properly completed transfer forms accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged for registration with the Company's Hong Kong share registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, at Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong not later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 June 2024.

For Determining the Eligibility to the Proposed Final Dividend

The register of members of the Company will be closed from Monday, 24 June 2024 to Wednesday, 26 June 2024, both days inclusive, in order to determine the eligibility of the Shareholders to receive the final dividend, during which period no share transfers will be registered. To qualify for the final dividend, all properly completed transfer forms accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged for registration with the Company's Hong Kong share registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, at Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong not later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 21 June 2024.

PRINCIPAL RISK AND UNCERTAINTIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Group is exposed to various risks in operating our business and it believes that risk management is important to its success. Key operational risks faced by it include, among others, changes in general market conditions and perceptions of private education, changes in the regulatory environment in the PRC private education industry, its ability to offer quality education to students, its ability to increase student enrollment and/or raising tuition rates, its potential expansion into other regions in China or overseas, availability of financing to fund its expansion and business operations and competition from other school operators that offer similar or higher quality of education and have similar scale.

In addition, the Group faces numerous market risks, such as interest rate, credit and liquidity risks that arise in the normal course of its business.

Credit Risk

The Group's credit risk is primarily attributable to trade receivables and financial assets which comprise bank balances and investments in wealth management products. Its management has a credit policy in place and the exposures to these credit risks are monitored on an ongoing basis.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Group's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Group's reputation.

To properly manage these risks, the Group has established the following risk management structures and measures:

- The Board has the general power to manage the operations of our schools and the overall risks of the Company. It is responsible for considering, reviewing and approving any significant business decision involving material risk exposures, such as the decision to expand the Group's school network into new geographic areas, the raising of tuition fees, and the decision to enter into cooperative business relationships with third parties to establish new schools and/or new programs;
- The Group maintains insurance coverage, as to align with customary practice in the PRC education industry, this includes the school liability insurance; and
- The Group has made arrangements with banks to ensure that it is able to obtain credits to support the business operation and expansion.

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY

The business of the Group is not in violation of the PRC environment laws and requisitions in any material aspects.

The Group is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of its students. Each of its schools has adopted and implemented student health and safety measures to protect its students from bodily harm and other health and safety risks. The Group provides routine medical services for the students and faculty by outsourcing such services to third party medical care providers. In the event of any serious and emergency medical situations, the Group will promptly send its students to local hospitals for treatment. With respect to school safety, the Group promotes the security of its schools by employing its own security personnel.

As at the date of this annual report, the Group did not experience any serious accident, medical situation or safety issue involving its students.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A summary of the Group's results, assets and liabilities for the last five financial years are set out on page 162 "Financial Highlights" of this annual report. This summary does not form part of the audited consolidated financial statements.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

The customers primarily consist of our students. For the year ended 31 December 2023, the Group's five largest customers accounted for less than 30% of our revenue, and the Group did not have any single customer who accounted for more than 10% of our revenue.

The Group's suppliers primarily consist of construction companies, textbook suppliers and utility suppliers. For the year ended 31 December 2023, purchases from the Group's five largest suppliers amounted to approximately RMB40.6 million (2022: RMB37.4 million), accounting for approximately 31.5% (2022: 23.5%) of the total purchases for the Reporting Period. For the same period, purchases from the Group's largest supplier amounted to approximately RMB11.5 million (2022: RMB10.6 million), accounting for approximately 8.9% (2022: 6.7%), of the total purchases for the relevant periods.

None of the Directors, their respective close associates, or any Shareholder who, to the knowledge of the Directors, owns more than 5% of our issued capital, had any interest in any of the Group's five largest suppliers or customers during the Reporting Period.

RELATIONSHIP WITH EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS

The Group understands the importance of maintaining a good relationship with its employees, suppliers and customers to meet its immediate and long-term goals. The Group maintains a good relationship with employees, suppliers and customers. During the Reporting Period, there were no material and significant dispute between the Group and its employees, suppliers and/or customers.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Details of movements in the property, plant and equipment of the Group during the year ended 31 December 2023 are set out in note 11 to the consolidated financial statements.

SHARE CAPITAL

Details of movements in the share capital of the Company during the year are set out in note 22 to the consolidated financial statements.

TAX RELIEF AND EXEMPTION

The Company is not aware of any tax relief and exemption available to the Shareholders by reason of their holding of the Company's securities.

RESERVES

Details of movements in the reserves of the Group and the Company during the year ended 31 December 2023 are set out in the consolidated statement of changes in equity on page 115 of this annual report and note 22 to the consolidated financial statements.

DISTRIBUTABLE RESERVES

The Company's reserves available for distribution as at 31 December 2023 comprised the share premium and retained earnings of RMB512,903,000.

BANK LOANS AND OTHER BORROWINGS

The bank loans of the Group amounted to RMB162.9 million as at 31 December 2023. Details of which were disclosed in note 19 to the consolidated financial statements.

DIRECTORS

The Directors of the Company during the Reporting Period and up to the date of this annual report are:

Non-executive Director:

Mr. Wu Junbao (*Chairman*)

Executive Directors:

Mr. Zhang Ming

Mr. Lu Zhen

Mr. Wang Yongkai

Independent Non-executive Directors:

Mr. Jiang Min

Mr. Yang Zhanjun

Mr. Yao Heping

In accordance to article 84(1) of the Articles of Association, one-third of the Directors shall retire from office by rotation at each annual general meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. Accordingly, Mr. Wu Junbao, Mr. Jiang Min and Mr. Yang Zhanjun will retire and shall be eligible for re-election in the AGM.

Details of the Directors to be re-elected at the AGM are set out in the circular which will be published on the Company's website (<https://www.chinaxhedu.com>) and the Stock Exchange (<https://www.hkexnews.hk>), respectively, and sent to the Company's Shareholders in due course.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Biographical details of the Directors and senior management of the Company are set out in the section headed “DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT” on pages 15 to 20 of this annual report. None of the Directors and senior management have financial, business, family or other material/relevant relationships with each other. There was no changes in the information of our Directors and chief executives of the Company subsequent to the date of the 2023 interim report which is required to be disclosed pursuant to Rule 13.51B(1) of the Listing Rules.

CONFIRMATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Each independent non-executive Director shall inform the Company as soon as possible if there is any change of circumstances which may affect his independence. No such notification was received during the financial year. The Company has received, from each of the independent non-executive Directors, an annual confirmation of their independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules and considers its independent non-executive Directors to be independent in character and judgement and they also meet the independence criteria set out in Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules throughout the year ended 31 December 2023 and remain so as at the date of this annual report.

DIRECTORS’ SERVICE CONTRACTS AND A LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

Each of Mr. Zhang Ming, Mr. Lu Zhen and Mr. Wang Yongkai, being the executive Directors of the Company, has entered into a service contract with the Company for an initial fixed term of three years commencing from the Listing Date and 31 October 2018, respectively, and will continue thereafter until terminated by not less than three months’ notice in writing served by either party on the other, which notice shall not expire until the end of the fixed term.

Each of the non-executive Director and independent non-executive Directors has signed a letter of appointment with the Company for an initial fixed term of one year commencing from the Listing Date or 30 September 2019 or 17 November 2022 (as applicable) and will continue thereafter until terminated by not less than three months’ notice in writing served by either party on the other, which notice shall not expire until the end of the fixed term.

Save as disclosed above, none of the Directors has a service contract or a letter of appointment which is not determinable by the Group within one year without payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation).

DIRECTORS' AND CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDERS' MATERIAL INTERESTS IN TRANSACTIONS, ARRANGEMENTS OR CONTRACTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Save as disclosed in the section headed “Non-exempt Continuing Connected Transaction” and otherwise disclosed in this annual report, no Director or its connected entity (within the meaning of section 486 of the Companies Ordinance) had a material interest, either directly or indirectly, in any transaction, arrangement or contract of significance to the business of the Group to which the Company, or any of its subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries was a party during the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report.

Apart from the contract relating to the reorganization of the Group in relation to the Listing and save as disclosed in the section headed “Non-exempt Continuing Connected Transaction” and otherwise disclosed in this annual report, none of the Controlling Shareholder or any of its connected entity (within the meaning of section 486 of the Companies Ordinance) had a material interest, either directly or indirectly, in any transaction, arrangement or contract of significance to the business of the Group to which the Company, or any of its subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries was a party during the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report.

No contract of significance for the provision of services to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries by the Controlling Shareholder of the Company or any of its subsidiaries was entered into during the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report.

MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

No contracts concerning the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the Company were entered into or existed for the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report.

EMOLUMENT POLICY

The Company's remuneration policy comprises primarily a fixed component (in the form of a base salary) and a variable component (which includes discretionary bonus and other merit payments), considering other factors such as their experience, level of responsibility, individual performance, the profit performance of the Group and general market conditions.

A remuneration committee was set up for reviewing the Group's emolument policy and structure for all remuneration of the Directors and senior management of the Group, having regard to the Group's operating results, individual performance of the Directors and senior management and comparable market practices.

The emoluments payable to the Directors and senior management of the Company are determined by the Board with recommendations of the Remuneration Committee, their respective contractual terms under their service contracts or letters of appointment, having regard to their performance, our operating results and comparable market statistics.

The remuneration of Directors are subject to the Shareholders' approval at the general meeting of the Company, and that no Directors nor any of their respective associates will be involved in regard to the relevant resolution approving their own remuneration.

The Directors and senior management may also receive options to be granted under the Share Option Scheme. For further details of the Share Option Scheme, please refer to page VI-21 of the Prospectus “Share Option Scheme”.

Details of the remuneration of the Directors, and five highest paid individuals during the Reporting Period are set out in notes 8 and 9 to the consolidated financial statements.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

RETIREMENT AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SCHEME

Details of the retirement and employee benefits scheme of the Company during the Reporting Period are set out in note 6 to the consolidated financial statements.

DIRECTORS' AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTERESTS AND SHORT POSITION IN SHARES, UNDERLYING SHARES AND DEBENTURES

As at 31 December 2023, the interests and short positions of the Directors and the chief executive of the Company in the Shares, underlying Shares and debentures of the Company or any of its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) which have been notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests and short positions which they were taken or deemed to have taken under such provisions of the SFO), or which were recorded in the register required to be kept pursuant to section 352 of the SFO or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") as set out in Appendix C3 to the Listing Rules were as follows:

(i) Long position in the Company

Name	Capacity/nature of interest	Number of Shares/ underlying Shares	Long/short position	Approximate percentage of shareholding in the Company ⁽¹⁾ (%)
Mr. Wu Junbao ⁽²⁾	Interest in a controlled corporation	1,154,452,879	Long position	71.77
Mr. Zhang Ming	Beneficial owner	30,000,000 ⁽³⁾	Long position	1.86
Mr. Lu Zhen	Beneficial owner	12,000,000 ⁽³⁾	Long position	0.75
Mr. Wang Yongkai	Beneficial owner	12,000,000 ⁽³⁾	Long position	0.75
Mr. Jiang Min	Beneficial owner	500,000	Long position	0.03

Notes:

- (1) The calculation of approximate percentage of shareholding in the Company was based on the total number of 1,608,583,000 Shares in issue as of 31 December 2023.
- (2) Mr. Wu Junbao is the sole shareholder of Wu Junbao Company Limited (吳俊保有限公司) ("WJB Company") and he is therefore deemed to be interested in the Shares held by WJB Company.
- (3) These were underlying Shares and represented the share options granted by the Company under the Share Option Scheme. Details of these share options granted are set out in the section headed "Share Option Scheme" below.

(ii) Long position in associated corporation

Xinhua Group

Name	Capacity/nature of interest	Amount of registered share capital	Approximate percentage of shareholding in the associated corporation as at 31 December 2023
Mr. Wu Junbao	Beneficial owner	RMB100,000,000	95.70%

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 December 2023, none of the Directors or the chief executive of the Company had or was deemed to have any interest or short position in the Shares, underlying Shares or debentures of the Company or its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) that was required to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests and short positions which they were taken or deemed to have taken under such provisions of the SFO), or required to be recorded in the register required to be kept under Section 352 of the SFO, or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code.

SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS' INTERESTS AND SHORT POSITIONS IN SHARES AND UNDERLYING SHARES

As at 31 December 2023, to the best knowledge of the Directors, the following persons (other than being a Director or chief executive of the Company) had interests or short positions in the Shares or underlying Shares which fall to be disclosed to the Company under the provisions of Divisions 2 and 3 of Part XV of the SFO as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to section 336 of the SFO:

Name	Capacity/Nature of interest	Number of shares	Long/short position	Approximate percentage of shareholding in the Company as at 31 December 2023 ⁽¹⁾
WJB Company ⁽²⁾	Beneficial owner	1,154,452,879	Long position	71.77%

Notes:

- (1) The calculation of approximate percentage of shareholding in the Company was based on the total number of 1,608,583,000 Shares in issue as of 31 December 2023.
- (2) Mr. Wu Junbao is the sole shareholder of WJB Company and he is therefore deemed to be interested in the Shares held by WJB Company.

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 December 2023, the Directors and the chief executive of the Company were not aware of any persons (who were not Directors or chief executive of the Company) who had an interest or short position in the Shares or underlying Shares of the Company which would fall to be disclosed under Divisions 2 and 3 of Part XV of the SFO, or which would be required, pursuant to Section 336 of the SFO, to be entered in the register referred to therein.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' RIGHTS TO ACQUIRE SHARES OR DEBENTURES

Save as otherwise disclosed in this annual report, at no time during the Reporting Period was the Company or any of its subsidiaries a party to any arrangement that would enable the Directors to acquire benefits by means of acquisition of shares in, or debentures of, the Company or any other body corporate, and none of the Directors or any of their spouses or children under the age of 18 were granted any right to subscribe for the equity or debt securities of the Company or any other body corporate or had exercised any such right.

SHARE OPTION SCHEME

The Company has adopted the Share Option Scheme on 8 March 2018 ("Adoption Date") for the purpose of giving eligible persons an opportunity to have a personal stake in the Company and help motivate them to optimize their future contributions to the Group and/or to reward them for their past contributions, to attract and retain or otherwise maintain on-going relationships with such eligible persons who are significant to and/or whose contributions are or will be beneficial to the performance, growth or success of the Group, and additionally in the case of executives (as defined below), to enable the Group to attract and retain individuals with experience and ability and/or to reward them for their past contributions.

Eligible persons include (a) any executive director of, manager of, or other employee holding an executive, managerial, supervisory or similar position in any member of our Group ("Executive"), any proposed employee, any full-time or part-time employee, or a person for the time being seconded to work full-time or part-time for any member of our Group ("Employee"); (b) a director or proposed director (including an independent non-executive director) of any member of our Group; (c) a direct or indirect shareholder of any member of our Group; (d) a supplier of goods or services to any member of our Group; (e) a customer, consultant, business or joint venture partner, franchisee, contractor, agent or representative of any member of our Group; (f) a person or entity that provides design, research, development or other support or any advisory, consultancy, professional or other services to any member of our Group; and (g) an associate of any of the persons referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f) above. Pursuant to the Chapter 17 of the Listing Rules as amended on 1 January 2023, the Company may continue to make grants to directors and employees of the Group under the Share Option Scheme until the refreshment or expiry of the existing scheme mandate, upon which the issuer would be required to amend the terms of the schemes to comply with the amended Main Board Chapter 17 and seek shareholders' approval for a new scheme mandate.

The maximum number of Shares which may be issued upon exercise of all options to be granted under the Share Option Scheme and any other schemes of the Group shall not in aggregate exceed 10% of the Shares in issue as at the Listing Date, which is 160,000,000 Shares excluding Shares which may fall to be issued upon the exercise of the over-allotment option granted by the Company, representing approximately 10% of the issued shares as at the Listing Date. As at the date of this annual report, the total number of Shares available for issue under the Share Option Scheme is 20,200,000 Shares, representing approximately 1.26% of the total issued share capital of the Company.

No option may be granted to any one person such that the total number of Shares issued and to be issued upon exercise of options granted and to be granted to that person in any 12-month period exceeds 1% of the Company's issued share capital from time to time. Where any further grant of options to such an Eligible Person would result in the Shares issued and to be issued upon exercise of all options granted and to be granted to such eligible person (including exercised, cancelled and outstanding options) in the 12-month period up to and including the date of such further grant representing in aggregate over 1% of the Shares in issue, such further grant shall be separately approved by the Shareholders in general meeting with such eligible person and his close associates (or his associates if such eligible person is a connected person) abstaining from voting.

The Board shall be entitled at any time within 10 years from the Adoption Date to offer the grant of an option to any eligible person as the Board may in its absolute discretion select to subscribe at the subscription price for such number of Shares as the Board may (subject to the terms of the Share Option Scheme) determine (provided the same shall be a board lot for dealing in the Shares on the Stock Exchange or an integral multiple thereof). Subject to such terms and conditions as the Board may determine (including such terms and conditions in relation to their vesting, exercise or otherwise), under the terms of the Share Option Scheme, there is no specific period within which the option may be exercised by the grantee, and there is no vesting period for any option granted under the Scheme, and there is no performance target which need to be achieved by the grantee before the option can be exercised.

An offer of the grant of an option shall remain open for acceptance by the eligible person concerned for a period of 28 days from the offer date provided that no such grant of an option may be accepted after the expiry of the effective period of the Share Option Scheme. An option shall be deemed to have been granted and accepted by the eligible person and to have taken effect when the duplicate offer letter comprising acceptance of the offer of the option duly signed by the grantee together with a remittance in favor of the Company of HK\$1.00 by way of consideration for the grant thereof is received by the Company on or before the date upon which an offer of an option must be accepted by the relevant eligible person, being a date no later than 28 days after the offer date.

The subscription price in respect of any particular option shall be such price as the Board may in its absolute discretion determine at the time of grant of the relevant option (and shall be stated in the letter containing the offer of the grant of the option) but the subscription price shall not be less than whichever is the highest of: (a) the nominal value of a Share; (b) the closing price of a Share as stated in the Stock Exchange's daily quotations sheet on the offer date; and (c) the average closing price of a Share as stated in the Stock Exchange's daily quotations sheets for the 5 business days (as defined in the Listing Rules) immediately preceding the offer date.

The Share Option Scheme shall be valid and effective for a period of 10 years from the date on which it becomes unconditional, after which no further options will be granted or offered but the provisions of the Share Option Scheme shall remain in force and effect in all other respects. All options granted prior to such expiry and not then exercised shall continue to be valid and exercisable subject to and in accordance with the Share Option Scheme. The remaining life of the Share Option Scheme is around 3 years and 11 months.

Details of the movement of share options granted under the Share Option Scheme during the Reporting Period are as follows:

Category and name of participant	Date of grant	Exercise price per Share	Exercise Period	Vesting period	Outstanding	Granted	Exercised	Cancelled/	Outstanding
					as at 1 January 2023	during the Reporting Period	during the Reporting Period	Lapsed during the Reporting Period	as at 31 December 2023
Director									
Zhang Ming	30 April 2019	HK\$2.69	5 years from vesting date	Note (1)	15,000,000	-	-	-	15,000,000
	5 June 2023	HK\$0.764 ⁽⁷⁾	10 years from vesting date	Note (4)	-	15,000,000	-	-	15,000,000
Lu Zhen	15 July 2019	HK\$2.82	5 years from vesting date	Note (2)	6,000,000	-	-	-	6,000,000
	5 June 2023	HK\$0.764 ⁽⁷⁾	10 years from vesting date	Note (5)	-	6,000,000	-	-	6,000,000
Wang Yongkai	15 July 2019	HK\$2.82	5 years from vesting date	Note (2)	6,000,000	-	-	-	6,000,000
	5 June 2023	HK\$0.764 ⁽⁷⁾	10 years from vesting date	Note (5)	-	6,000,000	-	-	6,000,000
Employees	15 July 2019	HK\$2.82	Notes (2) and (3)	Notes (2) and (3)	40,900,000	-	-	-	40,900,000
	5 June 2023	HK\$0.764 ⁽⁷⁾	10 years from vesting date	Notes (5) and (6)	-	44,900,000	-	-	44,900,000
Total					67,900,000	71,900,000	-	-	139,800,000

Notes:

(1) Share options granted shall vest in accordance with the timetable below:

Vesting date	Percentage of share options to be vested
30 April 2020	20% of the total number of share options granted
30 April 2021	20% of the total number of share options granted
30 April 2022	20% of the total number of share options granted
30 April 2023	20% of the total number of share options granted
30 April 2024	20% of the total number of share options granted

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

- (2) Among the 52,900,000 share options granted on 15 July 2019, 33,000,000 share options (including share options granted to Lu Zhen and Wang Yongkai (the “Group A Share Options”) shall vest in accordance with the timetable below with an exercise period commencing from the relevant vesting date and ending on the expiration date of five years after the relevant vesting date:

Vesting date	Percentage of share options to be vested
15 July 2020	25% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
15 July 2021	25% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
15 July 2022	25% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
15 July 2023	25% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted

- (3) Among the 52,900,000 share options granted on 15 July 2019, 1,500,000 share options (the “Group B Share Options”) shall vest in accordance with the timetable below with an exercise period commencing from the relevant vesting date and ending on the expiration date of five years after the relevant vesting date:

Vesting date	Percentage of share options to be vested
15 July 2020	30% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted
15 July 2021	30% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted
15 July 2022	40% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted

Among the 52,900,000 Share Options granted on 15 July 2019, 15,200,000 Share Options (the “Group C Share Options”) shall vest in accordance with the timetable below with an exercise period commencing from the relevant vesting date and ending on the expiration date of five years after the relevant vesting date:

Vesting date	Percentage of share options to be vested
15 July 2020	50% of the total number of the Group C Share Options granted
15 July 2021	50% of the total number of the Group C Share Options granted

Among the 52,900,000 share options granted on 15 July 2019, 1,200,000 share options (the “Group D Share Options”) shall vest in accordance with the timetable below with an exercise period commencing from the relevant vesting date and ending on the expiration date of five years after the relevant vesting date:

Vesting date	Percentage of share options to be vested
15 July 2020	100% of the total number of the Group D Share Options granted

Among the 52,900,000 share options granted on 15 July 2019, 2,000,000 share options shall vest on the date of grant with an exercise period commencing from the date of grant and ending on the expiration date of five years after the date of grant.

- (4) Among the 71,900,000 share options granted on 5 June 2023, 15,000,000 share options granted to Zhang Ming (the “Group A Share Options”) shall vest in accordance with the timetable below:

Vesting date	Percentage of Share Options to be vested
5 June 2024	20% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
5 June 2025	20% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
5 June 2026	20% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
5 June 2027	20% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted
5 June 2028	20% of the total number of the Group A Share Options granted

- (5) Among the 71,900,000 share options granted on 5 June 2023, 34,000,000 share options (including share options granted to Lu Zhen and Wang Yongkai) (the “Group B Share Options”) shall vest in accordance with the timetable below:

Vesting date	Percentage of Share Options to be vested
5 June 2024	25% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted
5 June 2025	25% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted
5 June 2026	25% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted
5 June 2027	25% of the total number of the Group B Share Options granted

- (6) Among the 71,900,000 share options granted on 5 June 2023, 1,500,000 share options (the "Group C Share Options") shall vest in accordance with the timetable below:

Vesting date	Percentage of Share Options to be vested
5 June 2024	30% of the total number of the Group C Share Options granted
5 June 2025	30% of the total number of the Group C Share Options granted
5 June 2026	40% of the total number of the Group C Share Options granted

Among the 71,900,000 share options granted on 5 June 2023, 19,300,000 share options (the "Group D Share Options") shall vest in accordance with the timetable below:

Vesting date	Percentage of Share Options to be vested
5 June 2024	50% of the total number of the Group D Share Options granted
5 June 2025	50% of the total number of the Group D Share Options granted

Among the 71,900,000 share options granted on 5 June 2023, 2,100,000 share options (the "Group E Share Options") shall vest in accordance with the timetable below:

Vesting date	Percentage of Share Options to be vested
5 June 2024	100% of the total number of the Group E Share Options granted

- (7) The closing price of the Share immediately before the date on which share options were granted during the Reporting Period was HK\$0.750 per Share.

Other than disclosed above, no other share options were granted, exercised, lapsed or cancelled during the Reporting Period.

The number of options available for grant under the Share Option Scheme at the beginning and the end of the Reporting Period is 92,100,000 and 20,200,000, respectively.

The number of Shares that may be issued in respect of options granted under all share option schemes of the Company during the Reporting Period divided by the weighted average number of Shares in issue for the Reporting Period is 0.0869.

The Group used binomial model to determine the fair value of the share options as of the date of grant, taking into account the terms and conditions upon which the share options were granted. The fair value of share options granted by the Company on 5 June 2023 to employee participants and Directors were HK\$0.22 and HK\$0.22 per share option, respectively. The following table shows key assumptions and the fair value of the share options:

Fair value of share options and assumptions	30 April 2019	15 July 2019	5 June 2023
Fair value at measurement date (HK\$'000)	16,434	53,520	16,055
Share price (HK\$)	2.66	2.82	0.75
Exercise price (HK\$)	2.69	2.82	0.764
Expected volatility	47.04%	41.99%	48.94%
Option life	8.0 years	7.2 years	12.3 years
Expected dividends	2.10%	1.98%	8.75%
Risk-free interest rate	1.672%-1.697%	1.418%-1.566%	3.602%-3.916%

The expected volatility is based on the average volatilities in the similar industry. Expected dividends are based on historical dividends. Changes in the subjective input assumptions could materially affect the fair value estimate.

Share options were granted under a service condition. This condition has not been taken into account in the grant date fair value measurement of the services received. There were no market conditions associated with the share option grants.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

EQUITY-LINKED AGREEMENTS

Save as disclosed in the section headed “Share Option Scheme” of this annual report and in the Prospectus, during the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries had entered into (i) any agreement that will or may result in the Company issuing Shares; or (ii) any agreement requiring the Company to enter into any agreement specified in (i).

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF LISTED SECURITIES

Neither the Company, nor any of its subsidiaries, purchased, sold or redeemed any listed securities of the Company during the Reporting Period.

PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS

There is no provision for pre-emptive rights under the Articles of Association or the laws of the Cayman Islands that would oblige the Company to offer new Shares on a pro rata basis to existing Shareholders.

DEED OF NON-COMPETITION

Although the Controlling Shareholders have control of other private formal middle school and informal education businesses that are not included in the Group, the Controlling Shareholders believe that their interests in such businesses will not, directly or indirectly, compete with the Group’s business because there is a clear delineation of businesses of the Group and the Controlling Shareholders.

The Controlling Shareholders have entered into the Deed of Non-competition on 8 March 2018 in favour of the Company, pursuant to which the Controlling Shareholders have jointly and severally and irrevocably undertaken with the Company (for itself and for the benefit of its subsidiaries) that it or he would not, and would procure that its or his associates (except any members of our Group) would not, during the restricted period, directly or indirectly, either on its or his own account or in conjunction with or on behalf of any person, company (enterprise or corporate entity), partnership or associate (whether of an economic nature), among other things, carry on, participate or be interested or engaged in or hold (in each case whether as a shareholder, partner, agent, employee or otherwise) any business which is or may be in competition with the business of any member of the Group from time to time.

As at the date of this annual report, the Controlling Shareholders do not have any other interest in any business that may, directly or indirectly, compete with the business of the Group.

Under the Structured Contracts, Mr. Wu Junbao has provided certain non-competition undertaking in favor of the Company. For details of the non-competition undertaking, please refer to the Prospectus.

The Company has received confirmations from the Controlling Shareholders confirming their compliance with the Deed of Non-competition during the Reporting Period for disclosure in this annual report.

The independent non-executive Directors have reviewed the compliance with the Deed of Non-competition during the Reporting Period based on the information and confirmation provided by or obtained from the Controlling Shareholders, and were satisfied that the Controlling Shareholders have duly complied with the Deed of Non-competition.

DIRECTORS' INTEREST IN COMPETING BUSINESS

Save as disclosed in this annual report, during the Reporting Period and up to the date of this annual report, none of the Directors or their respective associates had engaged in or had any interest in any business which competes or is likely to compete, either directly or indirectly, with the businesses of the Group.

NON-EXEMPT CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

As at the date of this annual report, the Group has entered into the following continuing connected transactions pursuant to Chapter 14A of the Listing Rule:

(1) Structured Contracts II

A. Overview

The Group currently conducts the private higher education business through the PRC Operating Schools in the PRC as PRC laws and regulations generally restrict foreign ownership in the private education industry. In accordance with the existing PRC laws and regulations, the operation of higher education institutions to Sino-foreign cooperation ownership are also subject to restrictions, in addition to imposing qualification requirements on the foreign owners. The Group does not hold any equity interest in the PRC Operating Schools. The Structured Contracts, through which the Group obtains control over and derive the economic benefits from the PRC Operating Schools, have been narrowly tailored to achieve the business purpose and minimize the potential conflict with relevant PRC laws and regulations. The Group had entered into the Structured Contracts for the existing PRC Operating Schools and expect to enter into structured contracts for the schools to be newly established or invested in, the terms and conditions of which shall be the same as the existing Structured Contracts in all material aspects.

In order to comply with the PRC laws and regulations as set out above while availing ourselves of international capital markets and maintaining effective control over all of the operations. On 31 October 2017, the wholly-owned subsidiary, Xinhua Anhui, entered into various agreements that constitute the Structured Contracts I with, among others, the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor, under which all economic benefits arising from the business of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor are transferred to Xinhua Anhui to the extent permitted under the PRC laws and regulations by means of service fees payable by the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor to Xinhua Anhui.

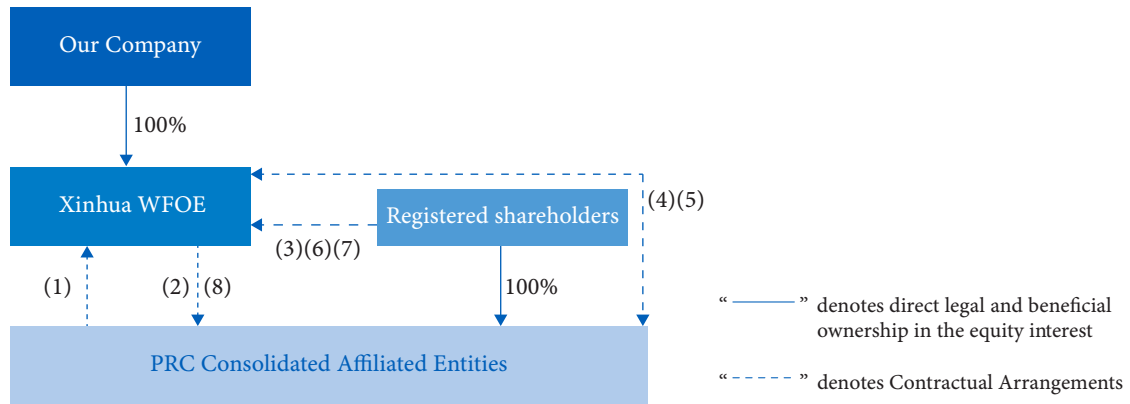
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

Pursuant to relevant local government tax policy in Khorgos, Xinjiang, an enterprise established in Khorgos between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2020 and falling within the scope of the Catalog of Enterprise Income Tax Incentives for Industries Particularly Encouraged by Poverty Areas of Xinjiang for Development* (新疆困難地區重點鼓勵發展產業企業所得稅優惠目錄) is exempted from enterprise income tax entirely for five years beginning from the first year in which revenue from its principal business is earned and, after this initial period, such enterprise is entitled to another exemption on the local portion of its enterprise income tax. In light of this preferential tax policy, on 17 January 2018, Xinhua Xinjiang was established in Khorgos, Xinjiang, the PRC as a wholly foreign owned enterprise and was wholly owned by Xinhua HK. Xinhua Xinjiang is engaged in the provision of technical and management consultancy services to our PRC Operating Schools and School Sponsor and therefore falls within the scope of the aforesaid catalog. On 7 February 2018, Xinhua Xinjiang made a filing with the relevant local tax authorities in Khorgos for the preferential tax treatments, pursuant to which Xinhua Xinjiang is fully exempted from enterprise income tax from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022. See “Financial Information – Description of Major Components of the Combined Statements of Profit or Loss – Income Tax Expenses” in the Prospectus for details.

On 6 February 2018, Xinhua Xinjiang entered into the Structured Contracts II, the terms and conditions of which are the same as those contained in the Structured Contracts I in all material aspects, pursuant to which the Structured Contracts I were automatically terminated and all economic benefits arising from the business of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities are transferred to Xinhua Xinjiang by means of services fees payable by the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities to Xinhua Xinjiang. For the year ended 31 December 2023, the Board had reviewed the overall performance of the Structured Contracts II and believes that the Group had complied with the Structured Contracts II in all material respects.

Although the Registered Shareholders are not consolidated as part of the Group, they are parties to certain agreements which constitute the Structured Contracts to ensure that the Registered Shareholders’ rights as shareholders of Xinhua Group are actually controlled by Xinhua WFOE.

The following simplified diagram illustrates the flow of economic benefits from the PRC Operating Schools and/or the School Sponsor to the Group stipulated under the Structured Contracts:



Notes:

1. Payment of service fees. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (2) Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement” in the Prospectus for details.
2. Provision of exclusive technical and management consultancy services. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (2) Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement” in the Prospectus for details.
3. Exclusive call option to acquire all or part of the School Sponsor’s interest in the PRC Operating Schools and all or part equity interest in the School Sponsor. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (3) Exclusive Call Option Agreement” in the Prospectus for details.
4. Entrustment of school sponsor’ rights in the PRC Operating Schools by Xinhua Group. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (4) School Sponsor’s and Directors’ Rights Entrustment Agreement” and “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (5) School Sponsor’s Powers of Attorney” in the Prospectus for details.
5. Entrustment of directors’ rights in the PRC Operating Schools by directors of the PRC Operating Schools including Directors’ Powers of Attorney. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (4) School Sponsor’s and Directors’ Rights Entrustment Agreement” and “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (6) Directors’ Powers of Attorney” in the Prospectus for details.
6. Entrust of Shareholders’ right including Shareholders’ power of attorney. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (7) Shareholders’ Rights Entrustment Agreement” and “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (8) Shareholders’ Powers of Attorney” in the Prospectus for details.
7. Pledge of equity interest by the Registered Shareholders of their equity interest in Xinhua Group. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (10) Equity Pledge Agreement” in the Prospectus for details.
8. Provision of loans by Xinhua WFOE to Xinhua Group. See “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (11) Loan Agreement” in the Prospectus for further details.
9. According to PRC laws and regulations, entities and individuals who establish private schools are commonly referred to as “school sponsors” instead of “owners” or “shareholders.” See “Regulatory Overview” in the Prospectus for further details.

Xinhua Group, or the School Sponsor, is a holding company to hold the school sponsor interests in the PRC Operating Schools and it is not engaged in any other business. Under the Structured Contracts, each of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities entered into the Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement and Loan Agreement with, among others, Xinhua WFOE, pursuant to which each of the School Sponsor and the PRC Operating Schools will be directly bound by and subject to the terms and conditions thereof. Accordingly, for any services provided by Xinhua WFOE to any of the School Sponsor and the PRC Operating Schools, the respective service fee will be paid by such School Sponsor and/or PRC Operating Schools to Xinhua WFOE directly.

In addition, in order to prevent the leakage of assets and values of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities, the Registered Shareholders and the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities have undertaken that, without the prior written consent of Xinhua WFOE or its designated party, the PRC Operating Schools shall not, among others, distribute dividends or other payments to the School Sponsor, or the Registered Shareholders.

B. Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I

(1) Business Cooperation Agreement

Pursuant to the Business Cooperation Agreement, Xinhua Anhui shall provide technical services, management support and consulting services necessary for the private education business, and in return, the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor shall make payments accordingly.

To ensure the due performance of the Structured Contracts, each of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor agreed to comply, and procure any of its subsidiaries to comply with, and the Registered Shareholders agreed to procure the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor to comply with the obligations as prescribed under the Business Cooperation Agreement.

In order to prevent the leakage of assets and values of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities, the Group has obtained undertakings from the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor and each of the PRC Operating Schools that, without the prior written consent of Xinhua Anhui or its designated party, the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor or the PRC Operating Schools shall not conduct or cause to conduct any activity or transaction which may have any actual impact (i) on the assets, business, staff, obligations, rights or operations of the PRC Operating Schools and/or the School Sponsor or (ii) on the ability of the School Sponsor, the Registered Shareholders and each of the PRC Operating Schools to perform the obligations under the Structured Contracts I.

Furthermore, each of Registered Shareholders undertakes to Xinhua Anhui that, unless with the prior written consent of Xinhua Anhui, the Registered Shareholders (severally or jointly) shall not (i) directly or indirectly engage, participate in, conduct, acquire or hold any business or activities which compete or may potentially compete with any of the PRC Operating Schools and/or the School Sponsor and its subsidiaries (“Competing Business”), (ii) use information obtained from any of the PRC Operating Schools and/or the School Sponsor or its subsidiaries for the Competing Business, and (iii) obtain any benefit from any Competing Business. Each of the Registered Shareholders further consents and agrees that, in the event that the Registered Shareholders (severally or jointly) directly or indirectly engage, participate in or conduct any Competing Business, Xinhua Anhui and/or other entities as designated by us shall be granted an option to require the entity engaging in the Competing Business to enter into an arrangement similar to that of the Structured Contracts I. If Xinhua Anhui does not exercise such option, the Registered Shareholders shall cease the operation of the Competing Business within a reasonable time.

(2) *Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement*

Pursuant to the Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement, Xinhua Anhui agreed to provide exclusive technical services to the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor, including but not limited to, (a) design, development, update and maintenance of software for computer and mobile devices; (b) design, development, update and maintenance of webpages and websites necessary for the education activities of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor; (c) design, development, update and maintenance of management information systems necessary for the education activities of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor; (d) provision of other technical support necessary for the education activities of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor; (e) provision of technical consulting services; (f) provision of technical training; (g) engaging technical staff to provide on-site technical support; and (h) providing other technical services reasonably requested by the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor.

Furthermore, Xinhua Anhui agreed to provide exclusive management consultancy services to the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor, including but not limited to, (a) design of curriculum; (b) preparation, selection and/or recommendation of course materials; (c) provision of teacher and staff recruitment and training support and services; (d) provision of student recruitment support and services; (e) provision of public relation services; (f) preparation of long term strategic development plans and annual working plans; (g) development of financial management systems and recommendation and optimization on annual budget; (h) advising on design of internal structures and internal management; (i) provision of management and consultancy training; (j) conduct of market research; (k) preparation of market development plan; (l) building of marketing network; and (m) providing other management technical services reasonably requested by the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor.

Pursuant to the Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement, unless otherwise prescribed under the PRC laws and regulations, Xinhua Anhui shall have exclusive proprietary rights to any technology and intellectual property developed and materials prepared in the course of the provision of research and development, technical support and services by Xinhua Anhui to the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor, and any intellectual property in the products developed, including any other rights derived thereunder, in the course of performance of obligations under the Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement and/or any other agreements entered into between Xinhua Anhui and the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities.

(3) *Exclusive Call Option Agreement*

Under the Exclusive Call Option Agreement, the Registered Shareholders have irrevocably granted Xinhua Anhui or its designated purchaser the right to purchase all or part of the school sponsor's interest of the School Sponsor in the PRC Operating Schools and all or part of equity interest in the School Sponsor ("Equity Call Option"). The purchase price payable by Xinhua Anhui in respect of the transfer of such school sponsor's interest or equity interest upon exercise of the Equity Call Option shall be the lowest price permitted under the PRC laws and regulations. Xinhua Anhui or its designated purchaser shall have the right to purchase such proportion of the school sponsor's interest of the PRC Operating Schools and/or equity interest in the School Sponsor as it decides at any time.

In the event that PRC laws and regulations allow Xinhua Anhui or us to directly hold all or part of the school sponsor interest in the PRC Operating Schools and/or all or part of the equity interest in the School Sponsor and operate private education business in the PRC, Xinhua Anhui shall issue the notice of exercise of the Equity Call Option as soon as practicable, and the percentage of school sponsor's interest and/or equity interest purchased upon exercise of the Equity Call Option shall not be lower than the maximum percentage then allowed to be held by Xinhua Anhui or us under PRC laws and regulations.

(4) *School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement*

Pursuant to the School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement, Xinhua Group has irrevocably authorized and entrusted Xinhua Anhui to exercise all its rights as school sponsor of each of the PRC Operating Schools to the extent permitted by PRC laws. These rights include, but are not limited to: (a) the right to appoint and/or elect directors or council members of the schools; (b) the right to appoint and/or elect supervisors of the schools; (c) the right to understand the operation and financial situation of the schools; (d) the right to review the resolutions and records of the board of directors and financial statements and reports of the schools; (e) the right to obtain reasonable returns as school sponsor of the schools in accordance with the laws and the articles of association of each school; (f) the right to acquire residue assets upon liquidation of the schools in accordance with the laws and the articles of association of each school; (g) the right to transfer school sponsor's interest in accordance with the laws; (h) the right to choose for the school to be a for-profit school or non-profit school pursuant to applicable PRC laws and regulations and the articles of association of each school as amended from time to time; and (i) other school sponsor's rights pursuant to applicable PRC laws and regulations and the articles of association of each school as amended from time to time.

Pursuant to the School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement, each of the directors/council members appointed by the School Sponsor in the PRC Operating Schools (the "Appointees") has irrevocably authorized and entrusted Xinhua Anhui to exercise all his/her rights as directors/council members of the PRC Operating Schools and to the extent permitted by PRC laws. These rights include, but are not limited to: (a) the right to attend meetings of the board of directors as representative of the directors appointed by the School Sponsor; (b) the right to exercise voting rights in respect of all matters discussed and resolved at the board meeting of each of the PRC Operating Schools; (c) the right to propose to convene interim board meetings of each of the PRC Operating Schools; (d) the right to sign all board minutes, board resolutions and other legal documents which the directors appointed by Xinhua Group have authority to sign in his/her capacity as directors of the PRC Operating Schools; (e) the right to instruct the legal representative and financial and business responsible persons of the PRC Operating Schools to act in accordance with the instruction of Xinhua Anhui; (f) the right to exercise all other rights and voting rights of directors as prescribed under the articles of association of the PRC Operating Schools; (g) the right to handle the legal procedures of registration, approval and licensing of the PRC Operating Schools at the education department, the department of civil affairs or other government regulatory departments; and (h) other directors' rights pursuant to applicable PRC laws and regulations and the articles of association of the PRC Operating Schools as amended from time to time.

In addition, each of Xinhua Group and the Appointees has irrevocably agreed that (i) Xinhua Anhui may delegate its rights under the School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement to the directors of Xinhua Anhui or its designated person, without prior notice to or approval by Xinhua Group and the Appointees; and (ii) any person as successor of civil rights of Xinhua Anhui or liquidator by reason of subdivision, merger, liquidation of Xinhua Anhui or other circumstances shall have authority to replace Xinhua Anhui to exercise all rights under the School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement.

(5) School Sponsor's Powers of Attorney

Pursuant to the School Sponsor's Powers of Attorney executed by the School Sponsor in favor of Xinhua Anhui, the School Sponsor authorized and appointed Xinhua Anhui, the director of which is Mr. Li Jun (李軍) (who is not a director of any of the School Sponsor and PRC Operating Schools and therefore does not give rise to any conflicts of interest), as its agent to act on its behalf to exercise or delegate the exercise of all its rights as school sponsor of each of the PRC Operating Schools. For details of the rights granted, see "Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (4) School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement" of the Prospectus.

Xinhua Anhui shall have the right to further delegate the rights so delegated to the directors of Xinhua Anhui or other designated person. The School Sponsor irrevocably agreed that the authorization appointment in the School Sponsor's Powers of Attorney shall not be invalid, prejudiced or otherwise adversely affected by reason of the School Sponsor's subdivision, merger, winding up, consolidation, liquidation or other similar events. The School Sponsor's Power of Attorney shall constitute a part and incorporate terms of the School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement.

(6) Directors' Powers of Attorney

Pursuant to the Directors' Powers of Attorney executed by each of the Appointees in favor of Xinhua Anhui, each of the Appointees authorized and appointed Xinhua Anhui, the sole director of which is Mr. Li Jun (李軍) (who is not a director of any of the School Sponsor and/or PRC Operating Schools and therefore does not give rise to any conflicts of interest), as his/her agent to act on his/her behalf to exercise or delegate the exercise of all of his/her rights as directors/council members of the PRC Operating Schools.

Xinhua Anhui shall have the right to further delegate the rights so delegated to the directors of Xinhua Anhui or other designated person. Each of the Appointees irrevocably agreed that the authorization appointment in the Directors' Powers of Attorney shall not be invalid, prejudiced or otherwise adversely affected by reason of his/her loss of or restriction on capacity, death or other similar events. The Directors' Power of Attorney shall constitute a part and incorporate terms of the School Sponsor's and Directors' Rights Entrustment Agreement.

(7) Shareholders' Rights Entrustment Agreement

Pursuant to the Shareholders' Rights Entrustment Agreement, each of the Registered Shareholders has irrevocably authorized and entrusted Xinhua Anhui to exercise all of his/its respective rights as shareholders of Xinhua Group to the extent permitted by the PRC laws. These rights include, but are not limited to: (a) the right to attend shareholders' meetings of Xinhua Group, as the case may be; (b) the right to exercise voting rights in respect of all matters discussed and resolved at the shareholders' meeting of Xinhua Group, as the case may be; (c) the right to appoint directors or legal representative of Xinhua Group, as the case may be; (d) the right to propose to convene interim shareholders' meetings of Xinhua Group, as the case may be; (e) the right to sign all shareholders' resolutions and other legal documents which the Registered Shareholders have authority to sign in its capacity as shareholders of Xinhua Group, as the case may be; (f) the right to instruct the directors and legal representative of Xinhua Group, as the case may be to act in accordance with the instruction of Xinhua Anhui; (g) the right to exercise all other rights and voting rights of shareholders as prescribed under the articles of association of Xinhua Group, as the case may be; (h) the right to handle the legal procedures of registration, approval and licensing of Xinhua Group, as the case may be at the education department, the department of civil affairs or other government regulatory departments; and (i) other shareholders' rights pursuant to applicable PRC laws and regulations and the articles of association of the PRC Operating Schools as amended from time to time.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

In addition, each of the Registered Shareholders has irrevocably agreed that (i) Xinhua Anhui may delegate its rights under the Shareholders' Rights Entrustment Agreement to the directors of Xinhua Anhui or its designated person, without prior notice to or approval by the Registered Shareholders; and (ii) any person as successor of civil rights of Xinhua Anhui or liquidator by reason of subdivision, merger, liquidation of Xinhua Anhui or other circumstances shall have authority to replace Xinhua Anhui to exercise all rights under the Shareholders' Rights Entrustment Agreement.

(8) *Shareholders' Powers of Attorney*

Pursuant to the Shareholders' Powers of Attorney executed by each of the Registered Shareholders in favor of Xinhua Anhui, each of the Registered Shareholders authorized and appointed Xinhua Anhui, as his or their agent to act on his or their behalf to exercise or delegate the exercise of all his or their rights as shareholders of the Xinhua Group. For details of the rights granted, see "Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (7) Shareholders' Rights Entrustment Agreement" in the Prospectus.

Xinhua Anhui shall have the right to further delegate the rights so delegated to its directors or other designated person. Each of the Registered Shareholders irrevocably agreed that the authorization appointment in the Shareholders' Powers of Attorney shall not be invalid, prejudiced or otherwise adversely affected by reason of his/her loss of or restriction on capacity, death or other similar events. The Shareholders' Power of Attorney shall constitute a part and incorporate terms of the Shareholders' Rights Entrustment Agreement.

(9) *Spouse Undertakings*

Pursuant to the Spouse Undertakings, the respective spouse of the Registered Shareholders has irrevocably undertaken that:

- (a) the spouse has full knowledge of and has consented to the entering into of the Structured Contracts I by the respective Registered Shareholders, and in particular, the arrangement as set out in the Structured Contracts I in relation to the restrictions imposed on the direct or indirect equity interest in Xinhua Group, pledge or transfer the direct or indirect equity interest in Xinhua Group, or the disposal of the direct or indirect equity interest in Xinhua Group in any other forms;
- (b) the spouse has not participated, is not participating and shall not in the future participate in the operation, management, liquidation, dissolution and other matters in relation to the School Sponsor and the PRC Operating Schools;
- (c) the spouse authorizes the respective Registered Shareholders or his authorized person to execute all necessary documents and perform all necessary procedures from time to time for and on behalf of the spouse in relation to the spouse's equity interest in Xinhua Group (direct or indirect) in order to safeguard the interest of Xinhua Anhui under the Structured Contracts I and give effect to the fundamental purposes thereunder, and confirms and agrees to all such documents and procedures;
- (d) any undertaking, confirmation, consent and authorization under the Spouse Undertakings shall not be revoked, prejudiced, invalidated or otherwise adversely affected by any increase, decrease, consolidation or other similar events relating to the direct or indirect equity interest in Xinhua Group;

- (e) any undertaking, confirmation, consent and authorization under the Spouse Undertakings shall not be revoked, prejudiced, invalidated or otherwise adversely affected by death, loss of or restriction on capacity of the spouse, divorce or other similar events; and
- (f) all undertakings, confirmations, consents and authorizations under the Spouse Undertakings shall continue to be valid and binding until otherwise terminated by both Xinhua Anhui and the spouses of the respective Registered Shareholders in writing.

The Spouse Undertakings shall have the same term as and incorporate the terms of the Business Cooperation Agreement.

(10) Equity Pledge Agreement

Pursuant to the Equity Pledge Agreement, each of the Registered Shareholders unconditionally and irrevocably pledged and granted first priority security interests over all of his/its equity interest in Xinhua Group together with all related rights thereto to Xinhua Anhui as security for performance of the Structured Contracts I and all direct, indirect or consequential damages and foreseeable loss of interest incurred by Xinhua Anhui as a result of any event of default on the part of the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor or each of the PRC Operating Schools and all expenses incurred by Xinhua Anhui as a result of enforcement of the obligations of the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor and/or each of the PRC Operating Schools under the Structured Contracts I (the “Secured Indebtedness”).

Pursuant to the Equity Pledge Agreement, without the prior written consent of Xinhua Anhui, the Registered Shareholders shall not transfer the equity interest or create further pledge or encumbrance over the pledged equity interest. Any unauthorized transfer shall be invalid, and the proceeds of any transfer of the equity interest shall be first used in the payment of the Secured Indebtedness or deposited to such third party as agreed to by Xinhua Anhui. The Registered Shareholders also waived any pre-emptive rights upon enforcement and agreed to any transfer of the pledged equity pursuant to the Equity Pledge Agreement.

Any of the following events shall constitute an event of default under the Equity Pledge Agreement:

- (a) any of the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor or the PRC Operating Schools commits any breach of any obligations under the Structured Contracts I;
- (b) any representations or warranties or information provided by any of the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor or the PRC Operating Schools under the Structured Contracts I is proved incorrect or misleading; or
- (c) any provision in the Structured Contracts I becomes invalid or incapable of performance due to changes in PRC laws and regulations or promulgation of new laws and regulations in the PRC, and the parties have not agreed on any alternative arrangement.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

Upon the occurrence of an event of default as described above, Xinhua Anhui shall have the right to enforce the Equity Pledge Agreement by written notice to the Registered Shareholders in one or more of the following ways:

- (a) to the extent permitted under PRC laws and regulations, Xinhua Anhui may request the Registered Shareholders to transfer all or part of his or her or its equity interest in the School Sponsor to any entity or individual designated by Xinhua Anhui at the lowest consideration permissible under the PRC laws and regulations;
- (b) sell the pledged equity interest by way of auction or at a discount and have priority in the entitlement to the sales proceeds;
- (c) dispose of the pledged equity interest in other manner subject to applicable laws and regulations.

Under the Structured Contracts I, there is no equity pledge arrangement between Xinhua Anhui and the School Sponsor over the school sponsor's interest in the PRC Operating Schools held by the School Sponsor. As advised by PRC Legal Advisors, if the Group is to make an equity pledge arrangement with the School Sponsor where the School Sponsor pledges its school sponsor's interest in each of the PRC Operating Schools in favor of us, such arrangement would be unenforceable under PRC laws and regulations given that school sponsor's interests in schools are not pledgeable under PRC laws and any equity pledge arrangements with respect to the School Sponsor's interests in schools cannot be registered with the relevant PRC regulatory authorities.

Nevertheless, the Group has implemented various measures which shall remain in place before the Structured Contracts I being unwound, with the aim of further enhancing the control over the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor, in particular:

- (a) as disclosed above, pursuant to the Business Cooperation Agreement, the School Sponsor, the Registered Shareholders and each of the PRC Operating Schools have undertaken that, without prior written consent of Xinhua Anhui or its designated party, he/it shall not conduct or cause to conduct any activity or transaction which may have an actual impact (i) on the assets, business, staff, obligations, rights or operations of the PRC Operating Schools and/or the School Sponsor or (ii) on the ability of School Sponsor, the Registered Shareholders and each of the PRC Operating Schools to perform the obligations under the Structured Contracts I. See "Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (1) Business Cooperation Agreement" in the Prospectus for details.
- (b) as disclosed above, pursuant to the Exclusive Call Option Agreement, the Registered Shareholders have further undertaken to Xinhua Anhui that, among others, each of them shall not sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of or create any encumbrance over school sponsor's interest in any of the PRC Operating Schools and/or equity interest in the School Sponsor without prior written consent of Xinhua Anhui. See "Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Summary of the Material Terms of the Structured Contracts I – (3) Exclusive Call Option Agreement" in the Prospectus for details.

- (c) the Company has taken measures to ensure that the company seals of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor are properly secured, are within the full control of the Company and cannot be used by the School Sponsor or the Registered Shareholders or the PRC Operating Schools without the permission. Such measures include arranging for the company seals of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor to be kept in the safe custody of the finance department of Xinhua Anhui and setting up lines of authority for using the company seals, financial chops and business registration certificates such that the company seals, financial chops and business registration certificates can only be used under direct authorization of the Company or Xinhua Anhui.

(11) Loan Agreement

Pursuant to the Loan Agreement, Xinhua Anhui agreed to provide interest-free loans to Xinhua Group in accordance with the PRC laws and regulations and Xinhua Group agreed to utilize the proceeds of such loans to contribute as capital of the PRC Operating Schools in its capacity as school sponsor of the schools in accordance with the instructions. Both parties agree that all such capital contribution will be directly settled by Xinhua Anhui on behalf of Xinhua Group.

The terms of the Loan Agreement shall continue until all interest of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor are transferred to Xinhua Anhui or other parties designated by the Company.

Each loan to be granted under the Loan Agreement will be for an infinite term until termination at the sole discretion of Xinhua Anhui. The loan will become due and payable upon Xinhua Anhui's demand under any of the following circumstances: (i) a bankruptcy application, bankruptcy reorganization or bankruptcy settlement has been filed by or against Xinhua Group, (ii) a winding-up or liquidation application has been filed by or against Xinhua Group, (iii) Xinhua Group becoming insolvent or incurring any other significant personal debt which may affect its ability to repay the loan under the Loan Agreement, (iv) Xinhua Anhui or its designee exercising in full its option to purchase all school sponsor's interests to the extent permitted by PRC laws and regulations, or (v) any of Xinhua Group or the PRC Operating Schools commits any breach of any obligations under the Structured Contracts I, or any warranties provided by any of Xinhua Group or the PRC Operating Schools under the Structured Contracts I is proved incorrect or inaccurate. As advised by PRC Legal Advisors, interest-free loans granted by Xinhua Anhui to Xinhua Group is not in violation of the applicable PRC laws and regulations.

C. Structured Contracts I and Structured Contracts II

Other than the Spouse Undertakings, each of the specific agreements that comprise the Structured Contracts I contains clauses which provide that, to the extent permitted by the PRC laws, Xinhua Anhui shall have the right to designate other entities agreed by the Company (including any wholly foreign-owned enterprise to be established by us from time to time) to enter into and perform the agreements which are on the same terms and conditions as the Structured Contracts I (excluding the Spouse Undertakings) with the other parties to the Structured Contracts I (excluding the Spouse Undertakings), and the other parties to the Structured Contracts I shall unconditionally procure the signing and performance of such agreements. The Structured Contracts I shall be automatically terminated on the date on which the aforementioned agreements are entered into and become effective.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

In light of the preferential tax policy in Xinjiang, on 6 February 2018, Xinhua Xinjiang entered into the Structured Contracts II, the terms and conditions of which are the same as those contained in the Structured Contracts I in all material aspects, pursuant to which the Structured Contracts I were automatically terminated and all economic benefits arising from the business of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities are transferred to Xinhua Xinjiang by means of services fees payable by the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities to Xinhua Xinjiang.

D. Business Activities of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities

The business activities of the consolidated affiliated entities of the Group, namely the School Sponsor, Xinhua University and Xinhua School, are primarily to offer higher educational services to the Group's students.

E. Significance and financial contributions of PRC Operating Schools

Pursuant to the Structured Contracts, the Group obtains control over and derives the economic benefits from the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities. The table below sets out the financial contribution of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities to the Group, including revenue, net profit and total assets of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities consolidated into the Group's financial statements pursuant to the Structural Contracts:

	Significances and financial contribution to the Group					
	Revenue		Net profit		Total assets	
	For the year ended		For the year ended		As at 31 December	
	31 December		31 December		2023	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities	642,660	625,476	334,047	285,314	4,463,517	4,176,120

The table below sets out revenue and net profit of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities as a percentage of the Group's revenue and net profit:

	Revenue	Net profit
	For the year ended	As at
	31 December 2023	31 December 2023
PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities	100%	108%

F. Regulatory Framework

The Group currently conducts its private higher education business through the PRC Operating Schools in the PRC as PRC laws and regulations generally restrict foreign ownership in the private education industry in the PRC. In accordance with the existing PRC laws and regulations, the operation of higher education institutions to Sino-foreign cooperation ownership are also subject to restrictions, in addition to imposing qualification requirements on the foreign owners. The Group does not hold any equity interest in its PRC Operating Schools. The Structured Contracts, through which the Group obtains control over and derive the economic benefits from its PRC Operating Schools, have been narrowly tailored to achieve the Group's business purpose and minimize the potential conflict with relevant PRC laws and regulations. The Group had entered into the Structured Contracts for the existing PRC Operating Schools and expect to enter into structured contracts for the schools to be newly established or invested in, the terms and conditions of which shall be the same as the existing Structured Contracts in all material aspects.

1. *Higher Education and National Key Secondary Vocational School*

Pursuant to the Foreign Investment Catalog, the provision of higher education in the PRC falls within the “restricted” category. In particular, the Foreign Investment Catalog explicitly restricts higher education to Sino-foreign cooperation, which means the foreign investor shall be an educational institution and shall operate higher education in the PRC through cooperation with a PRC educational institution in compliance with the Sino Foreign Regulation. In addition, the Foreign Investment Catalog also provides that the domestic party shall play a dominant role in the Sino-foreign cooperation, meaning that (a) the principal or other chief executive officer of the schools shall be a PRC national; and (b) the representatives of the domestic party shall account for no less than half of the total members of the board of directors, the executive council or the joint administration committee of the Sino-foreign cooperative educational institution (the “Foreign Control Restriction”).

While secondary vocational education is not listed in the Foreign Investment Catalog, Xinhua School was recognized by the MOE as a National Key Secondary Vocational School* (國家級重點中等職業學校) and therefore was treated as if it falls within the “restricted” category according to the Anhui Education Department.

The Group had fully complied with the Foreign Control Restriction in respect of the PRC Operating Schools on the basis that (a) the principals and the chief executive officers of the PRC Operating Schools are all PRC nationals; and (b) all the members of the board of directors of the PRC Operating Schools are PRC nationals.

In relation to the interpretation of Sino-foreign cooperation, pursuant to the Sino-Foreign Regulation, if the Group was to apply for any of its schools to be reorganized as a Sino-foreign joint venture private school for PRC students (a “Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School”), the foreign investor in the Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School must be a foreign educational institution with relevant qualification and that provides high quality education (the “Qualification Requirement”). Furthermore, pursuant to the Implementation Opinions of the MOE on Encouraging and Guiding the Entry of Private Capital in the Fields of Education and Promoting the Healthy Development of Private Education* (《教育部關於鼓勵和引導民間資金進入教育領域促進民辦教育健康發展的實施意見》), the foreign portion of the total investment in a Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School should be below 50% (the “Foreign Ownership Restriction”) and the establishment of these schools is subject to approval of education authorities at the provincial or national level.

PRC Legal Advisors have advised that there are no implementing measures or specific guidance on the Qualification Requirement in accordance with the existing PRC laws and regulations and therefore it is currently uncertain as to what specific criteria must be met by a foreign investor (such as length of experience and form and extent of ownership in the foreign jurisdiction) in order to demonstrate to the relevant educational authority that it meets the Qualification Requirement. With the assistance of PRC Legal Advisors, the Group consulted the Anhui Education Department on 26 June 2017, being the competent authority as advised by PRC Legal Advisors to confirm the matters relating to the Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private Schools relevant to the Group. The Group was advised by the director of the department of foreign affairs office* (外事處處長) at the Anhui Education Department that:

- (i) the Foreign Ownership Restriction and Qualification Requirements applies to Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private Schools in their region;
- (ii) no implementing measures or specific guidance were promulgated pursuant to the Sino-Foreign Regulation, including the Qualification Requirement, in Anhui Province;
- (iii) as a matter of policy, no Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School has been approved in Anhui Province after the Sino-Foreign Regulation became effective on 1 September 2003;
- (iv) the Anhui Education Department expects that the possibility of approving the establishment of Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private Schools (including but not limited to the Sino-Foreign higher education institution and Sino-Foreign national key secondary vocational school) in Anhui in foreseeable future is very low; and
- (v) the execution of the Structured Contracts does not require approval from the education authorities.

PRC Legal Advisors are of the view that the aforesaid officer is competent to provide the confirmation on the basis that they have good and authoritative understanding of the PRC laws and regulations regarding Sino-foreign cooperative education and its actual implementation in Anhui Province.

Given that as at the date of this report, the Group does not meet the Qualification Requirement as the Group has no experience in operating a school outside of the PRC, and as there are no implementing measures or specific guidance on the Qualification Requirement, it is therefore not practicable for the Group to seek to apply to reorganize any of its PRC Operating Schools and the schools to be newly established or invested by the Group as a Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School, or convert any of the PRC Operating Schools and the schools to be newly established or invested by the Group into a Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School. The Anhui Education Department has confirmed that the possibility of approving the establishment of Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private schools in Anhui in foreseeable future is very low.

Notwithstanding the above, the Group is committed to meeting the Qualification Requirement. It has adopted a specific plan and will continue to expend genuine efforts and financial resources to do so. It has undertaken to make periodic inquiries of relevant educational authorities to understand any regulatory developments, including whether there will be any change in policy for approving any Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private School in Anhui Province, and assess whether it is qualified to meet the Qualification Requirement, with a view to unwinding the Structured Contracts wholly or partially as and when practicable and permissible under the prevailing PRC laws and regulations.

As at the date of this annual report, the Group has not encountered any interference or encumbrance from any governing bodies in its plan to adopt the Structured Contracts and the consolidated financial results of the PRC Operating Schools are consolidated to those of the Group. Each of the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor has been legally established and except for those disclosed under “Structured Contracts – Legality of the Structured Contracts – PRC Legal Opinions” and “Risk Factors – Risks relating to our Structured Contracts” of the Prospectus. PRC Legal Advisors have opined that the contractual arrangements for the operation of higher education do not contravene PRC laws and regulations, and no relevant PRC regulatory authorities have ever issued any regulations, rules or notices to prohibit the use of contractual arrangements in the education industry. As disclosed above, the Group has obtained confirmation from the Anhui Education Department during the consultations with them that the Structured Contracts do not require approval from the education authorities. However, no positive regulatory assurance has been obtained from relevant PRC regulatory authorities with respect to the use of the Structured Contracts in the education industry, and it is impracticable to obtain such assurance, as no relevant PRC regulatory authorities have ever issued any regulations, rules or notices to prohibit the use of Structured Contracts in the education industry.

2. *Plan to Comply with the Qualification Requirement*

The Group has adopted a specific plan and begun to take the following concrete steps which it reasonably believes are meaningful endeavors to demonstrate compliance with the Qualification Requirement. According to the consultation with the Anhui Education Department, there are no implementing measures or specific guidance on the Qualification Requirement and they are rarely likely to approve an application to convert the PRC Operating Schools into Sino-Foreign Joint Venture Private Schools at this stage and in the foreseeable future.

We have adopted a specific plan and taken concrete steps which the Company believes are meaningful endeavors to demonstrate compliance with the Qualification Requirement. Please also refer to the section headed “Structured Contracts” in the Prospectus, the annual report of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the interim report of the Company for the six months ended 30 June 2023 for the Group’s efforts and actions undertaken to comply with the Qualification Requirement.

There have been no updates to the implementation rules in relation to the Qualification Requirement during the Reporting Period.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

Furthermore, the Group has undertaken to the Stock Exchange that the Group will:

- (i) under the guidance of the PRC Legal Advisors appointed by the Group from time to time, continue to keep the Group updated with regard to all relevant regulatory developments and guidance relating to the Qualification Requirement; and
- (ii) provide periodic updates in the annual and interim reports after Listing to inform the Shareholders of the efforts and actions undertaken with the Qualification Requirement.

3. *Regulatory Updates – Promulgation of the Foreign Investment Law and its Impact*

The “Law of the People’s Republic of China on Foreign Investment” (“Foreign Investment Law”) was passed and promulgated in the National People’s Congress, and became effective on 1 January 2020. As at the date of this report, the Company’s operations have not been affected by the Foreign Investment Law. The Company will closely monitor the development of the Foreign Investment Law and the related laws and regulations.

G. **Risks associated with the arrangements and the actions taken to mitigate the risks**

The Structured Contracts are used to enable the Group to consolidate the financial results of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities which engage in the operation of higher education services where the PRC laws and regulations currently restrict operation of higher education institutions to Sino-foreign ownership, in addition to imposing qualification requirements on the foreign owners and withholding government approval in respect of Sino-foreign ownership.

1. *Risks associated with the arrangements*

The PRC government may find that the Structured Contracts do not comply with applicable PRC laws and regulations, which may subject the Group to severe penalties and the Group’s business may be materially and adversely affected. Furthermore, the Group relies on the Structured Contracts to obtain control over and derive the economic benefits from the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities, which may not be as effective in providing operational control as direct ownership. The registered owners of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities may have conflicts of interest with the Group or there is deterioration of relations, which may materially and adversely affect the Group’s business and financial condition. The Group may not be able to meet the qualification requirement, according to which the foreign investor in a Sino-foreign joint venture private school offering high school and higher education institution must be a foreign educational institution with relevant qualification that provides high quality education, holds less than 50% of the capital investment in the Sino-foreign joint venture private School and the domestic party shall play a dominant role. The Group’s execution on the option to acquire school sponsor’s interest of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities may be subject to certain limitations and the Company may incur substantial costs and expend significant resources to enforce the Structured Contracts if any of the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities fails to perform its obligations thereunder. The Structured Contracts may be subject to scrutiny of PRC tax authorities and additional tax may be imposed, which may materially and adversely affect the Group’s results of operation and value of the investment by the Shareholders or potential investors of the Company. Certain terms of the Structured Contracts may not be enforceable under PRC laws. The PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities may be subject to limitations on their ability to operate private education or make payments to related parties. The Group’s ability to distribute dividends to its Shareholders may be limited due to the unclear definition of “reasonable returns” under PRC laws and regulations. Substantial uncertainties exist regarding the interpretation and application of the 2016 Decision, including treatments of schools in the PRC as non-profit schools or for-profit schools. If any of the Group’s consolidated affiliated entities becomes subject to winding up or liquidation proceedings, the Group may lose the ability to enjoy certain important assets, which could negatively impact its business and materially and adversely affect its ability to generate revenue. For more details, please refer to the section headed “Risk Factors – Risks relating to our Structured Contracts” in the Prospects.

2. *Actions taken to mitigate the risks*

The Group has adopted the following measures to ensure the effective operation of the Group with the implementation of the Structured Contracts and its compliance with the Structured Contracts:

- (a) major issues arising from the implementation and compliance with the Structured Contracts or any regulatory enquiries from government authorities will be submitted to the Board, if necessary, for review and discussion on an occurrence basis;
- (b) the Board will review the overall performance of and compliance with the Structured Contracts at least once a year;
- (c) the Company will disclose the overall performance and comply with the Structured Contracts in its annual reports and interim reports to update the Shareholders and potential investors;
- (d) the Company and its Directors undertake to provide periodic updates in its annual and interim reports regarding the Qualification Requirement and its status of compliance with the Foreign Investment Law and the latest development of the Foreign Investment Law, including the latest relevant regulatory development as well as the Group's plan and progress in acquiring the relevant experience to meet the Qualification Requirement; and
- (e) the Company will engage external legal advisors or other professional advisors, if necessary, to assist the Board to review the implementation of the Structured Contracts, review the legal compliance of Xinhua WFOE and the PRC Operating Schools and/or the School Sponsor to deal with specific issues or matters arising from the Structured Contracts.

In addition, notwithstanding that the non-executive Director, Mr. Wu Junbao, is also one of the Registered Shareholders, the Group believes that the Directors are able to perform their roles in the Group independently and the Group is capable of managing its business independently after the Listing under the following measures:

- (a) the decision-making mechanism of the Board as set out in the Articles of Association includes provisions to avoid conflict of interest by providing, amongst other things, that in the event of conflict of interest in such contract or arrangement which is material, a Director shall declare the nature of his or her interest at the earliest meeting of the Board at which it is practicable for him or her to do so, and if he or she is to be regarded as having material interest in any contracts or arrangements, such Director shall abstain from voting and not be counted in the quorum;
- (b) each of the Directors is aware of his fiduciary duties as a Director which requires, amongst other things, that he acts for the benefits and in the best interests of the Group;
- (c) the Company has appointed three independent non-executive Directors, comprising over one-third of the Board, to provide a balance of the number of interested and independent Directors with a view to promoting the interests of the Company and the Shareholders as a whole; and

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

- (d) the Company will disclose in its announcements, circulars, annual and interim reports in accordance with the requirements under the Listing Rules regarding decisions on matters reviewed by the Board (including independent non-executive Directors) relating to any business or interest of each Director and his associates that competes or may compete with the business of the Group and any other conflicts of interest which any such person has or may have with the Group.

H. Material changes

Save as disclosed above, as at the date of this annual report, there were no material changes in the Structured Contracts and/or the circumstances under which the Structured Contracts were adopted.

I. Unwinding of the Structured Contracts

As at the date of this annual report, there has not been any unwinding of any Structured Contracts, nor has there been any failure to unwind any Structured Contracts when the restrictions that led to the adoption of the Structured Contracts are removed. For more details, please refer to the section headed “Structured Contracts – Operation of the Structured Contracts – Termination of the Structured Contracts” of the Prospectus. In the event that the PRC regulatory environment changes and all of the Qualification Requirement, the Foreign Ownership Restriction and the Foreign Control Restriction are removed (and assuming there are no other changes in the relevant PRC laws and regulations), Xinhua WFOE will exercise the Equity Call Option in full to unwind the contractual arrangements so that the Company will be able to directly operate the schools without using the Structured Contracts.

The Stock Exchange has granted a waiver to the Company from strict compliance with certain requirements under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules in respect of the transactions contemplated under the Structured Contracts II. See “Connected Transactions – Continuing Connected Transactions – Non-exempt Continuing Connected Transactions” in the Prospectus for details.

For details of the above Structured Contracts, please refer to “Structured Contracts” and “Connected Transactions” in the Prospectus.

(2) Confirmation of independent non-executive Directors

The independent non-executive Directors have reviewed the Structured Contracts II on an annual basis to confirm that, during the relevant financial year:

- (i) the Structured Contracts II have been entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group;
- (ii) the Structured Contracts II are on normal commercial terms;
- (iii) the Structured Contracts II have been entered into in accordance with relevant agreements governing them on terms that are fair and reasonable and in the interests of the Shareholders as a whole;
- (iv) the transactions carried out during the year ended 31 December 2023 have been entered into in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Structured Contracts II, and have been operated so that the profit generated by our PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities has been substantially retained by our Group; and
- (v) no dividends or other distributions have been made by our PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities to the holders of its School Sponsor’s interest which are not otherwise subsequently assigned or transferred to our Group;

(3) Confirmation of auditors of the Company

KPMG, the Company's auditors, have carried out procedures annually to report on the Group's Continuing Connected Transactions in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 "Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information" and with reference to Practice Note 740 "Auditor's Letter on Continuing Connected Transactions under the Hong Kong Listing Rules" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The auditor has issued a letter to the Company containing the conclusions in respect of the Group's Continuing Connected Transactions in accordance with Rule 14A.56 of the Listing Rules.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Details of the related party transactions entered into by the Group during the year ended 31 December 2023 are set out in note 25 to the consolidated financial statements.

The related party transactions with regard to the service fee and rental fee paid as set out in note 25(a) constitute fully exempted connected transactions or continuing connected transactions as defined in Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The Company confirmed that it has complied with the disclosure requirements in accordance with Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As the well-known leading provider of higher education, the Group strikes to perform its social responsibilities in each major area for a sustainable basis with no exceptions in the fields of environmental protection. Primarily engaged in providing educational services, the Group regards the environment of materials recycling and energies saving as instrumental and desirable for the Group's business successes. The Group therefore advocates the business model with energy efficiency and linear progressions on establishing environmental friendly teaching and learning systems for the students and the teachers.

During the Group's business operations, students and teachers are monitored by the internal guidelines for saving utilities such as turning off electrical appliances, air-conditioning, idle lightings and the water taps whenever it is likely to incur unnecessary waste of electricity and water resources. In addition, the Group has implemented and promoted the online and digital in-classrooms teaching methods at the classrooms which drastically reduce the possibility of paper waster. As at 31 December 2023, the Group has not been subject to any fines or regulatory or legal sanctions as a result of any non-compliance with the applicable PRC Environmental laws and regulations in any material aspects. Supported by the directors and senior management's long term strategy of sustainable development, the Group will continuously maintain its demanding standard for environmental protections and performance of its social responsibilities to the community. The Board has overall responsibility for the Group's environmental, social and governance (the "ESG") strategy and reporting, and is responsible for the Group's ESG risk management and internal control systems to ensure that the ESG strategies and reporting requirements are met. For more details, please refer to our ESG Report as contained in page 70 to 103 in this annual report.

DONATIONS

During the Reporting Period, no charitable and other donations were made by the Group.

SIGNIFICANT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

During the year ended 31 December 2023, the Company was not engaged in any litigation or arbitration of material importance and no litigation or claim of material importance is known to the Directors to be pending or threatening against the Company.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

During the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of this annual report, the Group has complied with the relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the Company.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

PERMITTED INDEMNITY PROVISION

Pursuant to article 164(1) of the Articles of Association, the Directors shall be indemnified and secured harmless out of the assets and profits of the Company from and against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses which they or any of the Directors shall or may incur or sustain by or by reason of any act done, concurred in or omitted in or about the execution of their duty, or supposed duty, in their respective offices or trusts; and none of them shall be answerable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of the other or others of them or for joining in any receipts for the sake of conformity, or for any bankers or other persons with whom any moneys or effects belonging to the Company shall or may be lodged or deposited for safe custody, or for insufficiency or deficiency of any security upon which any moneys of or belonging to the Company shall be placed out on or invested, or for any other loss, misfortune or damage which may happen in the execution of their respective offices or trusts, or in relation thereto; provided that this indemnity shall not extend to any matter in respect of any fraud or dishonesty which may attach to any of said persons.

IMPORTANT EVENTS SINCE THE YEAR END

The important events occurred since the year ended 31 December 2023 are disclosed in note 27 to the consolidated financial statements.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee of the Company (the "Audit Committee") has reviewed the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and discussed auditing, internal control and financial reporting matters. The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with the management of the Company the Group's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the proposed quotation of the auditors for the forthcoming year.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance practices. Information on the corporate governance practices adopted by the Company is set out in the Corporate Governance Report on pages 55 to 69 of this annual report.

SUFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC FLOAT

Based on information publicly available to the Company and to the best knowledge of the Directors, at least 25% of the Company's total issued shares, the prescribed minimum percentage of public float approved by the Stock Exchange and permitted under the Listing Rules, was held by the public at all times during the Reporting Period and as at the date of this report.

AUDITORS

The financial statements have been audited by KPMG who shall retire at AGM and, being eligible, will offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors will be proposed at the AGM. The Company has not changed its auditors during the Reporting Period or any of the preceding three years.

RECOMMENDATION TO CONSULT PROFESSIONAL TAX ADVICE

If the shareholders of the Company are not sure about the tax effect on the purchase, holding, sale, trading or exercise of any rights attached to the relevant shares of the Company, they are recommended to consult independent experts for advice.

On behalf of the Board

Wu Junbao

Chairman

28 March 2024

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Board is pleased to present this Corporate Governance Report in the Company's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

The Board is committed to upholding a high standard of corporate governance and business ethics in the firm belief that they are essential for enhancing investors' confidence and maximizing shareholders' returns. The Company has adopted the CG Code as its own code of corporate governance. The Board reviews its corporate governance practices from time to time in order to meet the rising expectations of stakeholders, and to comply with increasingly stringent regulatory requirements as well as fulfill its commitment to excellence in corporate governance. After reviewing the Company's corporate governance practices and the relevant regulations of the CG Code, the Board is satisfied that the Company has complied with all applicable code provisions under the CG Code during the Reporting Period. The Company will continue to review and monitor its corporate governance practices to ensure compliance with the CG Code.

XINHUA'S CULTURE

The Company firmly believes that our purpose, values and strategies are aligned with our culture. We continue pursuing a culture which manifests our mission – "Unity, pragmatism, pioneering, dedication" and are constantly striving to achieve our vision of becoming a top university in China. We recognise the value and importance of achieving high corporate governance standards to enhance corporate performance, transparency, and accountability, and earning the confidence of shareholders and the public.

The Board strives to adhere to the principles of good corporate governance and adopt sound corporate governance practices to promote such culture by focusing on areas such as internal control, fair disclosure, and accountability to all shareholders.

We remain steadfast in upholding our core values: Rejuvenating the Country and Serving the People through Xinhua Education. The Board strives to adhere to the principles of good corporate governance and adopt sound corporate governance practices to promote such culture by focusing on areas such as internal control, fair disclosure, and accountability to all shareholders.

THE BOARD

Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for the overall leadership of the Group, oversees the Group's strategic decisions and monitors business and performance. The Board has delegated the authority and responsibility for day-to-day management and operation of the Group to the executive Directors along with the senior management of the Group. To oversee particular aspects of the Company's affairs, the Board has established three Board committees including the Audit Committee, the remuneration committee (the "Remuneration Committee") and the nomination committee (the "Nomination Committee") (together, the "Board Committees"). The Board has delegated to the Board Committees responsibilities as set out in their respective terms of reference.

All Directors have carried out duties in good faith and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, they have acted in the interests of the Company and the Shareholders at all times.

The Company has arranged appropriate liability insurance in respect of the liabilities for any legal action against the Directors during the course of performing their duties. The insurance coverage will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Board Composition

As at the date of this annual report and during the Reporting Period, the Board comprises one non-executive Director, three executive Directors and three independent non-executive Directors as follows:

Non-executive Director:

Mr. Wu Junbao (*Chairman*)

Executive Directors:

Mr. Zhang Ming

Mr. Lu Zhen

Mr. Wang Yongkai

Independent Non-executive Directors:

Mr. Jiang Min

Mr. Yang Zhanjun

Mr. Yao Heping

The biographical details of the Directors are set out under the section headed "Directors and Senior Management" in this annual report.

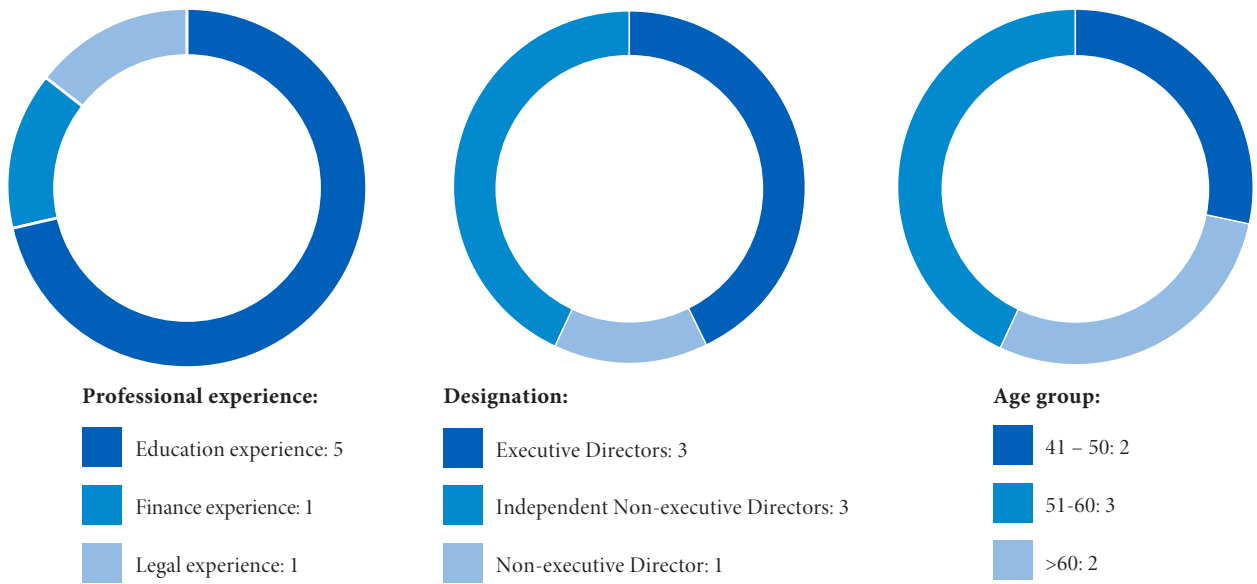
During the Reporting Period, the Board has met at all times the requirements under rules 3.10(1) and 3.10(2) of the Listing Rules relating to the appointment of at least three independent non-executive directors with at least one independent non-executive director possessing appropriate professional qualifications or accounting or related financial management expertise.

The Company has also complied with rule 3.10A of the Listing Rules relating to the appointment of independent non-executive Directors representing at least one-third of the Board.

BOARD DIVERSITY POLICY

The Company believes that the diversity of Board members will be immensely beneficial for the enhancement of the Company’s performance. Therefore, the Company has adopted a board diversity policy (the “**Board Diversity Policy**”) to ensure that the Company will, when determining the composition of the Board, consider board diversity in terms of, among other things, age, gender, cultural and educational background, professional experience, skills and knowledge. All Board appointments will be based on merits, and candidates will be considered against objective criteria with reference to the Company’s business model and specific needs, including but not limited to gender, race, language, cultural background, educational background, industry experience and professional experience, having due regard for the benefits of diversity of the Board. The measurable objectives on board diversity under the Board Diversity Policy include (a) selection of candidates for nomination as a Director be based on the Directors’ nomination policy with due regard to the diversity perspectives set out in the policy; (b) to maintain the Board with a majority of independent non-executive Directors; and (c) to ensure that the Board be made up of members with diverse backgrounds and experience, including diversity of nationality, ethnicity and gender, with such members demonstrating appropriate knowledge, experience and understanding of the markets in which the Company operates its business.

The following charts indicate the diversity of the Board in terms of professional experience, designation and age group as at the date of this report:



The Nomination Committee monitors the implementation of the Board Diversity Policy and will review the policy annually to ensure its continued effectiveness.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Assessment of independence of independent non-executive Directors is carried out in advance of appointment, annually, and at any other time where the circumstances warrant review. The Nomination Committee undertakes an annual assessment to ensure that all independent non-executive Directors continue to demonstrate strong independence and are free from business or other relationships which could interfere with their ability to discharge their duties effectively.

As each of the independent non-executive Directors has confirmed his independence pursuant to rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules, the Company considers all of them to be independent parties. The Board considered that independent Directors can enhance the effectiveness and decision-making of the Board by providing independent view, objective judgement and constructive challenge to the Board and management of the Group.

Save as disclosed in the Directors' biographies set out in the section headed "Directors and Senior Management" and otherwise disclosed in this annual report, none of the Directors have any personal relationship (including financial, business, family or other material or relevant relationship) with any other Director and chief executive.

All Directors, including independent non-executive Directors, have brought a wide spectrum of valuable business experience, knowledge and professionalism to the Board for its efficient and effective functioning. Independent non-executive Directors are invited to serve on the Audit Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Nomination Committee.

As regards the CG Code provision requiring directors to disclose the number and nature of offices held in public companies or organisations and other significant commitments as well as the identity of the public companies or organisations and the time involved to the issuer, the Directors have agreed to disclose their commitments and any subsequent change to the Company in a timely manner.

Gender Diversity

The Board currently has no female Director in the Board. The Company will appoint at least one female Director by 31 December 2024 in compliance with the Listing Rules and we will continue to strive to enhance female representation and achieve an appropriate balance of gender diversity with reference to shareholders' expectation and international and local recommended best practices. The Nomination Committee will use its best endeavors and on suitable basis, identify and recommend female candidates to our Board for its consideration on appointment of a Director as and when appropriate with the goal to maintain at least one female Director in our Board, subject to the Directors (i) being satisfied with the competence and experience of the relevant candidate based on reasonable criteria; and (ii) fulfilling their fiduciary duties to act in the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders as a whole when considering the appointment.

We will also ensure that there is gender diversity when recruiting staff at mid to senior level and we are committed to provide career development opportunities for female staff so that we will have a pipeline of female senior management and potential successors to our Board in near future. As at 31 December 2023, the gender ratio in our workforce for male and female employees were 32.8% and 67.2%, respectively.

The Company plans to offer all-rounded trainings to female employees whom we consider to have the suitable experience, skills and knowledge of our operation and business, including but not limited to, business operation, management, accounting and finance, legal and compliance and research and development.

Induction and Continuous Professional Development

Each newly appointed Director is provided with necessary induction and information to ensure that he/she has a proper understanding of the Company's operations and businesses as well as his/her responsibilities under relevant statutes, laws, rules and regulations. The Company also arranges regular seminars to provide Directors with updates on latest development and changes in the Listing Rules and other relevant legal and regulatory requirements from time to time. The Directors are also provided with regular updates on the Company's performance, position and prospects to enable the Board as a whole and each Director to discharge their duties.

Directors are encouraged to participate in continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills. The company secretary of the Company has from time to time updated and provided to the Directors written training materials relating to the roles, functions and duties of a Director.

The attendance record of professional training received by the Directors for the Reporting Period is as follows:

Name of Directors	Nature of continuous professional development programmes ⁽¹⁾
<i>Executive Directors</i>	
Mr. Zhang Ming	√
Mr. Lu Zhen	√
Mr. Wang Yongkai	√
<i>Non-Executive Director</i>	
Mr. Wu Junbao (<i>Chairman</i>)	√
<i>Independent Non-Executive Directors</i>	
Mr. Jiang Min	√
Mr. Yang Zhanjun	√
Mr. Yao Heping	√

Note:

(1) Reading materials relevant to corporate governance, director's duties and responsibilities, listing rules and other relevant ordinances

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Chairman and Chief Executive

Under code provision C.2.1 of the CG Code, the roles of chairman and chief executive should be separate and performed by different individuals.

Mr. Wu Junbao is the chairman of the Board and also the non-executive Director of the Group, responsible for providing opinion and judgment to the Board, while other executive Directors are responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the Group. As a result, the roles of the chairman and chief executive are separate and performed by different individuals.

Appointment and Re-election of Directors

Each of Mr. Zhang Ming, Mr. Lu Zhen and Mr. Wang Yongkai, being the executive Directors of the Company, has entered into a service contract with the Company for an initial fixed term of three years commencing from the Listing Date and 31 October 2018, respectively, and will continue thereafter until terminated by not less than three months' notice in writing served by either party on the other, which notice shall not expire until the end of the fixed term.

Each of the non-executive Director and independent non-executive Directors has entered into an appointment letter with the Company for an initial fixed term of one year commencing from the Listing Date or 30 September 2019 or 17 November 2022 (as applicable) and will continue thereafter until terminated by not less than three months' notice in writing by served by either party on the other, which notice shall not expire until the end of the fixed term.

Save as aforesaid, none of the Directors has or is proposed to have a service contract or an appointment letter with the Company or any of its subsidiaries (other than contracts expiring or determinable by the employer within one year without the payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation)).

Pursuant to article 83(3) of the Articles of Association, any Director appointed by the Board to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office only until the first general meeting of the Company after his appointment and shall then be eligible for re-election at such meeting.

Pursuant to article 84(1) of the Articles of Association, at each annual general meeting one-third of the Directors for the time being (or, if their number is not a multiple of three (3), the number nearest to but not less than one-third) shall retire from office by rotation provided that every Director shall be subject to retirement at an annual general meeting at least once every three years. Accordingly, each of Mr. Wu Junbao, Mr. Jiang Min and Mr. Yang Zhanjun, being eligible, offers himself for re-election at the forthcoming AGM.

The re-appointment of an independent non-executive Director (e.g. an independent non-executive Director who has served for more than nine years) at annual general meeting of the Company shall be subject to any other requirements that may be required by the Listing Rules from time to time.

The procedures and process of appointment, re-election and removal of Directors are set out in the Articles of Association. The Nomination Committee is responsible for reviewing the Board composition and making recommendations to the Board on the appointment or re-election of Directors and succession planning for Directors.

Board Meetings

The Company adopts the practice of holding Board meetings regularly, at least four times a year, and at approximately quarterly intervals. Notices of not less than fourteen days are given for all regular Board meetings to provide all Directors with an opportunity to attend and include matters in the agenda for a regular meeting.

For other Board and Board Committee meetings, reasonable notice is generally given. The agenda and accompanying board papers are despatched to the Directors or Board Committee members at least three days before the meetings to ensure that they have sufficient time to review the papers and are adequately prepared for the meetings. When Directors or Board Committee members are unable to attend a meeting, they will be advised of the matters to be discussed and given an opportunity to make their views known to the chairman prior to the meeting. Minutes of meetings are kept by the company secretary of the Company with copies circulated to all Directors for information and records.

Minutes of the Board meetings and Board Committee meetings are recorded in sufficient detail about the matters considered by the Board and the Board Committees and the decisions reached, including any concerns raised by the Directors. Draft minutes of each Board meeting and Board Committee meeting are sent to the Directors for comments within a reasonable time after the date on which the meeting is held. Minutes of the Board meetings are open for inspection by Directors.

During the year ended 31 December 2023, four Board meetings and one general meeting were held and the attendance of each Director at the Board meetings is set out in the table below:

Directors	Attended/Eligible to attend the Board meeting(s)	Attended/Eligible to attend the general meeting(s)
Mr. Wu Junbao	4/4	1/1
Mr. Zhang Ming	4/4	1/1
Mr. Lu Zhen	4/4	1/1
Mr. Wang Yongkai	4/4	1/1
Mr. Jiang Min	4/4	1/1
Mr. Yang Zhanjun	4/4	1/1
Mr. Yao Heping	4/4	1/1

Apart from regular Board meetings, the Chairman also held a meeting with the independent non-executive Directors, without the presence of other Directors during the Reporting Period.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Model Code for Securities Transactions

The Company has adopted the model code as set out in Appendix C3 of the Listing Rules (“**Model Code**”) as its own code of conduct regarding Directors’ securities transactions. Having made specific enquiries of all the Directors, each of the Directors has confirmed that he has complied with the Model Code during the Reporting Period and up to the date of this annual report.

At the same time, the Company has also adopted its own code of conduct regarding employees’ securities transactions on terms no less exacting than the standard set out in the Model Code for the compliance by its relevant employees who are likely to be in possession of unpublished inside information of the Company in respect of their dealings in the Company’s securities.

Delegation by the Board

The Board reserves for its decision all major matters of the Company, including: approval and monitoring of all policy matters, overall strategies and budgets, internal control and risk management systems, material transactions (in particular those that may involve conflict of interests), financial information, appointment of Directors and other significant financial and operational matters. Directors could have recourse to seek independent professional advice in performing their duties at the Company’s expense and are encouraged to access and to consult with the Company’s senior management independently. The Board reviews the implementation and effectiveness of such mechanism annually.

The daily management, administration and operation of the Group are delegated to the senior management. The delegated functions and responsibilities are periodically reviewed by the Board. Approval has to be obtained from the Board prior to any significant transactions entered into by the management.

Corporate Governance Function

The Board recognizes that corporate governance should be the collective responsibility of the Directors which includes:

- (a) reviewing and monitoring the Company’s policies and practices on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- (b) reviewing and monitoring the training and continuous professional development of Directors and senior management;
- (c) developing, reviewing and monitoring the code of conduct and compliance manual applicable to employees and Directors;
- (d) developing and reviewing the Company’s policies and practices on corporate governance and make recommendations to the Board and report to the Board on matters;
- (e) reviewing the Company’s compliance with the CG Code and disclosure in the corporate governance report; and
- (f) reviewing and monitoring the Company’s compliance with the Company’s whistleblowing policy.

Board Independence

The Company has put in place mechanisms to ensure independent views and input are available to the Board, including but not limited to the following:

Board meetings: Independent non-executive Directors participate in the Board and/or Board Committee meetings (including Audit Committee, Remuneration Committee, and Nomination Committee) to bring independent views, advice and judgment on important issues relating to the Company (including strategy, policy, performance, accountability, resources, key appointments and standards of conduct), and take the lead on matters where potential conflicts of interests arise.

No equity-based remuneration for independent non-executive Directors with performance-related elements: Independent non-executive Directors receive remuneration for their role as member of the Board and Board Committees to attract and retain them to devote time and energy to the Company. Generally, no equity-based remuneration (e.g. share options) is granted to independent non-executive Directors with performance-related elements, and they are not entitled to participate in any share option schemes and share award schemes (if any), to avoid leading to bias in their decision-making and compromise their objectivity and independence.

Annual review of independent non-executive Directors' commitment and independence. Independent non-executive Directors' independence is assessed upon appointment, annually, and at any other time where the circumstances warrant reconsideration.

Professional advice. All Directors are entitled to seek advice from independent professional advisers at the Company's expenses and are encouraged to access and to consult with the Company's senior management independently.

The Board has reviewed the implementation and effectiveness of the above mechanisms on an annual basis and is of the view that such mechanisms were effective during the year ended 31 December 2023.

Nomination Policy

In order to nominate suitable candidates to the Board for it to consider and make recommendations to the Shareholders for election at general meeting(s), the secretary of the Nomination Committee shall call a meeting with the list and information of the candidates. For proposing candidates to stand for election at a general meeting, a circular which contains the names, brief biographies, independence, proposed remuneration and any other information as required pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations, will be sent to the Shareholders. Other than the nomination recommended by the Board for election, the Shareholders can serve a notice in writing of the intention to propose that certain person for election as a Director with in the lodgment period. The Board shall have the final decision on all matters relating to its recommendation of candidates to stand for election at any general meeting.

The Nomination Committee has the discretion to nominate any person as it considers appropriate and in assessing the suitability of a proposed candidate, the criteria as set out below will be used as reference:

- Reputation and integrity;
- Experience in the directorships in public companies the securities of which are listed on any securities market in Hong Kong or overseas;
- Commitment in performing the duties as a director and a member of the Board committees (if applicable); and
- Board diversity, including but not limited to gender, age (18 years or above), cultural and educational background, ethnicity, professional experience, skills, knowledge, relationship with other Board members and length of service, and the potential contributions can be brought to the Board.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

BOARD COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises three members, two independent non-executive Directors namely Mr. Yao Heping (chairman), who possess appropriate accounting qualifications, and Mr. Jiang Min, and the non-executive Director namely Mr. Wu Junbao.

The principal duties of the Audit Committee include the following:

1. To review the relationship with the auditor by reference to the work performed by the auditor, their fees and terms of engagement, and make recommendations to the Board on the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the auditor;
2. To review the financial statements and reports and consider any significant or unusual items raised by the Company's staff responsible for the accounting and financial reporting function, compliance officer or the auditor before submission to the Board; and
3. To review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's financial reporting system, internal control system and risk management system and associated procedures, including the adequacy of the resources, staff qualifications and experience, training programmes and budget of the Company's accounting and financial reporting function.

The written terms of reference of the Audit Committee are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange (<https://www.hkexnews.hk>) and the Company (<https://www.chinaxh.edu.com>).

During the year ended 31 December 2023, two meetings were held by the Audit Committee. The individual record of each member of the Audit Committee at the meetings of the Audit Committee is set out below:

Name of the Directors	Attendance/Number of committee meetings
Mr. Yao Heping (Chairman)	2/2
Mr. Wu Junbao	2/2
Mr. Jiang Min	2/2

The Group's unaudited financial results for the six months ended 30 June 2023 and the audited annual results for the year ended 31 December 2022 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee, which was of the opinion that the preparation of the relevant financial statements complied with the applicable accounting standards and requirements and that adequate disclosure has been made. The Audit Committee has also reviewed the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group, and selection and appointment of the external auditors. In addition, the Audit Committee reviewed the internal control and internal audit function of the Group and oversaw the risk management and internal control systems of the Group during the year of 2023.

According to code provision D.3.3(e)(i) of the CG Code and the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee had met, at least twice a year, with the Company's auditors.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee currently comprises three members, including the non-executive Director namely Mr. Wu Junbao (chairman) and two independent non-executive Directors namely Mr. Jiang Min and Mr. Yang Zhanjun.

The principal duties of the Nomination Committee include the following:

1. to review the structure, size and composition (including the skills, knowledge and experience) of the Board at least annually and make recommendations on any proposed changes to the Board to complement the Company's corporate strategy;
2. to identify individuals suitably qualified to become Board members and select or make recommendations to the Board on the selection of individuals nominated for directorships;
3. to assess the independence of independent non-executive Directors;
4. to make recommendations to the Board on the appointment or re-appointment of Directors and the succession planning for Directors, in particular the chairman and the chief executive officer; and
5. to review the Board Diversity Policy.

The Nomination Committee will identify individuals suitably qualified to become Board members and select or make recommendations to the Board on the selection of individuals nominated for directorships by considering factors including integrity, experience, skill and ability to commit time and effort to carry out the duties and responsibilities. And the Nomination Committee will make recommendations to the Board on the appointment or re-appointment of Directors and succession planning for Directors, in particular the chairman and the chief executive, taking into account our Company's corporate strategy and the mix of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity needed in the future, together with the Board, as appropriate.

The written terms of reference of the Nomination Committee are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange and the Company.

During the year ended 31 December 2023, one meeting was held by the Nomination Committee. The individual record of each member of the Nomination Committee at the meeting of the Nomination Committee is set out below:

Name of the Directors	Attendance/Number of committee meeting
Mr. Wu Junbao (Chairman)	1/1
Mr. Jiang Min	1/1
Mr. Yang Zhanjun	1/1

During the Reporting Period, the Nomination Committee reviewed the structure, size, diversity and composition of the Board and discussed the policy for the nomination of directors, which includes the nomination procedures and the process and criteria adopted to select and recommend candidates for directorship.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee comprises three members, including two independent non-executive Directors namely Mr. Jiang Min (chairman) and Mr. Yang Zhanjun, and the non-executive Director namely Mr. Wu Junbao.

The principal duties of the Remuneration Committee include the following:

1. to make recommendations to the Board on the Company's overall policy and structure for the remuneration of the Directors and senior management and on the establishment of a formal and transparent procedure for developing remuneration policy;
2. to review and approve the management's remuneration proposals with reference to the corporate goals and objectives determined by the Board;
3. to determine the remuneration packages of individual executive Directors and senior management. These include benefits in kind, pension rights and compensation payments, including any compensation payable for loss or termination of their office or appointment;
4. to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration of non-executive Directors;
5. to consider salaries paid by comparable companies, time commitment and responsibilities and employment conditions elsewhere in the Group;
6. to review and approve compensation payable to executive Directors and senior management for any loss or termination of office or appointment to ensure that it is consistent with contractual terms and is otherwise fair and not excessive;
7. to review and approve compensation arrangements relating to dismissal or removal of Directors for misconduct to ensure that they are consistent with contractual terms and are otherwise reasonable and appropriate;
8. to ensure that no Director or any of his/her associates (as defined in the Listing Rules) is involved in deciding his/her own remuneration; and
9. to review and approve material matters relating to share schemes under Chapter 17 of the Listing Rules.

The written terms of reference of the Remuneration Committee are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange and the Company.

During the year ended 31 December 2023, one meeting was held by the Remuneration Committee. The individual record of each member of the Remuneration Committee at the meeting of the Remuneration Committee is set out below:

Name of the Directors	Attendance/Number of committee meeting
Mr. Jiang Min (Chairman)	1/1
Mr. Wu Junbao	1/1
Mr. Yang Zhanjun	1/1

During the Reporting Period, the Remuneration Committee reviewed the remuneration packages of the Directors and senior management, assessed performance of executive Directors and discussed and approved the terms of executive Directors' service contracts.

No material matters relating to Share Option Scheme were reviewed and/or approved by the Remuneration Committee during the Reporting Period.

Remuneration of Directors and Senior Management

Details of the remuneration by band of the members of the Board and senior management of the Company, whose biographical details are set out in the section headed “DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT” on pages 15 to 20 of this annual report, for the year ended 31 December 2023 are set out below:

Remuneration band	Number of individual
NIL – HK\$1,000,000	7

DIRECTORS’ RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING IN RESPECT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Company and the Group and of the Group’s results and cash flows.

The management has provided to the Board such explanation and information as are necessary to enable the Board to carry out an informed assessment of the Company’s financial statements, which are put to the Board for approval.

The Directors were not aware of any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions which may cast significant doubt upon the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern.

The statement by the auditor regarding their reporting responsibilities on the consolidated financial statements of the Company is set out in the Independent Auditor’s Report on pages 104 to 110 of this annual report.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

The Board acknowledges that it is the responsibility of the Board for maintaining a sound and effective risk management and internal control system to safeguard shareholders’ investments and Company’s assets and reviewing the effectiveness of such system on an annual basis.

The Board conducted review of the effectiveness of the risk management and internal control system of the Group during the Reporting Period and noted that the Company has established a risk management and internal control department and each of the schools has designated the relevant personnel who will be responsible for monitoring our on-going compliance with the relevant PRC laws and regulations that govern the business operations and overseeing the implementation of any necessary measures to identify and manage potential risks (including ESG risks), and to safeguard assets of our Group. Our Group’s risk management and internal control systems are designed to provide reasonable, though not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss and to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives. In order to comply with the relevant requirements under the CG Code in relation to the risk management and internal controls, the Company has established an internal audit department for the purposes of simultaneous updates between the corporate governance and the CG Code and continuously improving the effectiveness of the Company’s risk management and internal controls. In addition, the Company has adopted a set of internal rules and policies governing the conduct of the employees, including teachers and personnel performing other functions, and also set up a monitoring system to implement anti-bribery and anti-corruption measures to ensure that our employees comply with our internal rules and policies as well as the applicable laws and regulations. In addition, the procedures on disclosure of inside information were in place to ensure that all relevant facts and circumstances that may have material effect on the share price of our Company are promptly assessed and that any material information which comes to the knowledge of any one or more officers of our Group is promptly identified, assessed and, if appropriate, escalated for the attention of the Board to determine whether a disclosure is required. The Board has therefore considered the risk management and internal control system as effective and adequate during the Reporting Period.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

The Company has also established policies and systems that promote and support anti-corruption laws and regulations. We require our employees to follow our employee manual and code of business conduct and ethics, which contains internal rules and guidelines regarding best commercial practice, work ethics, fraud prevention mechanisms, negligence and corruption. We also carry out regular on the job compliance training to our senior management and employees to maintain a healthy corporate culture and enhance their compliance perception and responsibility. Our staff can anonymously report any suspected corrupt incident to the Company.

The anti-corruption policy is reviewed and updated periodically to align with the applicable laws and regulations.

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Company has established a whistleblowing policy and system for employees and those who deal with the Company (e.g. customers and suppliers) to raise concerns, in confidence and anonymity, with Audit Committee about possible improprieties in any matter related to the Company.

No incident of fraud or misconduct that have material effect on the Group's financial statements or overall operations during the Reporting Period has been discovered or identified.

AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

The remuneration for the audit and non-audit services provided by the auditor to the Group during the year ended 31 December 2023 was approximately as follows:

Type of Services	Amount (RMB'000)
Audit services	1,900
Non-audit services	–
Total	1,900

COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms. Yu Anne was appointed as the company secretary of the Company on 30 August 2022. Ms. Yu Anne is the assistant manager of SWCS Corporate Services Group (Hong Kong) Limited and has over 20 years experiences in corporate secretarial field. She is responsible for advising the Board on corporate governance matters and ensuring that the Board policies and procedures, as well as the applicable laws, rules and regulations are followed. Her primary contact person of the Company is Mr. Wang Yongkai, an executive Director.

For the year ended 31 December 2023, Ms. Yu Anne has undertaken not less than 15 hours of relevant professional training in compliance with rule 3.29 of the Listing Rules.

COMMUNICATION WITH SHAREHOLDERS AND INVESTOR RELATIONS

The Company considers that effective communication with the Shareholders is essential for enhancing investor relations and understanding of the Group's business, performance and strategies. The Company also recognizes the importance of timely and non-selective disclosure of information, which will enable Shareholders and investors to make the informed investment decisions.

The AGM provides opportunity for the Shareholders to communicate directly with the Directors. Accordingly, the chairpersons of the Board and the Board Committees of the Company will attend the annual general meetings to answer Shareholders' questions. The auditor will also attend the annual general meetings to answer questions regarding the conduct of the audit, the content of the auditor's report, the accounting policies and the auditor's independence.

To promote effective communication, the Company adopts a shareholders' communication policy which aims at establishing a two-way relationship and communication between the Company and the Shareholders and maintains the Company's website at (<https://www.chinaxhedu.com>), where up-to-date information regarding the Company's business operations and developments, financial information, corporate governance practices and other information are made available for public access.

The Board has conducted the annual review of the implementation and effectiveness of the shareholders' communication policy of the Company and concluded that the policy was implemented effectively during the financial year.

SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS

To safeguard Shareholders' interests and rights, a separate resolution will be proposed for each issue at general meetings, including the election of individual Directors.

All resolutions put forward at general meetings will be voted by poll pursuant to the Listing Rules and poll results will be posted on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange in a timely manner after each general meeting.

Convening of extraordinary general meeting and putting forward proposals

Shareholders may put forward proposals for consideration at a general meeting of the Company according to the Articles of Association. Any one or more members holding as at date of deposit of the requisition not less than one-tenth of the paid-up capital of the Company carrying the right of voting at general meetings of the Company shall at all times have the right, by written requisition to the Board or company secretary of the Company, to require an extraordinary general meeting of the Company to be called by the Board for the transaction of any business specified in such requisition; and such meeting shall be held within two months after the deposit of such requisition.

If within 21 days of such deposit the Board fails to proceed to convene such meeting the requisitionist(s) himself (themselves) may do so in the same manner, and all reasonable expenses incurred by the requisitionist(s) as a result of the failure of the Board shall be reimbursed to the requisitionist(s) by the Company.

As regards proposing a person for election as a Director, the procedures are available on the website of the Company.

Enquiries to the Board

Shareholders who intend to put forward their enquiries about the Company to the Board could send their enquiries to the Board of Directors at No. 555 Wangjiangxi Road, Hefei City, Anhui Province, PRC.

CHANGE IN CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS

The Company has adopted the amended and restated memorandum of association on 8 March 2018 with immediate effect and articles of association on 8 March 2018 with effect from the Listing Date. On 16 June 2023, a special resolution of the Shareholders was passed to adopt the second amended and restated memorandum and articles of the Company to (i) bringing the existing memorandum and articles of association of the Company in line with the latest legal and regulatory requirements, including the amendments made to the then Appendix 3 (now Appendix A1) to the Listing Rules and applicable laws and procedures of the Cayman Islands; and (ii) making other consequential and housekeeping amendments. The second amended and restated memorandum and articles of the Company are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange and the Company.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

1. ABOUT THE REPORT

The report is the seventh environmental, social and governance report (the “Report”) published by China Xinhua Education Group Limited and its subsidiaries (collectively the “Group” or “we”). The Report discloses various policies, compliance with laws and regulations, and performance in relation to environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects, and environmental and social key performance indicators (“KPIs”) during the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (the “Year” or the “Reporting Period”). The Report can increase the stakeholders’ understanding of the sustainability of the Group. For details on corporate governance, see the section headed “Corporate Governance Report” in the Report.

1.1 Reporting Standards

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the mandatory disclosure requirements and “Comply or Explain” provisions of Appendix C2 Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide (the “Guide”) to the Main Board Listing Rules of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”), and the four reporting principles in the Guide.

- **Materiality:** the Group fully communicated with all stakeholders, and disclosed in the Report the process of communication with all stakeholders and the materiality assessment results, so as to identify the material ESG issues of the Group in the Year.
- **Quantitative:** the statistical standards, methods, assumptions and calculation tools used for disclosing ESG KPIs and related data in the Report, as well as the sources of conversion factors, are all described in the Report.
- **Consistency:** the statistical methods used for data disclosure in the Report are consistent with the previous year. Changes, if any, will be clearly described in the Report.
- **Balance:** the Report provides an unbiased picture of all performances in the Year, so as to avoid selections, omissions, or presentation formats that may inappropriately influence a decision or judgment by the report reader.

1.2 Scope of the Report

The social disclosure scope of the Report is consistent with the annual report. The environmental disclosure scope covers two schools of the Group, namely Anhui Xinhua School and Anhui Xinhua University (the “Schools”).

1.3 Language of the Report

The Report is published in Chinese and English. In case of any discrepancy, the Chinese version shall prevail.

1.4 Confirmation and Approval

The Report was considered and approved by the Board of Directors on 28 March 2024 after confirmation by the management.

1.5 Feedback on the Report

All stakeholders are welcome to give feedback on the Report. If you have any queries or suggestions, please contact the Group through the following channels.

Email: xhjtxzrsb@xinhuaedu.com

Tel: 0551-6587 2266

2. ESG GOVERNANCE

With the mission of “Revitalize the Country and Serve People through Education” and the spirit of “Unity, Practicality, Development and Dedication”, and the development vision of “first-class education, China Xinhua”, we build an education brand with high quality, unique features and influence, and have developed into the largest private higher education provider in the Yangtze River Delta. The Board of Directors leads ESG governance matters and leads us towards sustainable development.

2.1 Statement of the Board

The Group has an ESG governance structure and an ESG Working Group to manage ESG-related matters. The Board of Directors is fully responsible for formulating the Group’s ESG strategy and reporting in this structure. The major work of the ESG Working Group is to keep active communications with stakeholders. The main responsibilities of the group include identifying, evaluating, prioritizing and managing ESG issues, developing relevant plans and strategies, and coordinating the ESG work of all organizations in the Group. In addition, the group regularly reports the ESG work progress to the Board of Directors.

During the Year, we reviewed our performance against the environmental targets, made continuous adjustments according to the current progress and the Group’s operation and development. During the Year, we reduced greenhouse gas emissions, waste, electricity and water consumption compared to the previous year. Looking ahead, the Group will continue to monitor fluctuations in each of the KPIs and review the progress of achieving the targets.

2.2 ESG Governance Structure

The Board of Directors is fully responsible for ESG strategies and reporting, reviews and approves the results of materiality assessment, sets up an ESG Working Group and strictly supervises its work, so as to ensure that ESG matters are effectively managed and implemented within the Group.

Under the authorization and guidance of the Board of Directors, the ESG Working Group actively collects and analyzes stakeholders’ feedback and opinions on ESG issues. The ESG Working Group identifies, evaluates, prioritizes and manages ESG issues by communicating with stakeholders and analyzing the Group’s ESG risks. The group formulates relevant plans and strategies, coordinates the ESG work of all organizations, and regularly reports the ESG work progress to the Board of Directors. In addition, the group regularly reports the ESG-related work progress to the Board of Directors, so as to ensure measures associated with ESG are effectively implemented and monitored.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders' feedback is important to our development strategy and operation. Therefore, we are committed to building and maintaining positive communication relationships with our stakeholders and have established multiple communication channels. During this financial year, we communicated deeply with various stakeholders, including investors/shareholders, teachers/other employees, business partners, regulatory authorities, communities/non-governmental organizations, suppliers, students/parents, etc. Based on the ongoing communication with stakeholders, we carried out a materiality assessment to continuously improve and enhance our practices of corporate social responsibility, thereby ensuring that our business activities and strategic decisions can adequately reflect the needs and expectations of stakeholders.

Main Stakeholders	Expectations and Requirements	Main Communication Channels	Frequency of Communication
Investors/Shareholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green buildings on campuses; Brand promotion; Sustainable procurement; Teaching quality control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results announcement; Senior management meetings; Shareholders' meetings 	Annually Regularly From time to time
Teachers/other employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and development; Benefits; Career development; Healthy and safe working environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee opinion surveys Performance appraisals Training courses Publications (such as employee newsletters) 	From time to time Regularly From time to time Regularly
Business partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest development of the Group; School brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Meetings Visits Lectures 	From time to time From time to time From time to time From time to time
Regulatory authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliant operation; Compliance with sustainable operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings Compliance reports 	From time to time From time to time
Communities/Non-governmental organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities investment; Participation in community activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminars/lectures/workshops Meetings 	From time to time From time to time
Suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair competition; Honesty transactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplier management procedures Supplier/contractor evaluation systems Meetings Site inspection 	From time to time Regularly From time to time From time to time
Students/Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching quality; Teacher qualifications; School brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback in class Satisfaction survey Telephone Email 	Regular communication Regularly Regular communication Regular communication

2.4 Materiality Assessment

The management of the Group and the ESG Working Group confirmed that the materiality assessment results for 2022 are still applicable for the Year because (i) there were no significant changes in the Group's business and operation environment during the Reporting Period; and (ii) the results of the materiality assessment can still respond to the stakeholders' expectations of the Group. Based on the stakeholders' analysis of the materiality assessment results, the management of the Group identified 23 material issues, of which 14 are highly material issues, 8 are moderately material issues and 1 is generally material issues. The following table sets forth the ESG material issues we identified during the Year:

Highly Material Issues

- Employment management
- Benefits of faculty members
- Health and safety of students
- Development and training of faculty members
- Anti-corruption
- Protection of intellectual property rights
- Teaching quality control
- Dealing with teaching opinions
- Supply chain management
- Pollution reduction and emissions reduction
- Waste management
- Use of materials/resources
- Green buildings on campuses
- Environmental education

Moderately Material Issues

- Teacher qualifications and professional ethics
- Protection of privacy information
- Brand promotion
- Sustainable procurement
- Educational resources
- Student employment rate
- Energy consumption and efficiency
- Community investment and engagement

Generally Material Issues

- Occupational health and safety

3. OUTSTANDING AND PROFESSIONAL TEAM

High-quality education starts with a team of outstanding teachers. Therefore, we attach great importance to the organization and development of our teacher team. We believe it is an indispensable and key factor in high-quality education. We strive to create an equal working environment and oppose any form of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, nationality, religion, disability, gender, family status and race. The Group strictly complies with the Labor Contract Law of the People's Republic of China, the Labor Law of the People's Republic of China, the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Minors and the Provisions on the Prohibition of using Child Labor. During the Year, the Group had 2,504 employees.

3.1 Adhering to the Employment Principle

The Group has formulated the “Administrative Measures of Anhui Xinhua University for Recruitment of High-level Talents” (《安徽新華學院高層次人才引進管理辦法》), the “Management Standards for Human Resource Allocation” (《人力資源分配管理規範》) and the “Recruitment System of Anhui Xinhua Investment Group” (《安徽新華投資集團員工招聘制度》) to establish a specified and efficient framework for the recruitment and management of talents. Our recruitment process adheres to the principles of fairness and openness, proactively advocates diversification and firmly opposes any form of discrimination, so as to ensure the fairness and transparency of talent introduction and resource allocation.

Each department of the Group develops an annual recruitment plan according to its demand. The recruitment plan can only be carried out once it is approved. We recruit employees through internal selections and external channels. We always give priority to the promotion and job transfer of internal employees to facilitate their growth and career development.

We have developed the “Management Rules of Anhui Xinhua Investment Group for Recruitment of Mid-to-senior Management on a Competitive Basis” (《安徽新華投資集團中高層管理人員競聘管理規定》), with an aim to ensure that the selection process of mid-to-senior management members in schools is fair and efficient. The vacancies of the management positions are filled through recruitment, selection based on performance assessment, and recommendation. In addition, in order to continuously improve our management level, we assess the work performance of the management every year to evaluate their performance and leadership competencies.

In the recruitment process, we conduct meticulous background checks on each applicant to verify the accuracy of their information and strictly prohibit any form of child labor. The recruitment process includes primary selection, preliminary interview, competency evaluation and final interview, aiming at assessing candidates’ qualifications. In the assessment process, we assess candidates according to their ability, personality, reasons for job changes, salary demand, values, his/her matching degree with the job and other factors. In addition, the Group carries out regular spot checks on the recruitment procedures to ensure that the procedures are carried out according to the established rules. If we are aware of any violation of the System, we will deal with the violation and impose a punishment in accordance with the relevant rules.

When an employee accepts our offer, we sign a labor contract with the employee, which is formulated in accordance with the “Management Regulations of Anhui Xinhua Investment Group on Labor Contracts” (《安徽新華投資集團勞動合同管理規定》). The contract specifies key information such as workplace, contract term, salary, working hours, holiday arrangements, etc. For matters not covered by the contract, such as performance appraisal and confidentiality obligations, a separate written agreement may be signed by us as a supplementary agreement to the contract. We respect our employees’ resignation right. When an employee tender resignation, he or she shall complete work handover and follow the resignation procedures in the contract. In order to better understand the reasons for an employee’s resignation and continually improve our work environment, we arrange exit interviews to collect feedback and suggestions.

We have formulated the “Implementation Measures for Management of Attendance and Leave of Faculty Members of Anhui Xinhua University” (《安徽新華學院教職工考勤請假管理實施辦法》), which includes a comprehensive employee attendance system. Under this system, if it is necessary for an employee to work overtime due to job demand other than personal reasons, overtime hours shall be recorded after approval. In order to help our employees keep a work-life balance, we provide compensatory time off as compensation for overtime work to safeguard our employees’ rights and interests.

During the Year, the Group did not employ child labor or forced labor.

3.2 Employee Compensation and Benefits

To ensure the market competitiveness of our employees’ compensation, we evaluate the salary system of the Group every year, and make appropriate adjustments with reference to the human resource market. In accordance with laws, we contribute to “Five Insurances Funds and One Housing Provident Fund” and provide statutory annual leave for employees. Furthermore, according to our “Implementation Measures for Management of Benefits of Faculty Members at Anhui Xinhua University” (《安徽新華學院教職工福利管理實施辦法》), employees are entitled to additional benefits, such as annual leave, funeral leave, marriage leave, maternity leave and sick leave. All employees are also entitled to a series of benefits including check-ups, holiday allowance, communication allowance, working meal allowance and marriage allowance, so as to enhance their job satisfaction and quality of life.

To support the faculty members of the School of Clinical Medicine, we provide dormitories to them and have formulated the “Provisional Regulations on Management of Faculty Dormitories in the School of Clinical Medicine of Anhui Medical University” (《安徽醫科大學臨床醫學院教職工宿舍管理暫定規定》) to manage these dormitories effectively. If housing resources are adequate, eligible employees are entitled to two-year free accommodations, which is one of our important additions to the benefits of our faculty members.

We pay high attention to our faculty members’ health. In the Year, Anhui Xinhua School arranged check-ups for all faculty members. We firmly believe that we can identify and deal with the physical health problems of faculty members in time with this activity, thus effectively safeguarding our employees’ health rights and interests.

3.3 Safe Campus Environment

As for formulating safety measures, the Group strictly complies with the Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China, the Regulations on Food Safety Operation of Catering Services, the Regulations on School Health Work and the Fire Control Law of the People’s Republic of China and other relevant laws and regulations. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for our teachers and students. We pay high attention to school safety equipment and fire prevention awareness and take various measures to enhance the overall safety level of our campuses. We also pay high attention to students’ mental health. To this end, we have implemented a number of relevant measures to make sure that we can establish healthy and safe campuses. These measures reflect our firm commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our students and teachers and maintaining campus safety.

During the Year, there were no work-related deaths in the Group. The number of days lost due to work-related injuries during the Year was 3. There were no work-related injuries or fatalities in the past three years, including the Reporting Period.

3.3.1 Elimination of Potential Safety Hazards

In order to better prevent and control the occurrence of campus safety events, we have formulated rules and regulations such as Regulations on Campus Security Management of Anhui Xinhua University (Revised), Implementation Measures for Comprehensive Campus Governance of Anhui Xinhua University (Revised) and Regulations on Fire Safety Management of Anhui Xinhua University (Revised), which are used to prevent, control and deal with illegal criminal activities, natural disasters, fire accidents and other actions that affect the order of teaching, scientific research, work and life in schools, so as to optimize the education environment and protect public property and the personal safety of teachers, students and employees.

We conduct regular safety inspections of campuses, based on the principle of “leaving no dead corner, no blind spot, no room and no tail”. We completely identify potential safety hazards including inflammables and explosives, use of electricity and gas, supermarkets and canteens, laboratories, infrastructure facilities and fire-fighting equipment, so as to ensure that relevant equipment can meet safety factors. We properly carry out warehousing registration and equipment maintenance for drugs and chemicals used in laboratories and infirmaries; engage professional personnel to maintain fire-fighting equipment of school; provide food safety training for canteen employees, regularly check the environmental sanitation of canteens and implement the food safety management system. We also carry out many training sessions and drills in relation to safety and fire prevention to strengthen the safety awareness of teachers and students.

The Group adheres to the safety concept of “nip in the bud” and conducts regular safety inspections of campuses. We follow the principle of “leaving no dead corner, no blind spot, no room and no tail”. We completely identify potential safety hazards including inflammable and explosive articles, use of electricity and gas, supermarkets and canteens, laboratories, infrastructures and fire-fighting equipment, so as to ensure that all relevant facilities meet safety standards.

In addition, we have implemented a strict storage registration and equipment maintenance system for drugs and chemicals used in laboratories and infirmaries. Fire-fighting apparatuses of schools are maintained by professional personnel on a regular basis. We also provide food safety training for canteen staff, and regularly check environmental sanitation of canteens and the implementation of the food safety management system.



“Food Safety and Special Training for New Employees of Service Units” in Anhui Xinhua University

We also carry out a number of training sessions and drills in relation to safety and fire prevention to strengthen the safety awareness of teachers and students. All of these measures represent our all-out efforts to eliminate potential safety hazards.



Activities in Fire Fighting Publicity Month for “Rejuvenating the Country and Serving the People through Xinhua Education” in 2023

3.3.2 Mental Health Care

We have been attaching importance to the mental health of teachers and students. In addition to incorporating mental health courses into required courses, we have established psychological consultation rooms and mental health education centers to provide professional psychological support and resources. Meanwhile, we regularly organized various mental health-related activities. With these comprehensive measures, we made efforts to create a supportive and caring environment.

A Special Lecture on Career Happiness Psychology held by the School of Clinical Medicine of Anhui Medical University

In order to improve the mental health of faculty members and enhance their job satisfaction and happiness, the School held a special lecture on “Career Happiness Psychology – Emotion and Stress Management”. All faculty members attended the lecture. The School has been attaching great importance to faculty members’ mental health. It will continue to organize such activities in the future to help faculty members better rise to challenges in their careers, enhance their job satisfaction and happiness, and create a harmonious and positive working environment on campuses.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

From May to June 2023, Anhui Xinhua University carried out activities for the eighteenth “5.25 College Students’ Mental Health Publicity Month” with the theme of “Heart Oriented Plan” to practically promote mental health education, improve the effectiveness of psychological education, and concentrate efforts on fostering college students’ psychological traits of rationality and gentleness, self-esteem and self-confidence, and positivity. The activity plan is set forth below:

Module:	Activity name	Organizer/co-organizer
Understanding	The Fifth “Let’s Talk” Speech Competition on Psychological Growth Stories (preliminary contest)	Psychology Workstations of all subordinate colleges Related Student Clubs
	“I Draw My Feelings” Artistic Expression Group Guidance	Mental Health Education Centers
	the Most Beautiful Psychological Committee Member Election Activity for “Accompanying with Friendly Care and Love”	Psychology workstations of all subordinate colleges
Warm Heart	Creativity Competition for Harmony Dormitories	The Psychological Workstation of the School of Accounting and Finance
	Mood Exchange Blind Box Activity on the theme of “Full of Love, No Anxiety”	The Psychological Workstation of the School of Culture and Media
	Student Group Guidance with a sand table of “One Particle of Sand, One World”	Mental Health Education Centers
	Advanced Individual in Mental Health Education	Psychology Workstations of all subordinate colleges
Happy Mood	Reading Sharing Activity of the 4th “Happy Reading”	The Psychology Workstation of the School of Business
	An Emotional Trash Can Activity	The Psychology Workstation of the School of Pharmacy
	Movie Salon, Spiritual Journey	The Mental Health Association of College Students
Healthy Psychology	“Follow Our Hearts” —— The Second Psychology Garden Party	The Psychology Workstation of the School of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence
	“A Spring with Numerous Flowers, the Bright Moon Shining in the Sky”, Cultural and Creative Article Design Competition of the Mental Health Center of College Students	The Psychology Workstation of the School of Art
	“Immersed in Books, Touching You and Me”, Psychological Bookmark Design Competition	The Psychological Workstation of the School of Culture and Media
	Characteristic Activities of All Schools	Psychology Workstations of all subordinate colleges Related Student Clubs
	The Finals of The Fifth “Let’s Talk” Speech Competition on Psychological Growth Stories and the Closing Ceremony of the Activity Month	The Psychology Workstation of the School of Business

3.3.3 Protecting Property Safety

In order to raise the awareness of avoiding and identifying fraud among all teachers and students and create a charged anti-fraud atmosphere for all the people, we have strengthened cooperation and information sharing with police stations and local communities to counter the trend that telecommunication internet fraud was infiltrating into the campuses. We continuously enhanced the awareness of teachers and students in identifying, avoiding and countering fraud. We provided anti-fraud education on a regular basis. We also carried out countering fraud and avoiding fraud propaganda and education activities with various approaches that include online, offline, modern and traditional ways, so as to effectively enhance the fraud prevention awareness and abilities of teachers and students, and prevent secondary disasters. Additionally, we checked if all the teachers and students downloaded the anti-fraud APP to ensure 100% download and installation, 100% real-name login and 100% receipt of warning notifications, thereby leveraging technology to reduce the risk of falling victim to fraudulent activities.

Students knew various fraud with new ways from these diversified activities, and their abilities to avoid telecommunication and network fraud were enhanced, thus laying a solid foundation for the establishment of “fraud-free campuses”.

3.4 Employee Training and Development

The Group actively advocates that employees should keep a mindset of lifelong learning and grow with students. We have established a three-level training mechanism, including universities, schools and departments. At the university level, training is divided into “four segments” and “five plans”. The “Four Segments” include new employee training, cultural training, professional training and management training, and the “Five Plans” include orientation plan, talent nurturing plan, rainbow plan, enabling plan and photosynthesis plan. These plans are under the charge of different departments and aim to develop the ability of employees in various fields. The system is constructed as the chart below:

School-based Training System at the University Level					Classic Programs	
Management training	Enabling plan	Training on management skill enhancement			ALDP accelerated leadership training series	
		Training on basic management skills			Blue series: deep blue project, cyanine project, azure project	
Professional training	Photosynthesis plan	Teaching	Student management	Administration	Other business training	Growth acceleration New employee demonstration class series High-quality demonstration class series
	Rainbow plan	Teacher training			Face-to-face series	
New employee training	Orientation plan	Business training			Youth Development Project	
		Higher education teacher certification training		New employee centralized training		
Cultural training	Talent nurturing plan	Teachers' ethic and moral behavior training			Xinhua Culture Lecture	
		Culture Lecture				

Our training is carried out in various ways, such as exchange, visit, observation, forum and study, so as to meet different training needs. In addition, all schools can customize their own exclusive training programs to ensure that the training content matches the specific needs of each school.

During the Year, we specially provided a number of training programs aimed at enhancing teachers' teaching ability, so as to support their career development and the continuous enhancement of their teaching level.

Teaching Salons

In order to help teachers solve their teaching challenges and improve the quality of education, our Teachers' Ability Development Center reasonably made an annual plan for teacher training with a focus on teachers' development needs. We provided teachers with personalized consultation, strengthened professional exchanges and provided opportunities to improve teaching services through various forms and themes of training, including teaching workshops and teaching salons. Meanwhile, we strengthened policy incentives to continuously promote teachers' professional development.

In addition, we consolidated outstanding teacher resources and education and teaching expert teams inside and outside schools, focused on addressing the various problems encountered by young teachers in the process of teaching, ensuring that they could gain adequate support and guidance in their educational careers. We are devoted to providing all-round support for teachers' growth and professional development through these comprehensive measures.

During the Year, an Exchange Meeting through the Famous Teachers' Lecture Forum in the "Ecology" Culture and Art Festival was successfully held by the students majoring in landscape architecture for the academic month activities of the School of Urban Construction in Anhui Xinhua University. Zhang Deshun, a doctoral supervisor of Tongji University, gave a systematic speech and guidance based on the current industry development situation and undergraduates' cognition with the theme of "Planning Strategies and Design Countermeasures for the Cultural Promotion of Landscape Architecture", and other industry experts also gave speeches. The Lecture Forum introduced high-level resources to promote the landscape architecture specialty's steady improvement and assist teachers and students of the School in striving for their goals, improving their academic level and deepening their understanding of the specialty.

Induction Training

This training helped new employees obtain a thorough comprehension of their jobs, greatly facilitating their swift integration into the new work environment and accelerating their role transition and personal growth, which not only laid a strong foundation for their individual career development, but also made a significant contribution to talent cultivation and team construction within the schools.



New Counselor Training and Induction Ceremony themed on “Xinhua Park Youth Navigator in Xinhua Park”

In the special report “Meeting a Master”, He Yuanqing, a specially appointed professor from the School of Educational Science, Anhui Normal University, talked about how to identify students’ psychological crises, and grade and scientifically evaluate students’ psychological crises to realize targeted intervention through detailed theoretical exposition and a huge number of practical cases. Based on the viewpoint of “intervention after identification”, He Yuanqing guided the trainees to find and judge crisis clues through dialogues and communication with students through on-site situational simulation, which was practically operable.

In order to enhance teachers’ professional practical ability, the schools encouraged teachers to participate in social practices in summer, so as to improve their practical ability, innovative ability and competitiveness comprehensively. These activities took enterprises, industries, public institutions and other units as training platforms, and the main contents included special subject investigation, research on industry-university-research cooperation projects, and participation in enterprises’ work. The teachers understand the development and reform trends of the industry, improve their practical ability by learning business and practical knowledge, and strive to constitute a team of “dual-certificate and dual-ability” teachers with strong practical and innovative abilities to meet the needs of application-oriented undergraduate schools running.

3.5 Enriching Employee Activities

In order to enhance faculty members' cohesion and sense of belonging to the schools, and enrich their spiritual and cultural life, the Group adopted a two-level management model to organize team activities during the Year. These activities were carried out at two levels: the school level and the unit level. At the school level, the activities were planned and executed by the school office (trade union), the personnel division, the student affairs division/youth league committee, the department of general education and other departments. At the unit level, the activities were organized and conducted by secondary units according to the actual situation. This both-level and diversified activity arrangement was aimed at providing faculty members with a more comprehensive and close-to-need spiritual and cultural experience, thus enhancing their sense of identity with and participation in the schools.

In order to enrich the campus cultural life of new faculty members and build a platform to show their talents and skills, the "Charming Xinhua, Talent Show", i.e. the New Faculty Members' Talent Show Competition of Anhui Xinhua University, was successfully held on 7 June 2023. The competition featured various performance forms, including recitation, singing, dancing and martial arts, each presented in a brilliant and attractive manner. This competition provided a unique opportunity for new faculty members to show their talents and skills. It made the campus cultural life richer and more colorful, further enhancing all faculty members' enthusiasm for work.

4. COMPLIANT OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Combating Corruption and Upholding Integrity

The Group strictly complies with relevant laws and regulations, including the Oversight Law of the People's Republic of China, the Securities Law of the People's Republic of China, the Company Law of the People's Republic of China, the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China and the Anti-Money Laundering Law of the People's Republic of China. In order to standardize and improve the integrity management of the Group, we have developed a series of strict management regulations, including the "Integrity Construction Management Regulations" (《廉政建設管理規定》), "Procurement Management System" (《採購管理制度》), "Complaints and Whistle-Blowing Management Regulations" (《投訴舉報管理規定》), "Audit and Supervision Management Regulations" (《審計督察管理規定》), "Contract Review Management System" (《合同審核管理制度》) and "Seals Management Regulations" (《印章管理規定》). These regulations are designed to ensure that the Group follows the principles of integrity and transparency in all aspects of its operation, thereby promoting the healthy development and sound governance of the Group.

The Group strictly prohibits any form of illegal acts, including but not limited to illegal use of its assets, receipt of kickbacks, seeking of illegitimate interests, illegal reimbursement of personal expenditure, and existing conflicts of interests. The person in charge of each unit shall assume the primary responsibility for integrity and they must formulate effective integrity measures. In case of any violation, he shall report it to the audit and supervision department. The department shall be responsible for putting forward suggestions on punishment for the violation and supervising the execution of such punishment.

In order to build a strong awareness of integrity, we require all new recruits to study the Group's integrity rules and sign the "Employee's Letter of Undertaking for Honest Practice" (《員工廉潔從業承諾書》). Meanwhile, in order to ensure that external organizations who cooperate with us reach the same integrity standards, we also require them to sign the "Letter of Undertaking for Integrity" (《廉潔承諾書》) at the beginning of the cooperation.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

We have set up a whistle-blowing channel, encouraging anyone who finds any illegal behavior of the Group to report it. We promise that the identity of all whistleblowers and the information provided will be kept strictly confidential. Whistle-blowing reports shall be handled at three levels: unit level, Group level and senior management level. To ensure that whistle-blowing reports are all handled fairly and effectively, each whistle-blowing report shall be followed up and responded to in accordance with specified procedures and time frames. At the same time, all units and departments should actively cooperate with the investigation to ensure that each whistle-blowing report is properly handled, thereby maintaining the Group's legal compliance and meeting moral standards.

The Group is committed to creating an honest and equitable business environment, and advocates combating corruption, upholding integrity and fair competition among all employees. We provide all directors and employees of the Company with integrity education, and consistently reinforce the publicizing and implementation of the regulations. During the Year, with a focus on financial management, procurement management, project management, legal affairs and other aspects, the Group held special sessions and case-based training to deepen employees' understanding of anti-corruption efforts, enhance their awareness and ability of maintaining honest in their career, foster a fair, transparent and honest corporate culture, and further promote the healthy development of the Company.



Integrity Education Provided for Directors and the Management

During the Year, the Group or employees were not subject to any lawsuit or involved in any corruption, bribery, extortion, fraud, money laundering, or other cases.

4.2 Safeguarding Information Security

The Group strictly complies with the Regulations of the People's Republic of China for the Safety Protection of Computer Information Systems, the Cyber Security Law of the People's Republic of China, the Regulations on Technical Measures for Internet Security Protection, the Measures for Administration of Internet Information Services, the Measures for Security Protection Administration of the International Networking of Computer Information Networks and other relevant laws and regulations. In order to further strengthen the management of information security, we have formulated the "Regulations of Xinhua Group on Confidentiality Management" (《新華集團保密工作管理規定》), "Measures of Anhui Xinhua University on Campus Network Security Management" and the "Detailed Regulation of Anhui Xinhua University on the Management of Information Backup" (《安徽新華學院信息備份管理細則》), which specifically set forth the management, confidentiality and backup of information to ensure the security and reliability of the Group in terms of information processing and network operation.

When we collect personal information from various parties such as students, suppliers, employees and partners, we adopted confidentiality measures and permission settings according to the types of information collected, so as to ensure the protection of personal privacy. In addition, employees shall apply for access and obtain prior approval when they need to access data that are beyond their conventional authorization. This rigorous information management mechanism was designed to safeguard the privacy security of all individuals involved.

To ensure the security and integrity of data, we carried out regular inspections and maintenance of the equipment on which data were stored, and we used copyrighted software and anti-virus programs to protect such equipment from viruses and malware. We implemented a data backup program that required to keep all data with two backup copies: one stored locally and the other stored off-site. These backup servers shall be stored at places that meet a variety of security requirements including fireproof, waterproof, moistureproof, antimagnetic, burglarproof and ratproof requirements. Furthermore, only authorized personnel can access the backup data. If a department needs to restore data from a backup, it must submit an application, which shall be subject to approval by the person in charge of the informatization construction and development center. Through these measures, we ensured the effectiveness of data security management and the compliance of data recovery.

4.3 Protection of Intellectual Property

The Group strictly complies with the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China, the Detailed Rules for Implementation of the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China, the Intellectual Property Law of the People's Republic of China, the Regulations on Administration of Protection of Intellectual Properties in Colleges and Universities, the Advertising Law of the People's Republic of China, the Trademark Law of the People's Republic of China and other regulations. We have developed the "Patent Management Measures of Anhui Xinhua University" (《安徽新華學院專利管理辦法》) to standardize and guide patent management. The policy specifies the ownership of intellectual properties. For the invention patent of an employee that is a non-service patent, it shall be owned by the employee, be protected and not be infringed. For an invention that is a service invention or is created using the Group's resources, the intellectual property right of the invention shall be owned by the Group. The policy also sets forth the handling methods for patent right transfer and illegal patent transfer, so as to protect the interests of the Group. In addition, we engage a specialized intellectual property agency to register the intellectual properties of the Group. We strictly comply with academic ethics and forbid any forgery and plagiarism. The Group actively encourages teachers and students to innovate and invent, in respect of which we provide necessary subsidies and rewards. We also developed the trademark standardization application rules, established consistent group trademarks, so as to protect and improve the brand image of the Group. All of these measures constitute our comprehensive strategy for the management and protection of intellectual properties.

To ensure the accuracy and compliance of our publicity materials, we have formulated the “Provisions on Management of Official Media” (《官方傳播媒介管理規定》) and the “Submission, Approval and Publication Process of Propaganda Drafts” (《宣傳稿件報送審批及發佈流程》), specifying the review and release of all publicity documents. We adhere to the principles of “authorization before use” and “authorization before dissemination”, so as to properly manage the information copyrights, including the strict implementation of information recording, information storage and keeping information confidential. In addition, we must go through a strict review and approval process for all information to be released, so as to ensure that the information released is accurate and correct, and accord with the Group’s official stance and policies. This measure aims to protect our brand reputation and public image, while ensuring legal compliance in information dissemination.

During the Year, the Group did not violate any laws and regulations related to advertising.

During the Year, the Group had 316 new patents and maintained 131 patents.

4.4 Service Quality Assurance

4.4.1 Enrichment of Teaching Resources

The Group strictly complies with the National Standard of Teaching Quality for Undergraduate Majors at Regular Institutions of Higher Education, the Opinions on Speeding up the Construction of High-level Undergraduate Education to Improve Talent Development Ability in an All-round Way, and other relevant guidance documents. The Group adheres to the education and teaching philosophy of “Student-centered, output-oriented, continuous improvement”. Our goal is to nurture high-quality talents with patriotic feelings, innovative spirit and healthy personalities. In order to achieve this goal, we continuously improve our teaching quality, ensuring that all aspects of education can reach the standards. We are committed to optimizing the development of junior college education and providing a comprehensive and efficient learning environment for our students through the continuous enhancement of our education system and teaching methods. This continuous effort ensures that our quality of education conforms to national standards while meeting students’ personalized and diversified needs.

The Group persists in enriching teaching resources and improving the teaching quality to assist in students’ learning and development. The book resources at Anhui Xinhua University are increasing, and the campus informatization of Xinhua University is continuously enhanced. The data center’s computing power demonstrates good scalability and compatibility. The integration of the three fundamental platforms, information portal, unified identity authentication, and shared data center, facilitates single sign-on, data sharing, and deep integration of various operation systems.

Xinhua University boasts comprehensive public service facilities, including a big auditorium, a small auditorium, a lecture hall, a dance room, a physical training room, a roller-skating rink, four squares, and an innovation and entrepreneurship incubation base, catering to teaching and activity needs. Facilities and equipment for teaching are also plentiful. The school has 260 on-campus experimental training rooms, 245 off-campus internship bases established in collaboration with enterprises, 308 classrooms, 52 computer laboratories and 12 language laboratories. Over the past three years, the school carried out renovations and upgrades for 96 laboratory and training projects, built five virtual simulation experimental teaching projects by phases, added electronic class cards for 112 laboratories, and steadily advanced the construction of intelligent laboratories that were technological development and application oriented. The laboratories are open to all students in the form of autonomy + appointment.

Furthermore, Xinhua University proactively enriches its course resources by establishing 60-course resource libraries with industrial enterprises, creating 74 real project case libraries, and engaging enterprise teachers to directly participate in teaching for 423 courses. It has developed 117 self-designed courses and introduced 193 online courses. Through the utilizing intelligent teaching tools like Rain Classroom, it shares teaching materials of high-quality courses on platforms such as xuetangX. Based on research conducted by a third party, a satisfaction rate of 97% was recorded among sophomores to senior students regarding the course resources and content available for online learning in 2023.

4.4.2 Excellent Teaching Quality

The Group strictly complies with the National Standard of Teaching Quality for Undergraduate Majors at Regular Institutions of Higher Education, the Opinions on Speeding up the Construction of High-level Undergraduate Education to Improve Talent Development Ability in an All-round Way, and other relevant guidance documents. The Group adheres to the education and teaching philosophy of “Student-centered, output-oriented, continuous improvement”. Our goal is to nurture high-quality talents with patriotic feelings, innovative spirit and healthy personalities. In order to achieve this goal, we continuously improve our teaching quality, ensuring that all aspects of education can reach the standards. We are committed to optimizing the development of junior college education and providing a comprehensive and efficient learning environment for our students through the continuous enhancement of our education system and teaching methods. This continuous effort ensures that our quality of education conforms to national standards while meeting students’ personalized and diversified needs.

In order to build a first-class undergraduate major development site, we have formulated the “Measures for Development and Management of First-class Undergraduate Majors in Anhui Xinhua University” (《安徽新華學院一流本科專業建設與管理辦法》), and created a three-level major development system at school, provincial and national levels. These provisions specify the allocation of funds required for the development of undergraduate majors, the inspection and acceptance process and the recognition standards of majors. These provisions provide us with specific guidance and standards in all aspects of undergraduate major development, from fund investment and project implementation to result evaluation, so as to ensure that each phase of the development meets the expected level.

In order to ensure teaching quality, we have formulated the “Implementation Measures for the Monitoring and Assurance of Teaching Quality in Anhui Xinhua University” (《安徽新華學院教學質量監控與保障實施辦法》), and adopted a method of “three levels, four supervisions and five systems” to comprehensively manage and guarantee the quality of teaching. Under this framework, the three levels refer to the quality management at “university, school and department” levels, including the formulation of educational construction plans, management plans and teaching objectives, the implementation of teaching plans, and related work such as teacher training and course construction. The four supervisions refer to “construction supervision, management supervision, teaching supervision and learning supervision.” We are committed to the continuous construction and reform of the teaching systems, and the management of teaching-related plans including enrollment, personnel training, teaching plans, and teaching ability building. At the same time, we evaluate students’ performance in moral education and learning atmosphere. The five systems refer to “teaching objective system, quality standard system, teaching information system, teaching evaluation system and teaching control system.” We collect and analyze data on teaching, learning, teaching construction and resource support through these systems, compare the data against the objectives, and carry out rectification. We give feedback to teachers and make decisions on rewards and punishments based on performance.

During the Year, we promulgated the Construction and Management Methods of General Elective Courses in Anhui Xinhua University. The methods aim to broaden students' horizons, enhance their overall attainments, increase their knowledge, and foster their personal development through the provision of elective courses aligned with the goals of talent cultivation. The general elective courses are composed of nine categories: history and politics, sociology, economics and law, thinking and methods, art and aesthetics, innovation and entrepreneurship, language and culture, nature and science, life and health, and world and international. Taking into account the characteristics of schools' majors, we focus on the value orientation and ideological guidance of course contents, educate students in the correct outlook on life and values, and improve their psychological and physical qualities. Additionally, the courses are designed to foster the consciousness of problems in the realms of humanities, society, and nature; increase students' knowledge and international perspective; encourage the interplay of different disciplines; make students know about new achievements, new trends and new information at the frontiers of different disciplines and master different ways of thinking, perspectives and methods to understand and reform the world in the most basic disciplines; and cultivate students' critical thinking and innovation ability.

In order to ensure education quality, we carry out all-round quality inspections of all departments, including requiring every department to submit an annual work plan for teaching quality monitoring and a work report on teaching quality monitoring. We also carry out inspection on course examination papers, self-inspection of teaching units, and narrow inspection of graduation thesis. These measures are designed to ensure that every aspect of teaching activities meets the standards, thereby guaranteeing education quality.

As an educational institution, the Group did not have products required to be recalled for safety and health reasons (KPIs B6.1), and the product recall procedures (KPIs B6.4) did not apply to the Group.

4.4.3 Smooth Communication Channels

We strictly comply with the Education Law of the People's Republic of China, the Higher Education Law of the People's Republic of China, the Provisions on the Administration of Students in Regular Institutions of Higher Education and related laws and regulations. In order to properly handle complaints of students, we have developed the "Measures of Anhui Xinhua University for Handling Students' Complaints" (《安徽新華學院學生申訴處理辦法》), and we have set up a Student Complaint Handling Committee, with the university leaders as the heads, the directors of the supervision and inspection office as the deputy heads, and the heads of the legal department, the academic affairs division, the student affairs division, the general affairs division, the security division and the youth league committee of the university, teachers' representatives and students' representatives as members, so as to ensure the fairness and diversity of complaint handling. If students are dissatisfied with the result of the complaint handling, they have rights to further make a complaint to the provincial education administration authority. In addition, we have established a platform for continuous communication with parents to actively listen to parents' opinions and suggestions, so as to continuously improve and optimize our education services and management. These measures aim to create a more transparent and fairer educational environment to fully protect the rights and interests of students and parents.

During the Year, the principal's mailbox was added as an important channel for all parties to contact the school leaders. Teachers, students, employees, parents and people from all walks of life who care about and support the reform and development of the school can reflect the situation, and bring forward their opinions and suggestions to the school through the principal's mailbox. The principal's mailbox is published on the campus portal website of Anhui Xinhua University, and is managed by the Office of the University. It is checked by a specially-assigned person at a fixed time every day. The Office of the University shall arrange relevant functional offices and subordinate colleges to handle the letter according to its content, and the results shall be submitted to the Office of the University. We strictly abide by the confidentiality provisions, and avoid spreading information such as whistle-blowing reports and personal privacy and arbitrarily increasing the number of relevant material insiders.

On 13 December 2023, a face-to-face symposium for teachers and students with the theme of "smooth communication, zero distance, listening to the voice of the heart, and enhancing service assurance", was held by the School of Clinical Medicine of Anhui Medical University. The school authority reported on various aspects of the logistics service assurance in 2023, and put forward the future working concepts according to the opinions and suggestions collected from teachers' and students' questionnaires. During the symposium, representatives from both the teachers and students were active in making statements and provided immediate feedback on teachers' and students' daily concerns. They also proposed reference advice and feasible suggestions for solving these problems. The person in charge of the relevant parts of the Logistics Division gave one-to-one answers and responses to the causes, solutions and current progress of the problems, and made detailed explanations on the problems that could not be solved for the time being, which were recorded. After the meeting, relevant departments would be arranged to follow them up. This symposium built a good communication bridge and actively promoted the overall improvement of logistics service assurance.

During the Year, the Group did not receive any complaints about education.

4.4.4 Help Students Secure Jobs

We believe that it is an important responsibility of educators to help students smoothly fit in working and embark on their careers, so we are committed to providing them with all-around support and guidance to ensure that they can find suitable jobs after graduation and have good performance in their future careers. The school carries out a series of activities to help students secure jobs in multiple aspects.

From March to May, 2023, Anhui Xinhua University gave various kinds of guidance and assistance from the university level around the "Five Plans" for employment in 2023, including introducing high-quality enterprises to the campus, inviting experts to offer career and employment guidance, carrying out special training for employees who were responsible for employment, giving graduates with employment difficulties and a family in distress one-to-one help, and holding various types of employment competitions.

From September to December, 2023, Anhui Xinhua University organized a series of activities of "Employment Service Month" for the Fresh Graduates in 2024 of Anhui Xinhua University, so as to help them improve their employability and realize their "employment dreams" and "dreams of becoming talents". At the university level, the "Five As" activities of the "Employment Service Month" were carried out, which were a letter to myself upon graduation, a series of practical employment competitions, a series of comprehensive mutual selections on campus, a series of special job fairs of well-known enterprises, and a series of employment guidance and services. All subordinate colleges also made work plans, properly provided employment service guidance according to the majors' characteristics of all departments, actively held various recruitment fairs and talks, and carried out a series of activities in a targeted manner.

“Warm Spring in Wanjiang”, a Series of Non-profit Recruitment Fairs to Serve Youth Employment Organized by Anhui Communist Youth League in 2023

A total of 82 high-quality enterprises were invited to the recruitment fair, covering state-owned enterprises and listed companies in a number of industries such as Internet, education and training, biopharming, architectural design and finance. More than 2,000 jobs were offered and more than 1,500 students applied for the jobs at the recruitment fair. More than 2,000 resumes were received at the recruitment fair and nearly 400 graduates reached employment intentions with employers.

4.4.5 Supply Chain Management

To standardize the procurement process and supplier management, the Group has developed a series of policies and regulations, including the “Regulation on the Procurement Process of Anhui Xinhua Investment Group” (《安徽新華投資集團採購工作流程規定》), the “Procurement Management System of the Anhui Xinhua Investment Group” (《安徽新華投資集團採購管理制度》), the “Management System for the Division of Procurement Authority of the Anhui Xinhua Investment Group” (《安徽新華投資集團採購權限劃分管理制度》) and the “Regulation on Material Requisition Management of the Anhui Xinhua Investment Group” (《安徽新華投資集團物資申購管理規定》). With these policies, we can guarantee a good cooperative relationship with our suppliers. The implementation of these regulations aims to enhance the management level of the whole procurement process, and ensure that the procurement activities can satisfy the business requirements of the Group and comply with the relevant laws and regulations.

The Group adheres to the principles of “approval before purchase” and “fairness, justice, openness and honesty” in its procurement activities to ensure the transparency and compliance of the procurement process. Our procurement is divided into two modes: centralized procurement and phased procurement, and different materials and services are classified and managed according to the authority system. The requesting department is required to fill in the “Materials Purchase Application Form” (《物資採購申請單》) before procurement. Except for the special case of single-source procurement, a comparison between suppliers is required in the procurement process to guarantee the economical efficiency and reasonableness of procurement. In addition, when we enter into contracts with our suppliers, we always require them to sign the “Integrity Undertaking” (《廉政承諾書》) to ensure that the suppliers fully understand and comply with the Group’s anti-corruption policies and make a statement that there are no corrupt practices involved in the service and production processes. Upon receipt of the goods, the relevant departments will carry out strict acceptance inspections of the goods according to the contract, bidding documents, service undertakings, and national or industry standards. For special safety equipment and other special products, we will require acceptance reports issued by relevant government authorities or third-party testing agencies, which will be regarded as the acceptance basis. These meticulous processes ensure that our procurement activities not only meet high standards, but also safeguard the quality and safety of the goods we purchased.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

In order to maintain the good quality of our supply chain, we have implemented a mechanism to evaluate our suppliers on a regular basis and have developed a detailed “Supplier Assessment Form” (《供應商考評表》). This evaluation system involves evaluating suppliers in a number of aspects, such as qualification, price, product quality, delivery, service level and terms of payment. If a supplier’s score is too low, we will consider eliminating it from the supply chain.

In terms of sustainable supply chain development, we particularly emphasize that social and environmental factors should be considered in the selection of suppliers. In the social aspect, we avoid cooperating with suppliers who use child labor or forced labor. In the environmental aspect, we give priority to suppliers who provide recyclable products with fewer packaging materials or replaceable parts.

In addition, we have strengthened supervision of whether suppliers strictly implement the Group’s anti-corruption policies and other social and environmental policies. This comprehensive evaluation and supervision mechanism not only guarantees the quality and efficiency of the supply chain, but also promotes the fulfillment of social responsibility and environmental sustainability. We are committed to building a more responsible and sustainable supply chain system by implementing these measures.

During the Year, we had 65 suppliers providing teaching materials, student apartment supplies, school uniforms, network construction, multimedia construction, student management systems, steel doors, laboratory construction and electrical equipment. During the Year, our suppliers mainly came from 11 different provinces and cities, the details of which are as follows:

Region	Number of Suppliers
Anhui Province	37
Zhejiang Province	8
Jiangsu Province	6
Chongqing City	3
Beijing City	3
Guangdong Province	2
Shanghai City	2
Sichuan Province	1
Henan Province	1
Hainan Province	1
Shandong Province	1

5. CARE OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Students with Five Special Disadvantages

“Students with Five Special Disadvantages” include students with financial difficulties, special diseases, psychological disorders, learning difficulties, and abnormal words and deeds during special sensitive periods. The Group understands the unique needs of these students, therefore we systematically collect information on relevant students every year to ensure that we can provide them with the necessary support and assistance. We actively communicate with those students who request suspension of schooling or ask for leave due to special reasons and provide counseling services such as psychological counseling when necessary.

In order to support “Students with Five Special Disadvantages” more effectively, we have established mechanisms for communication and exchange within and across schools to facilitate the sharing of best practices and experience. Through this internal and inter-school collaboration, we are committed to providing the education and support for “Students with Five Special Disadvantages” with a standardized, systematic and scientific approach. We aim to create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for these students, helping them overcome difficulties and realize their individual potential.

During the Year, the schools carried out a mutual learning and mutual difference activity among themselves, focusing on providing mental health education, implementing educational support for “Students with Five Special Disadvantages”, and verifying freshmen’s general test interviews, psychological weekly reports, mental health education activities, the training of the Psychological Committee members, and whether the relevant material were complete or the formalities were finished for the following matters: asking for leave, requesting suspension of schooling, going back to school, attending a day school, seeing a doctor for psychological problems, etc. This activity was divided into four stages, namely, the self-inspection stage, the random inspection and mutual inspection stage, the stage of reinspection by the student affairs division, and the feedback and rectification stage. Every school was required to study the innovative practices of other schools, take the problems found in the mutual inspection seriously, and rectify them in time.

5.2 Diversified Student Activities

During the Year, the Group actively launched various activities with an aim to enrich students’ campus life and support their career development. These activities not only increased students’ experiences on campus, but also laid a solid foundation for their future career path.

“Traditional Costumes Embodying the Arrival of Spring, and Xinhua’s Campus Infusing with Chinese Style and Elegance”, an Activity of “Traditional Costumes Entering Xinhua’s Campus”

In order to inherit and carry forward Chinese excellent traditional culture, enhance students’ understanding of Chinese traditional costumes, and enrich university students’ extracurricular cultural life, the School of Culture and Media of Anhui Xinhua University organized this activity. Students dressed in traditional costumes of various nationalities and dynasties showed the unique charm of the Chinese nation in various periods and regions. The scene play performance combined with lantern riddles led the audience into the life in the flourishing age in the capital a thousand years ago, reproduced the prosperity in the ancient capital, and showed the costumes, makeup and styling and etiquette of various dynasties. The activity was held successfully, providing an opportunity for both teachers and students to immerse themselves in the infinite allure of traditional culture. This activity further enhanced the aesthetic judgment and cultural confidence of university students.



A Seminar on Garden of Repose 《憩园》, Chen Binxian's Full-length Novel

Dai Xin delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the seminar and gave the guests a warm welcome. Several famous writers in the literary field made splendid comments on this work. The students listened carefully, knew more about the writers' work, and appreciated the academic attainments of the masters in the critics. This seminar is an excellent practice of the education model of Anhui Xinhua University, which forms good interactive relationships among creative practice, education and teaching and the academic activity. In addition, the seminar provides diversified horizons and rich methods for the construction of new liberal arts in colleges and universities.

6. BUILDING GREEN CAMPUSES

The Group strictly complies with the Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China, the Energy Conservation Law of the People's Republic of China and other relevant laws in its operation. We emphasize the importance of green and environment protection and deeply integrate this philosophy into our daily teaching in order to develop students' environmental protection awareness and habits. Looking forward, we will continue to improve the green construction level of campuses, contribute more to the construction of a green China and ecological civilization, and put the concept of green development into every aspect of education, operation and management.

During the Year, we did not violate any laws related to environmental protection or cause any significant accidents affecting the environment and natural resources.

We reviewed the progress towards our environmental objectives, which are described as follows. During the Year, we continued to strictly comply with various environmental-related laws and regulations, and gradually reduced our greenhouse gas emissions, waste, electricity and water consumption, and the use of resources under similar operating standards.

6.1 Air Pollution Management

During the Year, the emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides and particulate matter were 354.03 kg, 0.43 kg and 27.25 kg. During the Year, the emissions of air pollutants were higher than the previous year.

The Group is well aware that vehicle operation is one of the main sources of air pollution, so we have implemented a series of measures to ensure that vehicles are in the best operating condition and reduce pollution emissions. Specific measures include regularly maintaining the vehicles, ensuring efficient operation of engines and other key parts, providing low-carbon driving training for our drivers, and emphasizing the importance of avoiding idling and sudden acceleration of the vehicles and other uneconomical driving behaviors, so as to reduce pollutant emissions. These measures are designed to reduce the impact of our vehicle operations on the environment, and improve the energy efficiency of our vehicles. We strive to be a company shouldering the responsibilities for the environment.

6.2 Greenhouse Gas Management

In order to reduce carbon emissions and save energy, the Group has implemented various energy-saving measures, including but not limited to:

- Using natural light sources for lighting as far as possible and reducing the use of electric lamps;
- Selecting energy-efficient lamps to improve lighting efficiency and energy conservation;
- Setting computers to automatic standby or sleep mode at idle to save energy;
- Turning off air-conditioners, lamps and electronic equipment promptly when not in use;
- Regularly cleaning lamps and air conditioning filters to improve energy efficiency;
- Allowing employees to wear casual clothes to reduce the use of air conditioners, in hot weather;
- Promoting tree planting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By implementing these measures, we have not only saved energy but also reduced our impact on the environment, demonstrating we have taken on our commitment to and responsibilities for sustainable development.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

We measured the GHG emissions of the schools according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol developed by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development as well as the ISO1464-1 set by the International Organization for Standardization. Our total GHG emissions (Scope 1 and 2) are shown as follows:

GHG Emissions	Unit	2023
Direct CHG emissions (scope 1)	tCO ₂ e	184.01
GHG Emissions reduction by planting new trees (scope 1)	tCO ₂ e	15.04
Indirect GHG emissions (scope 2)	tCO ₂ e	11,219.86
Total CHG emissions (scope 1 and 2)	tCO ₂ e	11,388.82
GHG emission intensity (per square meter) (scope1 and 2)	tCO ₂ e per square meter	0.02
GHG emission intensity per capita (scope 1 and 2)	tCO ₂ e per person	0.41
Energy Consumption		
Purchased electricity consumption	MWh	19,673.61
Purchased electricity consumption intensity (per square meter)	MWh/m ²	0.04
Purchased electricity consumption per capita	MWh/person	0.70

During the Year, the Group's GHG emissions and energy consumption were lower than the previous year, mainly due to the decrease in the number of students.

6.3 Waste Management

During the Year, a total of 3,600.00 tonnes of non-hazardous wastes were generated by the Group. During the Year, wastes generated by the Group decreased compared to the previous year.

In order to promote recycling, the Group classifies the waste generated by the College into "hazardous waste, recyclables, food waste and other waste", and publicizes and teaches teachers and students how to separate and recycle. We provided recycling bins in a number of key areas on campuses, and ensured that the wastes would be properly disposed of by qualified third-party agencies. Meanwhile, we advocated the concept of green offices, tried to reduce the use of disposable materials, and reused single-sided papers and other stationery as far as possible in daily office work, such as envelopes, loose-leaf cards, file cards and rechargeable batteries. We also take the initiative to contact electronics companies for recycling of our old e-waste. These measures not only reflected our commitment to environmental protection, but also contributed to creating an atmosphere of saving resources and cherishing the environment on campuses.

6.4 Water Resource Management

During the Year, the total water consumption and water consumption intensity of the Group during its operation were 1,115,534.00 cubic meters and 2.13 cubic meters per square meter. During the Year, the Group's water consumption decreased as compared to previous year, mainly due to the decrease in the number of students. The water resources of the Group were derived from the municipal water supply, and there were no issues in sourcing water.

We installed intelligent water use systems on campuses to effectively improve the use efficiency of water resources and promote water conservation. In addition, we scrutinized the water-consuming systems at the campuses on a regular basis, so as to prevent any leakage or drip. Once any leakage or drip was found, we would repair the water conservancy facilities as soon as possible, so as to ensure the efficient operation of the water system.

In order to promote water conservation, labels on water-saving were put up in washing rooms on campuses to remind teachers and students of saving water and encourage them to save water. We also promote the practice of rainwater recycling and collect rainwater for daily irrigation of campus plants. Through these measures, we not only reduced the consumption of water resources on campuses, but also actively promoted water-saving culture, thereby facilitating the sustainable development of campus environment.

6.5 Climate Change Management

As climate change is becoming increasingly serious, the potential risks it poses to enterprise operations cannot be ignored. In order to actively respond to this challenge, the Group identified and analyzed climate change risks, and assessed the possible impacts of these risks and the corresponding coping strategies during the Year. We plan to continuously monitor these risks and adjust promptly and formulate effective measures in response to situation changes. Such strategies are aimed at ensuring that our operations continue to adapt to environmental changes and we can responsibly face the challenges posed by climate change.

Type of Risks	Potential Impact	Measures
Physical risks		
Typhoon	Impact on the safety of teachers, students and our operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening campus equipment to resist extreme weather; • Training in responding to extreme weather; • Backing up data to protect the data from loss
Flood		
Transition risks		
Stakeholders' concern with climate change	Damage to the reputation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the development of green campuses; • Strengthening the disclosure of climate change and low-carbon operation measures in the ESG report

7. ASSUMING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

We have adopted the “Work Rules and Management Measures for Labor Education Practices of Anhui Xinhua University” (《安徽新華學院勞動教育實踐工作細則與管理辦法》) to deepen students' labor education experience. During the Year, the University encouraged students from all majors to actively participate in various community volunteer service activities. Students could not only apply what they learned in the classroom to real life, but also directly participate in social services to help those in need through these activities. This practice effectively strengthened students' understanding and knowledge of labor value and social responsibilities.

During the Year, a total of 445 of participates, along with 80 community members, were devoted to public welfare activities in communities, with the total number of hours of various activities reaching 123, which increased as compared with the previous year.

“Following and Remembering the Revolutionary Journey, Helping Rural Revitalization”

The School of Pharmacy of Anhui Xinhua University carried out the social practice activities of “ Visiting the Countryside” in summer in Junzhang Village, Lucun Town, Jieshou City, which focused on rural development, following the revolutionary footprints, medicinal material cultivation practice and medical treatment and public health. The practice team members of the School of Pharmacy utilized their own knowledge to help rural medical services. In Lucun Town, the team members conducted physical examinations for villagers, popularized the knowledge of drug safety, taught with five-animal exercises and gave publicity to food safety.

the “the 9th Day of the 9th Lunar Month, Respecting the Elders and Caring for Relatives” volunteer service activity organized by the School of Data and Artificial Intelligence

Volunteers from the public welfare team warmly inquired about the elders’ well-being, gave them gifts and chatted with them. There were professional medical care personnel in the team who provided free checkups for the elders. Furthermore, there were also professional hairdressers who provided the elders with haircut one by one. The volunteer team of warm sun services volunteer team went to the houses of the elderly who were disabled and widowed, and helped them do some cleaning, wash their clothes, and chat with them. On this special day, the old people were very happy and felt the warmth brought by the volunteers sincerely.

APPENDIX 1: SUSTAINABILITY DATA STATEMENT

Environmental Performance	Unit	2023
Air emissions		
Nitrogen oxides	kg	354.03
Sulphur oxides	kg	0.43
Particulate matter	kg	27.25
GHG emissions		
Direct GHG emissions (Scope 1)	tCO ₂ e	184.01
Greenhouse gas emissions removals from newly planted trees (Scope 1)	tCO ₂ e	15.04
Indirect GHG emissions (Scope 2)	tCO ₂ e	11,219.86
Total GHG emissions (Scope 1 & 2)	tCO ₂ e	11,388.82
GHG emission intensity (per square meter) (Scope 1 & 2)	tCO ₂ e per square meter	0.02
GHG emission intensity per capita (Scope 1 & 2)	tCO ₂ e per person	0.41
Refrigerant consumption		
HCFC-22	kg	62
Energy consumption		
Purchased electricity consumption	MWh	19,673.61
Purchased electricity consumption intensity (per square meter)	MWh per square meter	0.04
Purchased electricity consumption per capita	MWh per person	0.70
Gasoline consumption	MWh	157.44
Gasoline consumption per square meter	MWh per square meter	0.003
Gasoline consumption intensity per capita	MWh per person	0.006
Diesel consumption	MWh	112.88
Diesel consumption per square meter	MWh per square meter	0.0002
Diesel consumption intensity per capita	MWh per person	0.004
Water consumption		
Total water consumption	m ³	1,115,534.00
Water consumption intensity (per square meter)	m ³ per square meter	2.13
Water consumption intensity per capita	m ³ per person	39.70
Paper consumption		
Total paper consumption	kg	9,192.97
Paper consumption intensity per capita	kg per person	0.33
Waste generation¹		
Total non-hazardous waste generation	tonnes	3,600.00
Non-hazardous waste generation per capita	tonnes per person	0.13
Total hazardous waste generation	set (computer)	313
Total hazardous waste generation	piece (battery)	451
Total hazardous waste generation	piece (waste ink cartridge and waste toner cartridge)	521
Total hazardous waste recycling	set (computer)	313

¹ During the Year, all hazardous wastes involved in the Group were disposed of by qualified professional companies and we did not keep statistics on their weight.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Social Performance	Unit	2023
Number of employees		
Total number of employees	person(s)	2,504
The number of employees by gender		
Female employees	person(s)	1,682
Male employees	person(s)	822
The number of employees by position level		
Junior employees	person(s)	2,157
Full-time middle management	person(s)	319
Full-time senior management	person(s)	28
The number of employees by age		
Employees below 30	person(s)	808
Employees aged 30-50	person(s)	1,290
Employees above 50	person(s)	406
Employees by geographical region		
Employees in East China	person(s)	2,504
Employee Turnover		
Total employee turnover rate ²	%	11.66
Turnover rate by gender²		
Female employee turnover rate	%	6.51
Male employee turnover rate	%	5.15
Turnover rate by age²		
Turnover rate of employees below 30	%	5.63
Turnover rate of employees aged 30-50	%	4.03
Turnover rate of employees above 50	%	2.00
Turnover rate by geographical region²		
Turnover rate of employees in East China	%	11.66
Occupational health and safety		
Number of work-related fatalities in each of the past three years (including the Reporting Year)	person(s)	0
Rate of work-related fatalities in each of the past three years (including the Reporting Year)	%	0
Number of working days lost due to work injury	day(s)	3

² Turnover rate is calculated as: the number of employees' turnover in this category ÷ the number of employees at the end of the Year × 100%

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Social Performance	Unit	2023
Employees training		
Percentage of employees trained by gender³		
Male employees	%	100
Female employees	%	100
Percentage of employees trained by employee category³		
Junior employees	%	100
Full-time middle management	%	100
Full-time senior management	%	100
Average training hours of employees by gender⁴		
Female employees	hour	36.82
Male employees	hour	32.00
Average training hours of employees by employee category		
Junior employees	hour	37.99
Full-time middle management	hour	22.46
Full-time senior management	hour	20.05

³ Percentage of trained employees is calculated as: the number of trained employees in this category ÷ the number of employees in this category at the end of the Year × 100%

⁴ Average training hours of trained employees: total training hours of trained employees in this category ÷ the total number of employees in this category

APPENDIX 2: INDEX TO THE ESG REPORTING GUIDE OF HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE

Index		Related sections
Mandatory Disclosure Requirement		
A. Environmental		
A1. Emissions	General Disclosure	Information on the policies, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer relating to air and greenhouse gas emissions, discharges into water and land, and generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste.
	A1.1	The types of emissions and respective emissions information.
	A1.2	Direct (Scope 1) and indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions in total and intensity.
	A1.3	Total hazardous waste produced and intensity.
	A1.4	Total non-hazardous waste produced and intensity.
	A1.5	Description of emission target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.
	A1.6	Description of how hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are handled, and description of reduction target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.
A2. Use of Resources	General Disclosure	Policies on the efficient use of resources, including energy, water and other raw materials.
	A2.1	Direct and/or indirect energy consumption by type in total and intensity.
	A2.2	Water consumption in total and intensity.
	A2.3	Description of energy use efficiency target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.
	A2.4	Description of whether there is any issue in sourcing water that is fit for purpose, water efficiency target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.
	A2.5	Total packaging materials used for finished products and, if applicable, with reference to per unit produced.
		6. Building Green Campus
		Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
		Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
		Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
		Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
		6. Building Green Campus
		6. Building Green Campus
		6. Building Green Campus
		Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
		Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
		6. Building Green Campus
		6. Building Green Campus; 6.4 Water Resource Management
		Not applicable, as the Group's business does not involve any packaging material.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Index

A3. The Environment and Natural Resources	General Disclosure A3.1	Policies on minimising the issuer's significant impact on the environment and natural resources. Description of the significant impacts of activities on the environment and natural resources and the actions taken to manage them.
A4. Climate Change	General Disclosure A4.1	Policies on identification and mitigation of significant climate-related issues which have impacted, and those which may impact, the issuer. Description of the significant climate-related issues which have impacted, and those which may impact, the issuer, and the actions taken to manage them.

Related sections

6. Building Green Campus
6. Building Green Campus
6.5 Climate Change Management
6.5 Climate Change Management

B. Social

Employment and Labor Practices

B1. Employment	General Disclosure B1.1 B1.2	Information on the policies, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer, relating to compensation and dismissal, recruitment and promotion, working hours, rest periods, equal opportunity, diversity, anti-discrimination, and other benefits and welfare. Total workforce by gender, employment type (for example, full-or part-time), age group and geographical region. Employee turnover rate by gender, age group and geographical region.	3. Outstanding and Professional Team Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
B2. Health and Safety	General Disclosure B2.1 B2.2 B2.3	Information on the policies, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer, relating to providing a safe working environment and protecting employees from occupational hazards. Number and rate of work-related fatalities occurred in each of the past three years, including the Reporting Year. Number of working days lost due to work injury. Description of occupational health and safety measures adopted, how they are implemented and monitored.	3.3. Safe Campus Environment Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement 3.3. Safe Campus Environment

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Index

B3. Development and Training	General Disclosure	Policies on improving employees' knowledge and skills for discharging duties at work. Description of training activities.
	B3.1	The percentage of employees trained by gender and employee category (e.g. senior management, middle management).
	B3.2	The average training hours completed per employee by gender and employee category.
B4. Labor Standards	General Disclosure	Information on the policies, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer, relating to preventing child and forced labor.
	B4.1	Description of measures to review employment practices to avoid child and forced labor.
	B4.2	Description of steps taken to eliminate such practices when discovered.

Operating Practices

B5. Supply Chain Management	General Disclosure	Policies on managing environmental and social risks of the supply chain.
	B5.1	Number of suppliers by geographical region.
	B5.2	Description of practices relating to engaging suppliers, number of suppliers where the practices are being implemented, how they are implemented and monitored.
	B5.3	Description of practices used to identify environmental and social risks along the supply chain, and how they are implemented and monitored.
	B5.4	Description of practices used to promote environmentally preferable products and services when selecting suppliers, and how they are implemented and monitored.
B6. Product Responsibility	General Disclosure	Information on the policies, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer, relating to health and safety, advertising, labelling and privacy matters relating to products and services provided and methods of redress.
	B6.1	Percentage of total products sold or shipped subject to recalls for safety and health reasons.
	B6.2	Number of products and services related complaints received and how they are dealt with.
	B6.3	Description of practices relating to observing and protecting intellectual property rights.
	B6.4	Description of quality assurance process and recall procedures.
	B6.5	Description of consumer data protection and privacy policies, how they are implemented and monitored.

Related sections

3.4. Employee Training and Development
Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
Appendix 1: Sustainability Data Statement
3.1. Adhering to the Employment Principle
3.1. Adhering to the Employment Principle
3.1. Adhering to the Employment Principle

4.4.5 Supply Chain Management
4.4.5 Supply Chain Management
4.4.5 Supply Chain Management
4.4.5 Supply Chain Management
4.4.5 Supply Chain Management
4.2. Safeguarding Information Security; 4.3. Protection of Intellectual Property
As an educational institution, this disclosure is not applicable
4.4.3 Smooth Communication Channels
4.3. Protection of Intellectual Property
As an educational institution, this disclosure is not applicable
4.2. Safeguarding Information Security

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Index

		Related sections
B7. Anti-corruption	General Disclosure	Information on the policies, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer, relating to bribery, extortion, fraud and money laundering.
	B7.1	Number of concluded legal cases regarding corrupt practices brought against the issuer or its employees during the reporting period and the outcomes of the cases.
	B7.2	Description of preventive measures and whistle-blowing procedures, how they are implemented and monitored.
	B7.3	Description of anti-corruption training provided to directors and staff.
B8. Community Investment	General Disclosure	Policies on community engagement to understand the needs of the communities where the issuer operates and to ensure its activities take into consideration the communities' interests.
	B8.1	Focus areas of contribution (e.g. education, environmental concerns, labor needs, health, culture, sport).
	B8.2	Resources contributed (e.g. money or time) to the focus area.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF CHINA XINHUA EDUCATION GROUP LIMITED

(Incorporated in Cayman Islands with limited liability)

OPINION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of China Xinhua Education Group Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (the "Group") set out on pages 111 to 161, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the consolidated statement of profit or loss, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023 and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the "Code") together with any ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in the Cayman Islands, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

KEY AUDIT MATTERS

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

KEY AUDIT MATTERS (continued)**Revenue Recognition**

Refer to Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements and the accounting policy on pages 128 to 129.

The Key Audit Matter

Revenue comprises primarily tuition fees and boarding fees. The Group's schools generally receive these fees in advance prior to the beginning of each academic year or semester and initially record these fees as contract liabilities. Tuition fees and boarding fees are recognised proportionately over the reporting period of the applicable program.

We identified revenue recognition as a key audit matter because revenue is a key performance indicator of the Group which increases the risk that revenue could be manipulated to meet financial expectations or targets and also because the large volume of transactions processed increases the error in recognising revenue.

How the matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess revenue recognition included the following:

- assessing the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of key internal controls over the admission of students and collection of tuition fees and boarding fees;
- performing recalculation of the amount of contract liabilities and the revenue recognised during the year;
- analysing the revenue recognised during the year against the course fees and the number of students enrolled in the courses;
- on a sample basis, inspecting the evidence of payment of tuition fees and boarding fees from the students; and
- reconciling the enrolled student information of university students at the end of the reporting period to the records on the China Credentials Verification website and performing student count on a sample basis to verify the existence of enrolled students.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

KEY AUDIT MATTERS (continued)

Income Tax

Refer to Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements and the accounting policy on pages 126 to 127.

The Key Audit Matter

As per the historical tax returns filed with the relevant tax authorities, the Group's schools which do not require reasonable returns claimed preferential corporate income tax exemption treatment since their establishment by not paying corporate income tax on the income from the provision of formal educational services.

This approach was taken with reference to the Implementation Rules for the Law for Promoting Private Education (the "Implementation Rules") issued by the Ministry of Education. However, up to the date of this report, no separate policies, regulations or rules have been introduced by the tax authorities in this regard and thus management judgement is required in determining whether the Group's schools are entitled to the applicable preferential tax treatment in the relevant accounting periods.

According the Implementation Opinions of the Anhui Provincial People's Government on Encouraging Social Forces to Establish Education to Promote the Healthy Development of Private Education (the "Implementation Opinions"), the Group's schools are required to register as either a for-profit or a not-for-profit organization by the end of 2022. Up to the date of this report, the Group has not commenced the registration process.

We identified income tax as a key audit matter because management judgement is involved in interpreting the relevant rules and regulation so as to determine whether the Group's schools are entitled to the preferential tax treatment.

How the matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess the adequacy of income tax provisions included the following:

- discussing with the Group's management about the tax position taken by the Group, in particular, whether or not the Group's schools are required by their respective tax authorities to pay income tax during 2023 and whether the Group's schools which enjoy such preferential tax treatment are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations in China;
- communicating with local tax authorities, to identify if the Group's schools are default in tax or in violation of PRC tax laws; and
- involving our internal tax specialist to assist us in analysing the eligibility of the preferential tax treatment enjoyed by the Group's schools and assessing the adequacy of income tax provisions.

KEY AUDIT MATTERS (continued)**Impairment Assessment of Intangible Asset with Indefinite Useful Life**

Refer to Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements and the accounting policy on pages 119 to 120.

The Key Audit Matter

As at 31 December 2023, the Group recorded an amount of RMB196.0 million for a school operation right for the School of Clinical Medicine of Anhui Medical University ("School of Clinical Medicine") as intangible asset with indefinite useful life. Management performs impairment assessments annually or when indicators of potential impairment are identified. No impairment charge has been recorded during 2023.

In assessing impairment of the intangible asset with indefinite useful life, recoverable amount has been determined by the management using the value in use method, which involves the exercise of significant management judgement and estimation on certain key assumptions and estimates including discount rate and future revenue to estimate the net present value of the future operating cash flows.

We identified impairment assessment of intangible asset with indefinite useful life as a key audit matter because significant management judgement and estimation are involved.

How the matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess impairment assessment of intangible assets with indefinite useful life carried out by the Group included the following:

- with the assistance of our internal valuation specialists, evaluating the methodology adopted by management in the preparation of the value in use calculation with reference to the requirements of the prevailing accounting standards and assessing whether the discount rate applied were within the range adopted by other companies in the same industry;
- assessing the appropriateness of the key assumptions and estimates adopted in the value in use calculation by comparing to the School of Clinical Medicine's future business plans and financial and operational information of other university or school in the Group;
- comparing the actual results for the current year with management's key estimation for the previous year in order to assess the reliability of management's forecasts process;
- obtaining from management sensitivity analyses of the key assumptions and estimates adopted in the value in use calculation and assessing the impact of changes in the key assumptions and estimates to the conclusions reached in the impairment assessments and whether there were any indicators of management bias; and
- evaluating the reasonableness of the disclosure in respect of impairment assessment of intangible assets in the consolidated financial statements with reference to the requirements of the prevailing accounting standards.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs issued by the IASB and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are assisted by the Audit Committee in discharging their responsibilities for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

We communicate with the Audit Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Audit Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Yue Tat Wai.

KPMG

Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building
10 Chater Road
Central, Hong Kong
28 March 2024

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

for the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Renminbi Yuan)

	Note	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Revenue	4	642,660	625,476
Cost of sales		(264,704)	(256,771)
Gross profit		377,956	368,705
Other income	5	33,617	52,760
Selling and distribution costs		(3,726)	(7,915)
Administrative expenses		(80,391)	(158,353)
Profit from operations		327,456	255,197
Finance costs	6(a)	(14,293)	(15,794)
Profit before taxation	6	313,163	239,403
Income tax	7	(6,064)	(3,892)
Profit for the year		307,099	235,511

The notes on pages 117 to 161 form part of these financial statements. Details of dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company attributable to the profit for the year are set out in Note 22(b).

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Renminbi Yuan)

	Note	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Other comprehensive income for the year (after tax and reclassification adjustments)			
<i>Item that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>			
Exchange differences on translation of financial statements of the Company		11,488	73,394
Other comprehensive income for the year		11,488	73,394
Total comprehensive income for the year		318,587	308,905
Earnings per share			
Basic and diluted (RMB cents)	10	19.09	14.64

The notes on pages 117 to 161 form part of these financial statements. Details of dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company attributable to the profit for the year are set out in Note 22(b).

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

at 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Renminbi Yuan)

	Note	31 December 2023 RMB'000	31 December 2022 RMB'000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	11	460,456	496,141
Right-of-use assets	12	75,092	77,649
Intangible assets	13	200,833	199,895
Other non-current assets	15	2,825,104	2,700,291
Long-term bank time deposits	18(a)	160,000	180,000
		3,721,485	3,653,976
Current assets			
Trade receivables	16	2,885	2,639
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables	17	226,647	213,229
Cash and bank balances	18	524,639	322,068
		754,171	537,936
Current liabilities			
Loans and borrowings	19	50,020	50,020
Contract liabilities	20	339,995	329,549
Other payables	21	119,420	128,517
Current taxation		6,064	3,337
		515,499	511,423
Net current assets		238,672	26,513
Total assets less current liabilities		3,960,157	3,680,489

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

at 31 December 2023

(Expressed in Renminbi Yuan)

	<i>Note</i>	31 December 2023 RMB'000	31 December 2022 RMB'000
Non-current liabilities			
Loans and borrowings	19	496,231	446,096
NET ASSETS		3,463,926	3,234,393
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Share capital	22	12,952	12,952
Reserves		3,450,974	3,221,441
TOTAL EQUITY		3,463,926	3,234,393

Approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 28 March 2024.

Zhen Lu

Yongkai Wang

)
)
) *Directors*
)
)

The notes on pages 117 to 161 form part of these financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Renminbi Yuan)

Note	Attributable to equity shareholders of the Company						
	Share capital	Share premium	Capital reserves	Statutory reserves	Exchange reserves	Retained earnings	Total equity
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
Balance at 1 January 2022	12,952	767,406	163,675	508,052	28,601	1,587,431	3,068,117
Changes in equity for 2022:							
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	235,511	235,511
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	73,394	-	73,394
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	73,394	235,511	308,905
Dividends approved in respect of the previous year	22	(148,237)	-	-	-	-	(148,237)
Equity settled share-based transactions	-	-	5,608	-	-	-	5,608
Balance at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023	12,952	619,169	169,283	508,052	101,995	1,822,942	3,234,393
Changes in equity for 2023:							
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	307,099	307,099
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	11,488	-	11,488
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	11,488	307,099	318,587
Dividends approved in respect of the previous year	22	(96,216)	-	-	-	-	(96,216)
Equity settled share-based transactions	22	-	7,162	-	-	-	7,162
Balance at 31 December 2023	12,952	522,953	176,445	508,052	113,483	2,130,041	3,463,926

The notes on pages 117 to 161 form part of these financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2023
(Expressed in Renminbi Yuan)

	Note	2023		2022	
		RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
Operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	18(b)	394,710		434,829	
Income tax paid		(3,337)		(5,881)	
Net cash generated from operating activities			391,373		428,948
Investing activities					
Payment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment		(23,157)		(44,608)	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		580		209	
Payment for purchase of intangible assets		(3,970)		(655)	
Payment for school investments		(124,813)		(391,909)	
Payment for purchase of bank time deposits		(130,000)		(31,000)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(281,360)		(467,963)
Financing activities					
Proceeds from bank loans and other borrowings		97,491		68,415	
Repayment of bank loans		(50,020)		(50,020)	
Borrowing costs paid		(7,652)		(11,069)	
Dividends paid to equity shareholders of the Company		(97,301)		(148,208)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(57,482)		(140,882)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			52,531		(179,897)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	18(a)		192,068		366,892
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes			40		5,073
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	18(a)		244,639		192,068

The notes on pages 117 to 161 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

China Xinhua Education Group Limited (the “Company”) was incorporated in the Cayman Islands on 30 August 2017 as an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands. The shares of the Company were listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”) on 26 March 2018.

The Company and its subsidiaries (together, the “Group”) are principally engaged in the formal higher and secondary vocational education business in the People’s Republic of China (the “PRC”).

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRSs”), which collective term includes all applicable individual IFRSs, International Accounting Standards (“IASs”) and Interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”), and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance. These financial statements also comply with the applicable disclosure provisions of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. Material accounting policies adopted by the Group are disclosed below.

The IASB has issued certain amendments to IFRSs that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of the Group. Note 2(c) provides information on any changes in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these developments to the extent that they are relevant to the Group for the current and prior accounting periods reflected in these financial statements.

(b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 comprise the Group.

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by management in the application of IFRSs that have significant effect on the financial statements and major sources of estimation uncertainty are discussed in Note 3.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(c) Changes in accounting policies

The Group has applied the following new and amended IFRSs issued by the IASB to these financial statements for the current accounting period:

- IFRS 17, Insurance contracts
- Amendments to IAS 8, *Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors: Definition of accounting estimates*
- Amendments to IAS 1, *Presentation of financial statements and IFRS Practice Statement 2, Making materiality judgements: Disclosure of accounting policies*
- Amendments to IAS 12, *Income taxes: Deferred tax related to assets and liabilities arising from a single transaction*
- Amendments to IAS 12, *Income taxes: International tax reform – Pillar Two model rules*

None of these developments have had a material effect on how the Group's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented. The Group has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

(d) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date on which control commences until the date on which control ceases.

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealised income and expenses (except for foreign currency transaction gains or losses) arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated. Unrealised losses resulting from intra-group transactions are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

Changes in the Group's interests in a subsidiary that do not result in a loss of control are accounted for as equity transactions.

When the Group loses control of a subsidiary, it derecognises the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary, and any related non-controlling interests ("NCI") and other components of equity. Any resulting gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss. Any interest retained in that former subsidiary is measured at fair value when control is lost.

In the Company's statement of financial position, an investment in a subsidiary is stated at cost less impairment losses (see Note 2(h)(ii)).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(e) Property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets

Property, plant and equipment, other than construction in progress and right-of-use assets, are stated in the consolidated statements of financial position at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see Note 2(h)(ii)).

The cost of self-constructed items of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials, direct labour, the initial estimate, where relevant, of the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located, and an appropriate proportion of production overheads and borrowing costs (see Note 2(s)).

If significant parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, then they are accounted for as separate items (major components).

Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised in profit or loss. Any related revaluation surplus is transferred from the revaluation reserve to retained profits and is not reclassified to profit or loss.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of items of property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets, less their estimated residual values, if any, using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, and is generally recognised in profit or loss.

The estimated useful lives for the current and comparative periods are as follows:

– Buildings	20 – 40 years
– Motor vehicles	4 – 10 years
– Furniture and fixtures	3 – 5 years
– Electronic devices	3 – 5 years
– Leasehold land	50 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

Construction in progress represents property, plant and equipment under construction and equipment pending installation, and is stated at cost less impairment losses (see Note 2(h)(ii)). Capitalisation of construction in progress costs ceases and the construction in progress is transferred to property, plant and equipment when substantially all of the activities necessary to prepare the assets for their intended use are completed. No depreciation is provided in respect of construction in progress until it is substantially completed and ready for its intended use.

(f) Intangible assets (other than goodwill)

Intangible assets that are acquired by the Group and have finite useful lives are measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses (see Note 2(h)(ii)).

Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible assets less their estimated residual values using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, if any, and is generally recognised in profit or loss.

The estimated useful lives for the current and comparative periods are as follows:

– Computer software	5 years
---------------------	---------

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(f) Intangible assets (other than goodwill) (continued)

Intangible assets are not amortised while their useful lives are assessed to be indefinite. Any conclusion that the useful life of an intangible asset is indefinite is reviewed annually to determine whether events and circumstances continue to support the indefinite useful life assessment for that asset. If they do not, the change in the useful life assessment from indefinite to finite is accounted for prospectively from the date of change and in accordance with the policy for amortisation of intangible assets with finite lives as set out above.

(g) Leased assets

At inception of a contract, the Group assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. This is the case if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. Control is conveyed where the customer has both the right to direct the use of the identified asset and to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from that use.

(i) As a lessee

Where the contract contains lease component(s) and non-lease component(s), the Group has elected not to separate non-lease components and accounts for each lease component and any associated non-lease components as a single lease component for all leases.

At the lease commencement date, the Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, except for leases that have a short lease term of 12 months or less, and leases of low-value items such as laptops and office furniture. When the Group enters into a lease in respect of a low-value item, the Group decides whether to capitalise the lease on a lease-by-lease basis. If not capitalised, the associated lease payments are recognised in profit or loss on a systematic basis over the lease term.

Where the lease is capitalised, the lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, using a relevant incremental borrowing rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost and interest expense is recognised using the effective interest method. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability and are charged to profit or loss as incurred.

The right-of-use asset recognised when a lease is capitalised is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see Notes 2(e) and 2(h)(ii)).

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Leased assets (continued)

(i) As a lessee (continued)

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, if there is a change in the Group's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or if the Group changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

In the consolidated statement of financial position, the current portion of long-term lease liabilities is determined as the present value of contractual payments that are due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period.

(ii) As a lessor

The Group determines at lease inception whether each lease is a finance lease or an operating lease. A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership of an underlying assets to the lessee. Otherwise, the lease is classified as an operating lease.

When a contract contains lease and non-lease components, the Group allocates the consideration in the contract to each component on a relative stand-alone selling price basis. The rental income from operating leases is recognised in accordance with Note 2(q)(iii).

(h) Credit losses and impairment of assets

(i) Credit losses from financial instruments

The Group recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses ("ECL") on:

- financial assets measured at amortised cost (including cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables and other receivables, that are held for the collection of contractual cash flows which represent solely payments of principal and interest).

Measurement of ECLs

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Generally, credit losses are measured as the present value of all expected cash shortfalls between the contractual and expected amounts.

The expected cash shortfalls are discounted using the following rates where the effect is material:

- fixed-rate financial assets and trade and other receivables: effective interest rate determined at initial recognition or an approximation thereof.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(h) Credit losses and impairment of assets (continued)

(i) Credit losses from financial instruments (continued)

Measurement of ECLs (continued)

The maximum period considered when estimating ECLs is the maximum contractual period over which the Group is exposed to credit risk.

ECLs are measured on either of the following bases:

- 12-month ECLs: these are the portion of ECLs that result from default events that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date (or a shorter period if the expected life of the instrument is less than 12 months); and
- lifetime ECLs: these are the ECLs that result from all possible default events over the expected lives of the items to which the ECL model applies.

The Group measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs, except for the following, which are measured at 12-months ECLs:

- financial instruments that are determined to have low credit risk at the reporting date; and
- other financial instruments (including loan commitments issued) for which credit risk (i.e. the risk of default occurring over the expected life of the financial instrument) has not increased significantly since initial recognition.

Loss allowances for trade receivables and contract assets are always measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs.

Significant increases in credit risk

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial instrument (including a loan commitment) has increased significantly since initial recognition and when measuring ECLs, the Group considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on the Group's historical experience and informed credit assessment, that includes forward-looking information.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(h) Credit losses and impairment of assets (continued)

(i) Credit losses from financial instruments (continued)

Significant increases in credit risk (continued)

The Group assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased significantly if it is more than 30 days past due.

The Group considers a financial asset to be in default when:

- failure to make payments of principal or interest on their contractually due dates;
- an actual or expected significant deterioration in a financial instrument's external or internal credit rating (if available);
- an actual or expected significant deterioration in the operating results of the debtor; and
- existing or forecast changes in the technological, market, economic or legal environment that have a significant adverse effect on the debtor's ability to meet its obligation to the Group.

ECLs are remeasured at each reporting date to reflect changes in the financial instrument's credit risk since initial recognition. Any change in the ECL amount is recognised as an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss. The Group recognises an impairment gain or loss for all financial instruments with a corresponding adjustment to their carrying amount through a loss allowance account, except for investments in non-equity securities that are measured at FVOCI (recycling), for which the loss allowance is recognised in OCI and accumulated in the fair value reserve (recycling) does not reduce the carrying amount of the financial asset in the statement of financial position.

Credit-impaired financial assets

At each reporting date, the Group assesses whether a financial asset is credit-impaired. A financial asset is credit-impaired when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred.

Evidence that a financial asset is credit-impaired includes the following observable events:

- significant financial difficulties of the debtor;
- a breach of contract, such as a default or past due event;
- the restructuring of a loan or advance by the Group on terms that the Group would not consider otherwise;
- it is probable that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; or
- the disappearance of an active market for a security because of financial difficulties of the issuer.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(h) Credit losses and impairment of assets (continued)

(i) Credit losses from financial instruments (continued)

Write-off policy

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset or contract asset is written off to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery. This is generally the case when the Group otherwise determines that the debtor does not have assets or sources of income that could generate sufficient cash flows to repay the amounts subject to the write-off.

Subsequent recoveries of an asset that was previously written off are recognised as a reversal of impairment in profit or loss in the period in which the recovery occurs.

(ii) Impairment of other non-current assets

At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its non-financial assets (other than property carried at revalued amounts, other non-current assets) to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

For impairment testing, assets are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or cash-generating units ("CGU").

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs of disposal. Value in use is based on the estimated future cash flows, discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset or CGU.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount.

Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. They are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the CGU, and then to reduce the carrying amounts of the other assets in the CGU on a pro rata basis.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. For other assets, an impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the resulting carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

(iii) Interim financial reporting and impairment

Under the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, the Group is required to prepare an interim financial report in compliance with IAS 34, Interim financial reporting, in respect of the first six months of the financial year. At the end of the interim period, the Group applies the same impairment testing, recognition, and reversal criteria as it would at the end of the financial year (see Note 2(h)).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(i) Contract liabilities

A contract liability is recognised when the customer pays non-refundable consideration before the Group recognises the related revenue (see Note 2(q)). A contract liability is also recognised if the Group has an unconditional right to receive non-refundable consideration before the Group recognises the related revenue. In such latter cases, a corresponding receivable would also be recognised (see Note 2(j)).

When the contract includes a significant financing component, the contract balance includes interest accrued under the effective interest method (see Note 2(q)).

(j) Trade and other receivables

A receivable is recognised when the Group has an unconditional right to receive consideration and only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due.

Receivables are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less allowance for credit losses (see Note 2(h)(i)).

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term cash commitments, and other short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition. Cash and cash equivalents are assessed for ECL (see Note 2(h)(i)).

(l) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, trade and other payables are stated at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at invoice amounts.

(m) Interest-bearing borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are measured initially at fair value less transaction costs. Subsequently, these borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest expense is recognised in accordance with note 2(s).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(n) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefits and contributions to defined contribution retirement plans

Short-term employee benefits are expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid if the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution retirement plans are expensed as the related service is provided.

(ii) Share-based payments

The grant-date fair value of equity-settled share-based payments granted to employees is measured using the binomial lattice model. The amount is generally recognised as an expense, with a corresponding increase in equity, over the vesting period of the awards. The amount recognised as an expense is adjusted to reflect the number of awards for which the related service conditions are expected to be met, such that the amount ultimately recognised is based on the number of awards that meet the related service conditions at the vesting date.

(o) Income tax

Income tax expense comprises current tax and deferred tax. It is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to a business combination, or items recognised directly in equity or in OCI.

Current tax comprises the estimated tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year and any adjustments to the tax payable or receivable in respect of previous years. The amount of current tax payable or receivable is the best estimate of the tax amount expected to be paid or received that reflects any uncertainty related to income taxes. It is measured using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date. Current tax also includes any tax arising from dividends.

Current tax assets and liabilities are offset only if certain criteria are met.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred tax is not recognised for:

- temporary differences on the initial recognition of assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss and does not give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences;
- temporary differences related to investment in subsidiaries, associates and joint venture to the extent that the Group is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that they will not reverse in the foreseeable future;
- taxable temporary differences arising on the initial recognition of goodwill; and
- those related to the income taxes arising from tax laws enacted or substantively enacted to implement the Pillar Two model rules published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(o) Income tax (continued)

Deferred tax assets are recognised for unused tax losses, unused tax credits and deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be used. Future taxable profits are determined based on the reversal of relevant taxable temporary differences. If the amount of taxable temporary differences is insufficient to recognise a deferred tax asset in full, then future taxable profits, adjusted for reversals of existing temporary differences, are considered, based on the business plans for individual subsidiaries in the Group. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised; such reductions are reversed when the probability of future taxable profits improves.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset only if certain criteria are met.

(p) Provisions and contingent liabilities

Generally provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

A provision for warranties is recognised when the underlying products or services are sold, based on historical warranty data and a weighting of possible outcomes against their associated probabilities.

A provision for onerous contracts is measured at the present value of the lower of the expected cost of terminating the contract and the expected net cost of continuing with the contract, which is determined based on the incremental costs of fulfilling the obligation under that contract and an allocation of other costs directly related to fulfilling that contract. Before a provision is established, the Group recognises any impairment loss on the assets associated with that contract (see Note 2(h)(ii)).

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(q) Revenue and other income

Income is classified by the Group as revenue when it arises from the provision of services or the use by others of the Group's assets under leases in the ordinary course of the Group's business.

Revenue is recognised when control over a service is transferred to the customer, or the lessee has the right to use the asset, at the amount of promised consideration to which the Group is expected to be entitled, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties. Revenue excludes value added tax or other sales taxes and is after deduction of any trade discounts.

Where the contract contains a financing component which provides a significant financing benefit to the customer for more than 12 months, revenue is measured at the present value of the amount receivable, discounted using the discount rate that would be reflected in a separate financing transaction with the customer, and interest income is accrued separately under the effective interest method. Where the contract contains a financing component which provides a significant financing benefit to the Group, revenue recognised under that contract includes the interest expense accreted on the contract liability under the effective interest method.

Further details of the Group's revenue and other income recognition policies are as follows:

(i) Tuition and boarding fee

Tuition and boarding fees received by university and school are generally in advance prior to the beginning of each academic year or semester, and initially recorded as contract liability. Tuition and boarding fees are recognised proportionately over the period of the applicable program. The portion of tuition and boarding payments received from students but not earned is recorded as contract liability and is reflected as a current liability as such amounts represent revenue that the Group expects to earn within one year. The academic year of the Group's university and school is generally from September to June of the following year.

(ii) Service income

Service income is recognised when the Group satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised service to a customer.

(iii) Rental income from operating leases

Rental income from operating leases is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the total rental income, over the term of the lease. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as income in the accounting period in which they are earned.

(iv) Interest income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method. The "effective interest rate" is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset. In calculating interest income, the effective interest rate is applied to the gross carrying amount of the asset (when the asset is not credit-impaired). However, for financial assets that have become credit-impaired subsequent to initial recognition, interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the amortised cost of the financial asset. If the asset is no longer credit-impaired, then the calculation of interest income reverts to the gross basis.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(q) Revenue and other income (continued)

(v) Government grants

Government grants are recognised in the statement of financial position initially when there is reasonable assurance that they will be received and that the Group will comply with the conditions attaching to them.

Grants that compensate the Group for expenses incurred are recognised as income in profit or loss on a systematic basis in the same periods in which the expenses are incurred.

Grants that compensate the Group for the cost of an asset are deducted from the carrying amount of the asset and consequently are effectively recognised in profit or loss over the useful life of the asset by way of reduced depreciation expense.

(r) Translation of foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into the respective functional currencies of group companies at the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the exchange rate at the reporting date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated into the functional currency at the exchange rate when the fair value was determined. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured based on historical cost in a foreign currency are translated at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency differences are generally recognised in profit or loss.

Foreign currency differences are recognised in OCI and accumulated in the exchange reserve, except to the extent that the translation difference is allocated to NCI.

When a foreign operation is disposed of in its entirety or partially such that control, significant influence or joint control is lost, the cumulative amount in the exchange reserve related to that foreign operation is reclassified to profit or loss as part of the gain or loss on disposal. On disposal of a subsidiary that includes a foreign operation, the cumulative amount of the exchange differences relating to that foreign operation that have been attributed to the NCI shall be derecognised, but shall not be reclassified to profit or loss. If the Group disposes of part of its interest in a subsidiary but retains control, then the relevant proportion of the cumulative amount is reattributed to NCI. When the Group disposes of only part of an associate or joint venture while retaining significant influence or joint control, the relevant proportion of the cumulative amount is reclassified to profit or loss.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(s) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of an asset which necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use or sale are capitalised as part of the cost of that asset. Other borrowing costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

(t) Related parties

- (a) A person, or a close member of that person's family, is related to the Group if that person:
- (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
 - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group or the Group's parent.
- (b) An entity is related to the Group if any of the following conditions applies:
- (i) The entity and the Group are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
 - (ii) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
 - (iii) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
 - (iv) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
 - (v) The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Group or an entity related to the Group.
 - (vi) The entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a).
 - (vii) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
 - (viii) The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the Group or to the Group's parent.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(u) Segment reporting

Operating segments, and the amounts of each segment item reported in the financial statements, are identified from the financial information provided regularly to the Group's most senior executive management for the purposes of allocating resources to, and assessing the performance of, the Group's various lines of business and geographical locations.

Individually material operating segments are not aggregated for financial reporting purposes unless the segments have similar economic characteristics and are similar in respect of the nature of products and services, the nature of production processes, the type or class of customers, the methods used to distribute the products or provide the services, and the nature of the regulatory environment. Operating segments which are not individually material may be aggregated if they share a majority of these criteria.

3 ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENT AND ESTIMATES

(a) Critical accounting judgements in applying the Group's accounting policies

In the process of applying the Group's accounting policies, management has made the following accounting judgement:

Structured contracts

The Group conducts a substantial portion of the business through Anhui Xinhua University, Anhui Xinhua School and Anhui Xinhua Group Investment Co., Ltd. (the "PRC Operating Entities") under a series of structured contracts (the "Structured Contracts"), due to regulatory restrictions on the foreign ownership in the Group's schools in the PRC. The Group does not have any equity interest in the PRC Operating Entities. The directors assessed whether or not the Group has control over the PRC Operating Entities, has rights to variable returns from its involvement with the PRC Operating Entities and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the PRC Operating Entities. After assessment, the directors concluded that the Group has control over the PRC Operating Entities as a result of the Structured Contracts and accordingly the financial position and their operating results of the PRC Operating Entities are included in the Group's consolidated financial statements throughout the year.

Nevertheless, the Structured Contracts may not be as effective as direct legal ownership in providing the Group with direct control over the PRC Operating Entities and uncertainties presented by the PRC legal system could impede the Group's beneficiary rights of the results, assets and liabilities of the PRC Operating Entities. The directors, based on the advice of its legal counsel, consider that the Structured Contracts among the PRC Operating Entities and their equity shareholders are in compliance with the relevant PRC laws and regulations and are legally enforceable.

Recognition of income taxes and deferred tax assets

Determining income tax provision involves judgment on the future tax treatment of certain transactions. Management evaluates tax implications of transactions and tax provisions are set up accordingly. The tax treatments of such transactions are reconsidered periodically to take into account all changes in tax legislation. Deferred tax assets are recognised in respect of deductible temporary differences. As those deferred tax assets can only be recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the deductible temporary differences can be utilised, management's judgment is required to assess the probability of future taxable profits. Management's assessment is revised as necessary and additional deferred tax assets are recognised if it becomes probable that future taxable profits will allow the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3 ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENT AND ESTIMATES (continued)

(a) Critical accounting judgements in applying the Group's accounting policies (continued)

Recognition of income taxes and deferred tax assets (continued)

According to the relevant provisions of Implementation Rules for the Law for Promoting Private Education (the "Implementation Rules"), private schools for which the school sponsors do not require reasonable returns/schools elected as not-for-profit schools are eligible to enjoy the same preferential tax treatment as public schools. However, as of the date of this report, no separate policies, regulations or rules have been introduced by the authorities in this regard. Based on the historical tax returns filed to the relevant tax authorities, the Schools has historically enjoyed preferential tax treatment since its establishment.

Significant judgement is required in interpreting the relevant tax rules and regulation so as to determine whether the Group is subject to enterprise income tax. This assessment relies on estimates and assumptions and may involve a series of judgements about future events. New information may become available that causes the Group to change its judgement regarding the adequacy of the tax liabilities. Such changes to tax liabilities will impact tax expense in the period that such determination is made.

(b) Sources of estimation uncertainty

Notes 13 and 22(e) contain information about the assumptions and their risk factors relating to intangible asset impairment, fair value of share options granted and fair value of financial assets. Other significant sources of estimation uncertainty are as follows:

(i) Depreciation

As described in Note 2(e), property, plant and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, after taking into account the estimated residual value. Management reviews annually the useful lives of the assets and residual values, if any, in order to determine the amount of depreciation expenses to be recorded during any reporting period. The useful lives and residual values are based on the Group's historical experience with similar assets and taking into account anticipated technological and other changes. The depreciation expenses for future periods are adjusted if there are significant changes from previous estimates.

(ii) Impairment of non-current assets

If circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of a non-current asset may not be recoverable, the asset may be considered "impaired", and an impairment loss would be recognised in accordance with accounting policy for impairment of non-current assets as described in Note 2(h)(ii). The carrying amounts of the Group's non-current assets, including property, plant and equipment, right-of-use assets, intangible assets and other non-current assets are reviewed periodically to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. These assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their recorded carrying amounts may not be recoverable. The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its value in use and the fair value less costs to sell. An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. It is difficult to precisely estimate selling price of the Group's non-current assets because quoted market prices for such assets may not be readily available. In determining the value in use, expected future cash flows generated by the asset are discounted to their present value, which requires significant judgement relating to level of revenue, amount of operating costs and applicable discount rate. Management uses all readily available information in determining an amount that is a reasonable approximation of recoverable amount, including estimates based on reasonable and supportable assumptions and projections of revenue and amount of operating costs.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4 REVENUE AND SEGMENT REPORTING

(a) Revenue

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Revenue from contracts with customers within the scope of IFRS15		
Tuition fees	588,144	571,454
Boarding fees	54,516	54,022
Total	642,660	625,476

Revenue represents the value of service rendered during the year. No service provided to a single customer exceeds 10% or more of the total revenue of the Group during the year.

During 2023 and 2022, all of the Group's revenues were generated in the People's Republic of China ("PRC") and all of its non-current assets were located in the PRC.

The Group has applied the practical expedient in paragraph 121 of IFRS 15 to its tuition and boarding fees received by university and school such that the Group does not include information about revenue that the Group will be entitled to when it satisfied the remaining performance obligations for tuition and boarding fees received by university and school that had an original expected duration of one year or less.

(b) Segment Reporting

IFRS 8, Operating Segments, requires identification and disclosure of operating segment information based on internal financial reports that are regularly reviewed by the Group's chief operating decision maker for the purpose of resources allocation and performance assessment. On this basis, the Group has determined that it only has one operating segment which is the provision of education services.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5 OTHER INCOME

	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Rental and property management income	24,476	24,963
Service income	26,838	26,828
Government grants	1,763	2,633
Interest income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	12,351	15,654
Deficit on operation of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College (i)	(30,433)	(16,357)
Others	(1,378)	(961)
	33,617	52,760

- (i) On 20 November 2017, the Group entered into a formal agreement with Anhui Medical University for a term of three years to jointly operate the School of Clinical Medicine of Anhui Medical University ("School of Clinical Medicine") with the eventual goal of converting the School of Clinical Medicine into a school owned and operated solely by the Group. According to the agreement, the Group is entitled to the tuition fees relating to those students admitted in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter is responsible for the operation costs of the campus before the conversion.

On 29 April 2019, the Group entered into agreements with Nanjing University of Finance and Economics and Nanjing University of Finance and Economics Education Development Foundation, pursuant to which the Group would jointly operate Hongshan College of Nanjing University of Finance and Economics ("Hongshan College") with Nanjing University of Finance and Economics with the eventual goal of converting Hongshan College into a school owned and operated solely by the Group. According to the agreements, the Group is entitled to the tuition fees of Hongshan College from the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter is responsible for the operation costs of the campus before the conversion.

The amount represents the surplus or deficit to be absorbed by the Group, being the recognized revenue less the operation costs of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College during the year. During the conversion period, the schools are governed by a board in which the Group has board seats but not control. The Group's advances and other investments to the above two schools are disclosed in Notes 13, 15 and 17, representing the Group's related financial exposures prior to the completion of the conversion. After the conversion, the operation results of the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College will be consolidated into the Group. The surplus on operation of the School of Clinical Medicine for the year ended 31 December 2023 is RMB14,619,000 (2022: RMB6,639,000). The deficit on operation of the Hongshan College for the year ended 31 December 2023 is RMB45,052,000 (2022: RMB22,996,000).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6 PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

Profit before taxation is arrived at after charging:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
(a) Finance costs		
Interest expenses on loans and borrowings	14,293	15,794
(b) Staff costs		
Salaries, wages and other benefits	155,947	159,505
Contributions to defined contribution retirement plan (i)	13,037	9,459
Share-based payment expenses	7,162	5,608
	176,146	174,572

- (i) Employees of the Group's PRC subsidiaries are required to participate in a defined contribution retirement scheme administered and operated by the local municipal government. The Group's PRC subsidiaries contribute funds which are calculated on certain percentages of the average employee salary as agreed by the local municipal government to the scheme to fund the retirement benefits of the employees.

The Group's contributions to the defined contribution retirement plans are expensed as incurred and not reduced by contributions forfeited by those employees who leave the plans prior to vesting fully in the contributions.

The Group has no other material obligation for the payment of retirement benefits associated with the scheme beyond the annual contributions described above.

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
(c) Other items		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	60,070	62,088
Amortisation of intangible assets	3,032	4,553
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	2,557	2,557
Net foreign exchange loss	15,431	89,669
Auditors' remuneration	1,900	1,900
	82,990	160,767

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7 INCOME TAX IN THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(a) Income tax in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income represents:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Current tax		
Provision for PRC income tax for the year	6,064	3,892

- (i) The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands as an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands and accordingly is not subject to income tax.
- (ii) No provision for Hong Kong profits tax has been made as the Group had no assessable profits derived from or earned in Hong Kong during the year.
- (iii) Pursuant to the PRC Income Tax Law and the respective regulations, the companies of the Group which operate in Mainland China are subject to Corporate Income Tax ("CIT") at a rate of 25% on its taxable income.
- (iv) According to the relevant provisions of Implementation Rules for the Law for Promoting Private Education (the "Implementation Rules"), private schools for which the school sponsors do not require reasonable returns/schools elected as not-for-profit schools are eligible to enjoy the same preferential tax treatment as public schools. After the Implementation Rules for the Law for Promoting Private Education announced with effective from 1 September 2021, under the Implementation Opinions of the Anhui Provincial People's Government on Encouraging Social Forces to Establish Education to Promote the Healthy Development of Private Education (the "Implementation Opinions"), the Group's schools are required to register as either a for-profit or a not-for-profit organization by the end of 2022. Up to the date of this report, the Group has not commenced the registration process.

In accordance with the historical tax returns filed to the relevant tax authorities and the communication with local tax authorities, the Group's schools which do not require reasonable returns have not been levied for income tax on the income from provision of formal educational services. Following the prevailing practice, Management considered that no CIT would be imposed by the local tax bureau on the income from provision of formal educational services based on the PRC relevant tax collection administration circumstance. As a result, no income tax expense for the income from provision of formal educational services is thus recognised for the Group's schools for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Subject to the outcome of the registration and other policy update which cannot be determined at the moment, the preferential tax treatment previously enjoyed by the Group under the prevailing practice may be unfavorably affected and the Group may be subject to corporate income tax for the income from provision of formal educational services as determined by the local tax bureau.

(b) Reconciliation between tax expense and accounting profit at applicable tax rates:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Profit before taxation	313,163	239,403
Tax at the statutory rate	78,291	59,851
Tax effect of non-taxable income	(77,069)	(68,231)
Tax effect of temporary differences not recognized as deferred tax assets	4,781	12,200
Tax effect of non-deductible expenses	61	72
Actual income tax expense	6,064	3,892

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

7 INCOME TAX IN THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (continued)

(c) Deferred tax assets not recognized

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has not recognised deferred tax assets in respect of deductible temporary differences with total amount of RMB58,826,000 (2022: RMB39,702,000), as it is not probable that future taxable profits against which the deductible temporary differences can be utilised will be available in the relevant tax jurisdiction and entity.

(d) Deferred tax liabilities not recognized

The PRC Enterprise Income Tax law and its relevant regulations impose a withholding tax at 10%, unless reduced by a tax treaty/arrangement, for dividend distributions out of earnings accumulated beginning on 1 January 2008. Undistributed earnings generated prior to 1 January 2008 are exempted from such withholding tax.

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has not recognized deferred tax liabilities in respect of undistributed earnings generated by its PRC entities, with approximate total amount of RMB2,113,662,000 (2022: RMB1,799,665,000). In the opinion of the directors, the Group's undistributed earnings will be retained in the PRC for the expansion of the Group's operation, so it is not probable that these subsidiaries will distribute such earnings in the foreseeable future.

8 DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

Directors' emoluments disclosed pursuant to section 383(1) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation are as follows:

	Directors' fees RMB'000	Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind RMB'000	Discretionary bonuses RMB'000	Retirement scheme contributions RMB'000	Sub-Total RMB'000	Share-based payments (Note) RMB'000	2023 Total RMB'000
Chairman and non-executive Director							
Mr. Wu Junbao	-	54	144	-	198	-	198
Executive directors							
Mr. Zhang Ming	-	473	-	-	473	1,733	2,206
Mr. Lu Zhen	-	372	144	11	527	601	1,128
Mr. Wang Yongkai	-	354	116	-	470	601	1,071
Independent non-executive directors							
Mr. Jiang Min	150	-	-	-	150	-	150
Mr. Yang Zhanjun	150	-	-	-	150	-	150
Mr. Yao Heping	150	-	-	-	150	-	150
	450	1,253	404	11	2,118	2,935	5,053

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8 DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS (continued)

	Directors' fees	Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	Discretionary bonuses	Retirement scheme contributions	Sub-Total	Share-based payments (Note)	2022 Total
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
Chairman and non-executive Director							
Mr. Wu Junbao	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Executive directors							
Mr. Zhang Ming	-	442	-	-	442	4,219	4,661
Mr. Lu Zhen	-	369	144	10	523	237	760
Mr. Wang Yongkai	-	324	144	-	468	237	705
Independent non-executive directors							
Mr. Jiang Min	150	-	-	-	150	-	150
Mr. Yang Zhanjun	150	-	-	-	150	-	150
Mr. Chau Kwok Keung	125	-	-	-	125	-	125
Mr. Yao Heping	18	-	-	-	18	-	18
	443	1,135	288	10	1,876	4,693	6,569

Note: These represent the estimated value of share options granted to the directors under the Company's share option scheme. The value of these share options is measured according to the Group's accounting policies for share-based payment transactions as set out in Note 2(n)(ii).

The details of share-based payment transactions, including the principal terms and number of options granted, are disclosed in Note 22(e).

During the year, there was no amount paid or payable by the Group to the Directors or any of the five highest paid individuals set out in note 9 as an inducement to join or upon joining the Group or as compensation for loss of office.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9 INDIVIDUALS WITH HIGHEST EMOLUMENTS

Of the five individuals with the highest emoluments of the Group, three of them are directors of the Company (2022: three). The aggregate of the emoluments in respect of the remaining two individuals (2022: two) are as follows:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Salaries, allowance and benefits in kind	733	700
Discretionary bonuses	165	188
Share-based payments	1,202	474
Contributions to retirement benefit schemes	19	19
	2,119	1,381

The emoluments of the two (2022: two) individuals with the highest emoluments are within the following bands:

	2023 Number of individuals	2022 Number of individuals
Nil – HK\$2,000,000	1	2
HK\$2,000,001 – HK\$2,500,000	1	–

10 EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic earnings per share for the year ended 31 December 2023 is based on the profit attributable to equity holder of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023 of RMB307,099,000 (2022: RMB235,511,000) and the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 1,608,583,000 in issue during the year (2022: 1,608,583,000 shares).

There were no dilutive potential ordinary shares for the year ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, therefore, diluted earnings per share are equivalent to basic earnings per share.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Buildings RMB'000	Motor vehicles RMB'000	Furniture and fixtures RMB'000	Electronic devices RMB'000	Construction in progress RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Cost:						
At 1 January 2022	749,692	13,905	171,098	100,465	21,740	1,056,900
Additions	–	579	13,044	20,000	12,705	46,328
Disposals	–	(1,940)	–	–	–	(1,940)
Transfers	34,354	–	–	–	(34,354)	–
At 31 December 2022	784,046	12,544	184,142	120,465	91	1,101,288
At 1 January 2023	784,046	12,544	184,142	120,465	91	1,101,288
Additions	–	1,024	5,423	9,833	8,685	24,965
Disposals	–	(364)	(838)	(336)	–	(1,538)
Transfers	1,002	–	–	–	(1,002)	–
At 31 December 2023	785,048	13,204	188,727	129,962	7,774	1,124,715
Accumulated depreciation:						
At 1 January 2022	(309,531)	(10,235)	(143,242)	(81,782)	–	(544,790)
Charge for the year	(39,742)	(1,085)	(10,601)	(10,660)	–	(62,088)
Disposal	–	1,731	–	–	–	1,731
At 31 December 2022	(349,273)	(9,589)	(153,843)	(92,442)	–	(605,147)
At 1 January 2023	(349,273)	(9,589)	(153,843)	(92,442)	–	(605,147)
Charge for the year	(39,445)	(818)	(9,687)	(10,120)	–	(60,070)
Disposal	–	38	655	265	–	958
At 31 December 2023	(388,718)	(10,369)	(162,875)	(102,297)	–	(664,259)
Net book value:						
At 31 December 2022	434,773	2,955	30,299	28,023	91	496,141
At 31 December 2023	396,330	2,835	25,852	27,665	7,774	460,456

The Group's buildings are situated in the PRC. Certificates of ownership in respect of certain buildings of the Group with total net carrying amounts of RMB68,702,000 as at 31 December 2023 (2022: RMB70,510,000) have not yet been issued by the relevant PRC authorities. As at the end of the year, the directors were in the process of obtaining these certificates.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12 RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS

	2023 RMB'000
Cost:	
At 1 January 2022, 31 December 2022 and 2023	127,872
Accumulated depreciation:	
At 1 January 2022	(47,666)
Charge for the year	(2,557)
At 31 December 2022	(50,223)
At 1 January 2023	(50,223)
Charge for the year	(2,557)
At 31 December 2023	(52,780)
Net book value:	
At 31 December 2022	77,649
At 31 December 2023	75,092

As at 31 December 2023, the right-of-use assets represent the land use rights in respect of land located in the PRC with lease term of 50 years.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Computer software RMB'000	School operation right RMB'000	Total RMB'000
Cost:			
At 1 January 2022	28,125	195,961	224,086
Additions	655	–	655
At 31 December 2022	28,780	195,961	224,741
At 1 January 2023	28,780	195,961	224,741
Additions	3,970	–	3,970
At 31 December 2023	32,750	195,961	228,711
Accumulated amortisation:			
At 1 January 2022	(20,293)	–	(20,293)
Charge for the year	(4,553)	–	(4,553)
At 31 December 2022	(24,846)	–	(24,846)
At 1 January 2023	(24,846)	–	(24,846)
Charge for the year	(3,032)	–	(3,032)
At 31 December 2023	(27,878)	–	(27,878)
Net book value:			
At 31 December 2022	3,934	195,961	199,895
At 31 December 2023	4,872	195,961	200,833

As at 31 December 2023, intangible assets mainly represent a school operation right for the School of Clinical Medicine acquired from Anhui Medical University with the amount of RMB195,961,000.

The school operation right is stated at cost and not amortised while its useful life is assessed to be indefinite, and the Group performs impairment assessment annually or when indicators of potential impairment are identified. The school operation right is allocated to the cash-generating unit (“CGU”) of the School of Clinical Medicine, and the recoverable amount of this CGU is determined based on value in use calculations. These calculations use cash flow projections based on financial budgets approved by management covering a ten-year period. Cash flows beyond the ten-year period are extrapolated by using an estimated growth rate of 3% (2022: 3%) which is based on the relevant industry growth forecasts. The discount rates applied to the cash flow projections is 16% (2022: 19%). Key assumptions used for value in use calculations are the growth rates for sales, corresponding gross margin rates and working capital changes, based on management’s projection and expected market development.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14 INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES

The Company, either through legal ownership or implementation of the Structured Contracts, has direct and indirect interests in the following subsidiaries, all of which are private companies. The particulars of these subsidiaries are set out below:

Name of company	Place and date of incorporation/ business	Registered capital/ issued and fully paid-up capital	Percentage of equity attributable to the Company		Principal activities
			Direct	Indirect	
Xinhua Education International Limited	British Virgin Islands 31 August 2017	USD500/ USD0.01	100%	–	Investment holding
Hong Kong Xinhua Education Limited	Hong Kong 8 September 2017	HKD1/ HKD1	–	100%	Investment holding
Xinhua Education, Inc.	The United States 22 August 2017	USD0.1/ USD0.01	–	100%	Investment holding
Anhui Ronghua Education Technology Co., Ltd.* 安徽融華教育科技有限公司(<i>Note (a)</i>)	The PRC 30 September 2017	RMB10,000,000/ –	–	100%	Provision of technical and management consultancy services
Xinjiang Ronghua Education Technology Co., Ltd.* 新疆融華教育科技有限公司(<i>Note (a)</i>)	The PRC 17 January 2018	RMB50,000,000/ –	–	100%	Provision of technical and management consultancy services
Anhui Xinhua Group Investment Co., Ltd.* 安徽新華集團投資有限公司(<i>Note (b)</i>)	The PRC 1 September 1999	RMB100,000,000/ RMB100,000,000	–	100%	Investment holding
Anhui Xinhua University* 安徽新華學院(<i>Note (b)</i>)	The PRC 18 June 2000	RMB60,480,000/ RMB60,480,000	–	100%	Provision of formal undergraduate and junior college education services
Anhui Xinhua School* 安徽新華學校(<i>Note (b)</i>)	The PRC 11 April 2002	RMB4,950,000/ RMB4,950,000	–	100%	Provision of formal vocational secondary school education services

Notes:

- (a) These entities are incorporated in the PRC as wholly foreign-owned enterprises by Hong Kong Xinhua Education Limited.
- (b) These are PRC operating entities ultimately controlled by the Controlling Shareholder through the Structured Contracts.
- (c) During the year ended 31 December 2023, in order to improve management efficiency, the Group deregistered one subsidiary, Anhui Huayuan Education Technology Company Limited, with a total net assets value of RMB4,495,000 before liquidation.

* The English translation of these entities is for reference only. The official names of the entities established in the PRC are in Chinese.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

15 OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Prepayment for investments	660,000	660,000
Advance to the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College	2,165,104	2,040,291
	2,825,104	2,700,291

As at 31 December 2023, the prepayment for investments represents the payment for the acquisition of Hongshan College with the amount of RMB660 million. The advance to the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College represent the payment to the School of Clinical Medicine for its campus construction with the amount of RMB1,090,479,000 (31 December 2022: RMB1,001,872,000) and the payment to Hongshan College for its campus construction with the amount of RMB1,074,625,000 (31 December 2022: RMB1,038,419,000), which were unsecured and interest-free. For backgrounds of establishing a new campus for the School of Clinical Medicine and Hongshan College, please refer to the Company's prospectus dated 14 March 2018 and announcement dated 29 April 2019, respectively.

16 TRADE RECEIVABLES

As at the end of the year, an ageing analysis of the Group's trade receivables, based on the transaction date, is as follows:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Within 1 year	2,885	2,639

Details on the Group's credit policy are set out in Note 23(a). No allowance for doubtful debts was made as at the end of the year.

17 PREPAYMENTS, DEPOSITS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Prepayments and deposits	201,757	205,089
Other receivables	24,890	8,140
	226,647	213,229

As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, prepayments and deposits mainly comprise the balance due from Hongshan College with the amount of RMB200,000,000.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18 LONG-TERM BANK TIME DEPOSITS, CASH AND BANK BALANCES AND OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Long-term bank time deposits, cash and bank balances:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Long-term bank time deposits	160,000	180,000
Cash and bank balances		
– Bank time deposits	280,000	130,000
– Cash and cash equivalents	244,639	192,068
	524,639	322,068
	684,639	502,068

The interest rate on bank time deposits as at 31 December 2023 was 2.30% to 3.59% per annum (31 December 2022: 2.96% to 3.55%).

(b) Reconciliation of profit before taxation to cash generated from operations:

	Note	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Profit before taxation		313,163	239,403
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	6(c)	60,070	62,088
Amortisation of intangible assets	6(c)	3,032	4,553
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	6(c)	2,557	2,557
Finance costs	6(a)	14,293	15,794
Share-based payment expenses	6(b)	7,162	5,608
Net foreign exchange loss	6(c)	15,431	89,669
Operating profit before changes in working capital		415,708	419,672
Increase in trade and other receivables		(13,664)	(1,268)
Increase in contract liabilities		10,446	21,000
Decrease in other payables		(17,780)	(4,575)
Cash generated from operations		394,710	434,829

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

18 LONG-TERM BANK TIME DEPOSITS, CASH AND BANK BALANCES AND OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION (continued)

(c) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

	Loans and borrowings RMB'000 (Note 19)	Interest payable RMB'000 (Note 21)	Total RMB'000
Balance at 1 January 2022	456,731	2,455	459,186
Non-cash changes			
– Interest expenses on loans and borrowings (Note 6(a))	–	15,794	15,794
– Exchange adjustments	20,990	387	21,377
Cash flows			
– Inflow from financing activities	68,415	–	68,415
– Outflow from financing activities	(50,020)	(11,069)	(61,089)
Balance at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023	496,116	7,567	503,683
Non-cash changes			
– Interest expenses on loans and borrowings (Note 6(a))	–	14,293	14,293
– Exchange adjustments	2,664	154	2,818
Cash flows			
– Inflow from financing activities	97,491	–	97,491
– Outflow from financing activities	(50,020)	(7,652)	(57,672)
Balance at 31 December 2023	546,251	14,362	560,613

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19 LOANS AND BORROWINGS

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Unsecured bank loan:		
Within 1 year or on demand	50,020	50,020
After 1 year but within 2 years	50,020	50,020
After 2 years but within 5 years	62,880	112,900
	112,900	162,920
	162,920	212,940
Loan from related party:		
After 1 year but within 2 years	–	283,176
After 2 years but within 5 years	287,272	–
After 5 years	96,059	–
	546,251	496,116

As at 31 December 2023, the unsecured bank loans carried interest at annual rates of 3.05% (2022: 3.90%).

In June 2021, the Group entered into a loan agreement with its related party Wu Junbao Company Limited with an annual interest rate of 2.00%. In June 2022, the Group borrowed an additional sum of HKD80 million, equivalent to RMB68 million, with an annual interest rate of 2.00%. In June 2023, the Group signed a loan extension agreement with Wu Junbao Company Limited to extend the expired date under the previous loan agreement from 21 June 2024 to 21 June 2027. In July 2023, the Group borrowed an additional sum of HKD106 million, equivalent to RMB97 million, with an annual interest rate of 2.00%.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

20 CONTRACT LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Tuition fees	305,912	296,718
Boarding fees	34,083	32,831
	339,995	329,549

Movements in contract liabilities

	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Balance at 1 January	329,549	308,549
Decrease in contract liabilities as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in the contract liabilities at the beginning of the year	(329,249)	(307,659)
Decrease in contract liabilities as a result of the boarding fee refund during the year	(300)	(890)
Net increase in contract liabilities as a result of receipts in advance of performance	339,995	329,549
Balance at 31 December	339,995	329,549

21 OTHER PAYABLES

	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Miscellaneous expenses received from students (i)	5,011	16,491
Accrued expenses	9,821	8,175
Payables to suppliers	64,109	68,103
Accrued staff costs	25,357	27,421
Interest payable	14,362	7,567
Others	760	760
	119,420	128,517

(i) The amount represents miscellaneous expenses received from students which will be paid out on behalf of students.

All other payables are expected to be settled within one year.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS

(a) Movements in components of equity

The reconciliation between the opening and closing balances of each component of the Group's consolidated equity is set out in the consolidated statement of changes in equity. Details of the changes in the Company's individual components of equity between the beginning and the end of the year are set out below:

Company

		Attributable to equity shareholders of the Company					
	Note	Share capital RMB'000	Share premium RMB'000	Capital reserves RMB'000	Exchange reserves RMB'000	Retained earnings/ (accumulated losses) RMB'000	Total equity RMB'000
Balance at 1 January 2022		12,952	767,406	–	28,601	80,596	889,555
Changes in equity for 2022:							
Loss for the year		–	–	–	–	(57,173)	(57,173)
Other comprehensive income		–	–	–	73,407	–	73,407
Total comprehensive income		–	–	–	73,407	(57,173)	16,234
Dividends approved in respect of the previous year	22(b)	–	(148,237)	–	–	–	(148,237)
Balance at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023		12,952	619,169	–	102,008	23,423	757,552
Changes in equity for 2023:							
Loss for the year		–	–	–	–	(33,473)	(33,473)
Other comprehensive income		–	–	–	11,499	–	11,499
Total comprehensive income		–	–	–	11,499	(33,473)	(21,974)
Dividends approved in respect of the previous year	22(b)	–	(96,216)	–	–	–	(96,216)
Equity settled share based transactions		–	–	65,545	–	–	65,545
Balance at 31 December 2023		12,952	522,953	65,545	113,507	(10,050)	704,907

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS (continued)

(b) Dividends

(i) Dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company attributable to the year:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Final dividend proposed after the end of the reporting period of HK6.32 cents per ordinary share (2022: HK6.56 cents)	92,130	94,204

The final dividend proposed after the end of the reporting period has not been recognised as a liability at the end of the reporting period.

(ii) Dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company attributable to the previous financial year, approved and paid during the year:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Final dividend in respect of the previous financial year, approved and paid during the year, of HK6.56 cents per share (2022: HK10.78 cents)	96,216	148,237

(c) Share capital

The share capital of the Group represents the issued capital of the Company at the respective balance sheet dates.

Movements in the authorised share capital of the Company during the period are as follows:

	2023		2022	
	Number of shares (thousand)	Amount HK\$'000	Number of shares (thousand)	Amount HK\$'000
<i>Ordinary shares, authorised (i):</i>				
Ordinary shares of HK\$0.01 each	2,000,000	20,000	2,000,000	20,000
<i>Ordinary shares, issued and fully paid (ii):</i>				
At 1 January and 31 December	1,608,583	16,086	1,608,583	16,086
RMB equivalent ('000)		12,952		12,952

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS (continued)

(c) Share capital (continued)

(i) Authorised share capital

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands on 30 August 2017 with an authorised share capital of HK\$380,000 divided into 38,000,000 shares of par value of HK\$0.01 each.

Pursuant to the written resolutions of the shareholders passed on 8 March 2018, the authorised number of ordinary shares was increased from 38,000,000 to 2,000,000,000 of par value of HK\$0.01 each.

(ii) Issued share capital

The following sets out the changes in the Company's issued share capital since the date of its incorporation:

- The Company was incorporated on 30 August 2017 with issued capital of 5,172 ordinary shares at HK\$0.01 each. The issued capital was subsequently credited as fully paid.
- Pursuant to the written resolutions of the shareholders passed on 8 March 2018, the Company capitalized, out of the share premium as at 26 March 2018, HK\$11,999,948.28 (equivalent to RMB9,662,000) in paying up in full at par 1,199,994,828 shares for allotment and issue to the shareholders whose names appear on the register of members of the Company on the date of the written resolutions (or as they may direct) on a pro rata basis (the "Capitalisation Issue").
- On 26 March 2018, the Company issued 400,000,000 new ordinary shares of HK\$0.01 each by way of the offering to Hong Kong and overseas investors (the "Offering"). Consequently, HK\$4,000,000 (equivalent to RMB3,221,000) was recorded in share capital. On 18 April 2018, the Company issued 8,583,000 new ordinary shares to cover over-allocations in the Offering. Consequently, HK\$85,830 (equivalent to RMB69,000) was recorded in share capital.

(d) Nature and purpose of reserves

(i) Share premium

On 26 March 2018 and 18 April 2018, the Company issued 408,583,000 new ordinary shares of HK\$0.01 each at a price of HK\$3.26 per share by way of the Offering. Net proceeds from the Offering amounted to RMB1,037,973,000 (after offsetting issuance costs of RMB34,399,000), out of which RMB3,290,000 and RMB1,034,683,000 were recorded in share capital and share premium respectively.

(ii) PRC statutory reserves

Statutory reserves are established in accordance with the relevant PRC rules and regulations and the articles of association of the companies comprising the Group which are incorporated in the PRC. Appropriations to the reserves were approved by the respective boards of directors' meeting. These reserves include (i) general reserve of the limited liability companies and (ii) the development fund of schools.

- In accordance with the PRC Company Law, certain subsidiaries of the Group which are domestic enterprises are required to allocate 10% of their profit after tax, as determined in accordance with the relevant PRC accounting standards, to their respective statutory reserves until the reserves reach 50% of their respective registered capital. For the entity concerned, statutory reserves can be used to make good previous years' losses, if any, and may be converted into capital in proportion to the existing equity interests of investors, provided that the balance of the reserve after such conversion is not less than 25% of the entity's registered capital.
- According to the relevant PRC laws and regulations, for private schools that do not require reasonable returns, they are required to appropriate to the development fund not less than 25% of the annual increase of net assets of the relevant school as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the PRC. The development fund is for the construction or maintenance of the school or procurement or upgrading of educational equipment.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS (continued)

(e) Equity settled share-based transactions

On 30 April 2019, 15,000,000 share options were granted to Mr. Zhang Ming, an executive Director, under the Company's employee share option scheme, with an exercise price of HK\$2.69 per share. Each option gives the holder the right to subscribe for one ordinary share of the Company.

On 15 July 2019, 52,900,000 share options to subscribe for the ordinary shares of HK\$0.01 each in the share capital of the Company were granted to certain employees, including two executive directors Lu Zhen and Wang Yongkai, with an exercise price of HK\$2.82 per share.

On 5 June 2023, 71,900,000 share options were granted to certain employees, including three executive directors Zhang Ming, Lu Zhen and Wang Yongkai, under the Company's employee share option scheme, with an exercise price of HK\$0.76 per share. Each option gives the holder the right to subscribe for one ordinary share of the Company.

No share options were exercised during the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: nil).

(i) The terms and conditions of the grants are as follows:

Options granted to employees on	Number of instruments	Vesting conditions	Contractual life of options
– on 30 April 2019	15,000,000	20% on 30 April 2020 20% on 30 April 2021 20% on 30 April 2022 20% on 30 April 2023 20% on 30 April 2024	5 years after the vesting date
– on 15 July 2019 including:			
Group A	33,000,000	25% on 15 July 2020 25% on 15 July 2021 25% on 15 July 2022 25% on 15 July 2023	5 years after the vesting date
Group B	1,500,000	30% on 15 July 2020 30% on 15 July 2021 40% on 15 July 2022	5 years after the vesting date
Group C	15,200,000	50% on 15 July 2020 50% on 15 July 2021	5 years after the vesting date
Group D	1,200,000	100% on 15 July 2020	5 years after the vesting date
Group E	2,000,000	100% on 15 July 2019	5 years after the vesting date

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS (continued)

(e) Equity settled share-based transactions (continued)

(i) The terms and conditions of the grants are as follows: (continued)

Options granted to employees on	Number of instruments	Vesting conditions	Contractual life of options
– on 5 June 2023 including:			
Group A	15,000,000	20% on 5 June 2024 20% on 5 June 2025 20% on 5 June 2026 20% on 5 June 2027 20% on 5 June 2028	10 years after the vesting date
Group B	34,000,000	20% on 5 June 2024 20% on 5 June 2025 20% on 5 June 2026 20% on 5 June 2027	10 years after the vesting date
Group C	1,500,000	20% on 5 June 2024 20% on 5 June 2025 20% on 5 June 2026	10 years after the vesting date
Group D	19,300,000	20% on 5 June 2024 20% on 5 June 2025	10 years after the vesting date
Group E	2,100,000	20% on 5 June 2024	10 years after the vesting date
<hr/>			
Total share options granted	139,800,000		

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS (continued)

(e) Equity settled share-based transactions (continued)

(ii) The number and weighted average exercise prices of share options are as follows:

	2023		2022	
	Weighted average exercise price HK\$	Number of options '000	Weighted average exercise price HK\$	Number of options '000
Outstanding at the beginning of the year	2.79	67,900	2.79	67,900
Granted during the year	0.76	71,900	–	–
Outstanding at the end of the year	1.75	139,800	2.79	67,900
Exercisable at the end of the year	2.80	64,900	2.80	53,650

The options outstanding at 31 December 2023 had an exercise price of HK\$2.69, HK\$2.82 or HK\$0.76 (2022: HK\$2.69 or HK\$2.82) and a weighted average remaining contractual life of 7.3 years (2022: 3.8 years).

(iii) Fair value of share options and assumptions

The fair value of services received in return for share options granted is measured by reference to the fair value of share options granted. The estimate of the fair value of the share options granted is measured based on a binomial model. The contractual life of the share option is used as an input into this model. Expectations of early exercise are incorporated into the binomial model.

	30 April 2019	15 July 2019	5 June 2023
Fair value of share options and assumptions			
Fair value at measurement date (HK\$'000)	16,434	53,520	16,055
Fair value per share option at measurement date	1.01	1.10	0.22
Share price (HK\$)	2.66	2.82	0.75
Exercise price (HK\$)	2.69	2.82	0.76
Expected volatility	47.04%	41.99%	48.94%
Option life	8.0 years	7.2 years	12.3 years
Expected dividends	2.10%	1.98%	8.75%
Risk-free interest rate	1.672% – 1.697%	1.418% – 1.566%	3.602% – 3.916%

The expected volatility is based on the average volatilities in the similar industry. Expected dividends are based on historical dividends. Changes in the subjective input assumptions could materially affect the fair value estimate.

Share options were granted under a service condition. This condition has not been taken into account in the grant date fair value measurement of the services received. There were no market conditions associated with the share option grants.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22 CAPITAL, RESERVES AND DIVIDENDS (continued)

(f) Capital management

The Group's primary objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders, by pricing products and services commensurately with the level of risk and by securing access to finance at a reasonable cost.

The Group actively and regularly reviews and manages its capital structure to maintain a balance between the higher shareholder returns that might be possible with higher levels of borrowings and the advantages and security afforded by a sound capital position, and makes adjustments to the capital structure in light of changes in economic conditions.

The Group monitors its capital structure on the basis of a debt-to-asset ratio. This ratio is calculated as total liabilities divided by total assets.

The debt-to-asset ratio at 31 December 2023 and 2022 was as follows:

	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
Total liabilities	1,011,730	957,519
Total assets	4,475,656	4,191,912
Debt-to-asset ratios	23%	23%

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries are subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

23 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Exposure to credit, liquidity and interest rate risks arises in the normal course of the Group's business. The Group's exposure to these risks and the financial risk management policies and practices used by the Group to manage these risks are described below.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss to the Group. The Group's credit risk is primarily attributable to trade receivables and financial assets which comprise bank balances and time deposits.

In respect of trade receivables, the balances represent amounts related to students who have applied for the delayed payment of tuition fees and boarding fees. There is no fixed term for delayed payments. The Group seeks to maintain strict control over its outstanding receivables to minimise credit risk. Overdue balances are reviewed regularly by senior management. In view of the aforementioned and the fact that the Group's trade receivables relate to a large number of diversified students, there is no significant concentration of credit risk. The Group does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements over its trade receivable balances.

In respect of bank balances and time deposits, the Group transacts mainly with recognized and creditworthy banks, and the maximum exposure equal to the carrying amount of these financial assets.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(b) Liquidity risk

Individual operating entities within the Group are responsible for their own cash management, including the short-term investment of cash surpluses and the raising of loans to cover expected cash demands, subject to approval by the parent company's board when the borrowings exceed certain predetermined levels of authority. The Group's policy is to regularly monitor its liquidity requirements, to ensure that it maintains sufficient reserves of cash and readily realisable marketable securities and adequate committed lines of funding from major financial institutions to meet its liquidity requirements in the short and longer term.

The following tables show the remaining contractual maturities at the end of the reporting period of the Group's non-derivative financial liabilities and derivative financial liabilities, which are based on contractual undiscounted cash flows (including interest payments computed using contractual rates or, if floating, based on rates current at the end of the reporting period) and the earliest date the Group can be required to pay:

	At 31 December 2023				Carrying amount RMB'000
	Contractual undiscounted cash outflow				
	Within 1 year or on demand RMB'000	More than 1 year but less than 5 years RMB'000	More than 5 years RMB'000	Total RMB'000	
Other payables	119,420	–	–	119,420	119,420
Loans and borrowings	51,546	411,102	97,981	560,629	546,251
	170,966	411,102	97,981	680,049	665,671

	At 31 December 2022				Carrying amount RMB'000
	Contractual undiscounted cash outflow				
	Within 1 year or on demand RMB'000	More than 1 year but less than 5 years RMB'000	More than 5 years RMB'000	Total RMB'000	
Other payables	128,517	–	–	128,517	128,517
Loans and borrowings	51,971	476,070	–	528,041	496,116
	180,488	476,070	–	656,558	624,633

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(c) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Group's interest rate risk arises primarily from cash and bank balance, time deposits, and loans and borrowings. Borrowings issued at variable rates and fixed rates expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk and fair value interest rate risk respectively. The Group's interest rate profile as monitored by management is set out in (i) below:

(i) Interest rate profile

The following table details the interest rate profile of the Group's total borrowings as at the end of each reporting period:

	2023		2022	
	Effective Interest rate %	Amount RMB'000	Effective Interest rate %	Amount RMB'000
Fixed rate borrowings	2% to 3.05%	546,251	2% to 3.90%	496,116
Fixed rate time deposits	2.30% to 3.59%	440,000	2.96% to 3.70%	310,000

(ii) Sensitivity analysis

The Group's interest-bearing financial instruments at variable rates as at 31 December 2023 are mainly cash and cash equivalent balances, and the cash flow interest risk arising from the change of market interest rate on these balances of relatively short maturity is not considered significant. The Group's interest-bearing financial instruments at fixed interest rates as at 31 December 2023 are bank time deposits and loans and borrowings that are measured at amortized cost, and the change of market interest rate does not expose the Group to fair value interest risk.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

(d) Currency risk

The functional currency of the Group's subsidiaries in mainland China is RMB. Almost all the Group's operating activities are carried out in the mainland China with most of the transactions denominated in RMB. The Group considers the risk of movements in exchange rates to be insignificant.

The major currency risk is from the intra-group loan between the Company in Cayman and the Group's subsidiary in mainland China. The Group's subsidiary borrowed fund from the Company totaling USD147,740,000, approximately equal to RMB1,046,398,000 for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: RMB1,028,950,000), which has the currency risk due to its functional currency is RMB.

A decrease equal to RMB50,000,000 (2022: RMB49,000,000) in post-tax profit where the relevant foreign currency strengthens 5% (2022: 5%) against RMB. For a 5% (2022: 5%) weakening of the relevant foreign currency against RMB, there would be an equal and opposite impact on the profit.

(e) Fair value of financial assets and liabilities carried at other than fair value

The carrying amounts of the Group's financial instruments carried at amortized cost are not materially different from their fair values as at 31 December 2023 and 2022.

24 COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments of the Group in respect of plant, property and equipment and land use rights outstanding at 31 December 2023 and 2022 not provided for in the consolidated financial statements were as follows:

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Authorised but not contracted for	440,199	600,367

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25 MATERIAL RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year ended 31 December 2023, the directors are of the view that the following companies and persons are related parties of the Group:

Name of party	Relationship
Wu Junbao	Controlling Shareholder
Wu Junbao Company Limited	Fellow subsidiary
Anhui New East Cuisine Education Institute 安徽新東方烹飪專修學院	Fellow subsidiary
Xinhua Computer College 新華電腦專修學院	Fellow subsidiary
Anhui Wontone Automobile Maintenance Institute 安徽萬通汽車專修學院	Fellow subsidiary

Note: The English translation of these entities is for reference only. The official names of the entities established in the PRC are in Chinese.

(a) Significant related party transactions

	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Service received from related parties	125	279
Service fee charged by related parties	44	442
Loan from a related party	96,059	68,415

As at 31 December 2023, the Group's interest-bearing bank loan with the principal amount of RMB162,920,000 (2022: RMB212,940,000) was guaranteed by the controlling shareholder Mr. Wu Junbao.

During the reporting period, interest expense in respect of loan from related party Wu Junbao Company Limited is RMB6,746,000 (2022: RMB4,838,000).

(b) Key management personnel remuneration

Key management personnel remuneration is disclosed in Notes 8 and 9.

(c) Applicability of the Listing Rules relating to connected transactions

The related party transactions in terms of service fee and rental fee above constitute connected transactions or continuing connected transactions as defined in Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The disclosures required by Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules are provided in section Non-exempt Continuing Connected Transactions of the Report of the Directors.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

26 COMPANY-LEVEL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<i>Note</i>	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000
Non-current assets			
Investments in subsidiaries		38,969	–*
Amount due from a subsidiary		1,061,806	1,044,138
		1,100,775	1,044,138
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,674	3,904
		1,674	3,904
Current liabilities			
Other payables		14,211	7,314
		14,211	7,314
Net current liabilities		(12,537)	(3,410)
Total assets less current liabilities		1,088,238	1,040,728
Non-current liabilities			
Loans and borrowings		383,331	283,176
NET ASSETS		704,907	757,552
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
	22(a)		
Share capital		12,952	12,952
Reserves		691,955	744,600
TOTAL EQUITY		704,907	757,552

* The balance represents an amount less than RMB500.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

27 NON-ADJUSTING EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

After the end of the reporting period the directors proposed a final dividend. Further details are disclosed in Note 22(b).

28 IMMEDIATE AND ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

At 31 December 2023, the directors consider the immediate parent and ultimate controlling party of the Group to be Wu Junbao Company Limited, which was incorporated in the British Virgin Islands. This entity does not produce financial statements available for public use.

29 POSSIBLE IMPACT OF AMENDMENTS, NEW STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the IASB has issued a number of new or amended standards new or amended standards, which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2023 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. These developments include the following which may be relevant to the Group.

	Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after
Amendments to IAS 1, Presentation of financial statements: <i>Classification of liabilities as current or non-current ("2020 amendments")</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to IAS 1, Presentation of financial statements: <i>Non-current liabilities with covenants ("2022 amendments")</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to IFRS 16, Leases: <i>Lease liability in a sale and leaseback</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to IAS 7, Statement of cash flows and HKFRS 7, Financial Instruments: <i>Disclosures: Supplier finance arrangements</i>	1 January 2024
Amendments to IAS 21, The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates: <i>Lack of exchangeability</i>	1 January 2024

The Group is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these developments is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on the consolidated financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF KEY FINANCIAL FIGURES

Results of operation

	For the year ended 31 December				
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000	2021 RMB'000	2020 RMB'000	2019 RMB'000
Revenue	642,660	625,476	565,386	478,847	437,732
Gross profit	377,956	368,705	370,132	311,058	261,221
Profit before taxation	313,163	239,403	357,339	327,446	273,757
Profit for the year	307,099	235,511	354,482	325,293	270,673

Assets and liabilities

	As at 31 December				
	2023 RMB'000	2022 RMB'000	2021 RMB'000	2020 RMB'000	2019 RMB'000
Current assets	754,171	537,936	2,338,874	1,800,579	1,873,962
Current liabilities	515,499	511,423	490,155	463,920	675,410
Net current assets	238,672	26,513	1,848,719	1,336,659	1,198,552
Total non-current assets	3,721,485	3,653,976	1,626,109	1,750,070	1,419,728
Total equity	3,463,926	3,234,393	3,068,117	2,820,769	2,618,280

Financial ratio

	As at/for the year ended 31 December				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Net profit margin (%)	47.8%	37.7%	62.7%	67.9%	61.8%
Current ratio	1.5	1.1	4.8	3.9	2.8
Return on equity	9.2%	7.5%	12.0%	12.0%	10.8%
Return on assets	7.1%	5.8%	9.4%	10.5%	9.0%

In this annual report, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the following meanings:

“AGM”	the annual general meeting of the Company
“Anhui Education Department”	Department of Education of Anhui Province* (安徽省教育廳)
“Articles of Association” or “Articles”	the amended and restated articles of association of our Company conditionally adopted on 8 March 2018 and effective upon the Listing Date, and as amended from time to time
“associate(s)”	has the meaning ascribed thereto in the Listing Rules
“Board”	the board of Directors
“Business Cooperation Agreement”	the business cooperation agreement entered into by and among Xinhua Anhui, the PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities and the Registered Shareholders dated 31 October 2017
“Business Day” or “business day”	a day on which banks in Hong Kong are generally open for business to the public and which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in Hong Kong
“BVI”	the British Virgin Islands
“CG Code”	the Corporate Governance Code as set out in Appendix C1 to the Listing Rules
“China” or “PRC”	the People’s Republic of China excluding for the purpose of this annual report, Hong Kong, the Macau Special Administrative Region and Taiwan
“Companies Ordinance”	the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong) as the same may be amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time
“Company”	China Xinhua Education Group Limited, an exempted company incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability on 30 August 2017, whose shares are listed on the main board of the Stock Exchange (Stock Code: 2779)
“connected person(s)”	has the meaning ascribed to it under the Listing Rules
“Controlling Shareholder(s)”	has the meaning ascribed to it under the Listing Rules and unless the context requires otherwise, refers to the controlling shareholders of our Company, namely WJB Company and Mr. Wu Junbao
“Deed of Non-competition”	a deed of non-competition dated 8 March 2018 entered into by our Controlling Shareholders in favor of our Company (for ourselves and as trustee for each of our subsidiaries from time to time) regarding the non-competition undertaking

DEFINITIONS

“Director(s)”	the director(s) of the Company
“Directors’ Powers of Attorney”	the school sponsor appointed director’s power of attorney executed by each of the directors appointed by the School Sponsor of each PRC Operating School dated 31 October 2017
“Equity Pledge Agreement”	the equity pledge agreement entered into by and among the Registered Shareholders, Xinhua Group and Xinhua Anhui dated 31 October 2017
“Exclusive Call Option Agreement”	the exclusive call option agreement entered into by and among Xinhua Anhui, our PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities and the Registered Shareholders dated 31 October 2017
“Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement”	the exclusive technical service and management consultancy agreement entered into by and among Xinhua Anhui and our PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities dated 31 October 2017
“Foreign Investment Catalog”	the Guidance Catalog of Industries for Foreign Investment (《外商投資產業指導目錄(2017)》), which was promulgated jointly by the MOFCOM and the National Development and Reform Commission of the PRC (中華人民共和國國家發展和改革委員會*) on 28 July 2017 and became effective from 28 July 2017, which is amended from time to time
“Group”, “we”, “our” or “us”	the Company, its subsidiaries and consolidated affiliated entities
“HK\$, “Hong Kong dollar(s)”, “HKD” or “cents”	Hong Kong dollars and cents respectively, the lawful currency of Hong Kong
“Hong Kong” or “HK”	the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC
“Hongshan College”	Hongshan College of Nanjing University of Finance and Economics* (南京財經大學紅山學院), an independent college established in 1999 and currently jointly operated by the Group and Nanjing University of Finance and Economics
“Huayuan Partnership”	Hefei Huayuan Equity Investment Limited Partnership* (合肥華園股權投資合夥企業(有限合夥)), a limited partnership established under the laws of the PRC on 11 August 2017 with Mr. Wu Junbao acting as its general partner and 31 individuals acting as its limited partners, including Mr. Wu Junbao, Ms. Zhou Jiaju (spouse of Mr. Wu Junbao), Mr. Wu Shan (son of Mr. Wu Junbao), our two executive Directors (namely, Mr. Lu Zhen and Mr. Wang Yongkai), Ms. Wang Li (who resigned as our executive Director on 31 October 2018) and 26 other employees of our Group. Huayuan Partnership is one of the Registered Shareholders and holds 3.33% equity interest of Xinhua Group
“IFRSs”	the International Financial Reporting Standard(s)
“independent college”	a bachelor-degree level higher education institution established by a public university that provides formal education in bachelor-degree level or above in association with individuals or social organisations other than governmental institutions using non-state funds

“Independent Third Party(ies)”	an individual(s) or a company(ies) who or which is/are independent of and not connected with (within the meaning of the Listing Rules) any Director, chief executive or substantial shareholder (within the meaning of the Listing Rules) of our Company, its subsidiaries or any of their respective associates
“Listing”	the listing of the shares on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange on 26 March 2018
“Listing Date”	26 March 2018, the date on which the Company’s Shares are listed and from which dealings therein are permitted to take place on the Stock Exchange
“Listing Rules”	the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange, as amended from time to time
“Loan Agreement”	a loan agreement entered into by and among Xinhua Anhui, the PRC Operating Schools, and Xinhua Group dated 31 October 2017
“Main Board”	the Stock Exchange (excluding the option market) operated by the Stock Exchange which is independent from and operated in parallel with the GEM of the Stock Exchange
“MOE”	the Ministry of Education of the PRC (中華人民共和國教育部)
“MOFCOM”	Ministry of Commerce of the PRC (中華人民共和國商務部)
“Nanjing University of Finance & Economics”	Nanjing University of Finance and Economics* (南京財經大學)
“PRC Company Law”	the Company Law of the PRC (中華人民共和國公司法), as enacted by the Standing Committee of the Eighth National People’s Congress on 29 December 1993 and effective on 1 July 1994, and subsequently amended on 25 December 1999, 28 August 2004, 27 October 2005 and 28 December 2013, as amended, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time
“PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities”	namely, our School Sponsor and our PRC Operating Schools, each a consolidated affiliated entity of our Company
“PRC government” or “State”	the central government of the PRC, including all governmental sub-divisions (such as provincial, municipal and other regional or local government entities)
“PRC Legal Advisors”	Jingtian & Gongcheng or Anhui Lanyan Law Firm (as the case may be), our legal advisors as to PRC Laws
“PRC Operating Schools”	our consolidated affiliated entities, namely, Xinhua University, School of Clinical Medicine, Hongshan College and Xinhua School
“private schools”	schools which are not administered by local, provincial or national governments
“Prospectus”	the prospectus of the Company dated 14 March 2018

DEFINITIONS

“Registered Shareholders”	the shareholders of Xinhua Group, namely Mr. Wu Junbao, Mr. Wu Di and Huayuan Partnership
“Reporting Period”	the year ended 31 December 2023
“RMB” or “Renminbi”	Renminbi, the lawful currency for the time being of the PRC
“School of Clinical Medicine”	School of Clinical Medicine of Anhui Medical University* (安徽醫科大學臨床醫學院), an independent college of Anhui Medical University established under the laws of the PRC in 2003 as further described in “Business – Planned Additional Schools – School of Clinical Medicine” in the Prospectus
“School Sponsor’s and Directors’ Rights Entrustment Agreement”	the school sponsor’s and directors’ rights entrustment agreement entered into by and among Xinhua Group, the PRC Operating Schools, the directors of each PRC Operating School and Xinhua Anhui dated 31 October 2017
“School Sponsor’s Power of Attorney”	the school sponsor’s power of attorney executed by the School Sponsor in favor of Xinhua Anhui dated 31 October 2017
“school year”	the school year for all of our schools, which generally starts on September 1 of each calendar year and ends on June 30 of the next calendar year
“SFO” or “Securities and Futures Ordinance”	the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong), as amended and supplemented from time to time
“Share Option Scheme”	the share option scheme conditionally adopted by our Company on 8 March 2018
“Shareholders”	holder(s) of the Share(s)
“Shareholders’ Rights Entrustment Agreement”	the shareholders’ rights entrustment agreement entered into by and among the Registered Shareholders, the School Sponsor and Xinhua Anhui dated 31 October 2017
“Shares”	ordinary share(s) of HK\$0.01 each in the share capital of our Company
“Sino-Foreign Regulation”	the Regulation on Sino-Foreign Cooperation in Operating Schools (中華人民共和國中外合作辦學條例), promulgated by the State Council in 2003 and amended on 18 July 2013
“Spouse Undertakings”	collectively, the spouse undertakings dated 31 October 2017 executed by Ms. Zhou Jiaju, the spouse of Mr. Wu Junbao, and by Ms. Wu Songping, the spouse of Mr. Wu Di, respectively
“State Council”	the State Council of the PRC (中華人民共和國國務院)
“Stock Exchange”	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
“Structured Contracts”	collectively, Structured Contracts I and Structured Contracts II

“Structured Contracts I”	collectively, the Business Cooperation Agreement, the Exclusive Technical Service and Management Consultancy Agreement, the Exclusive Call Option Agreement, the Equity Pledge Agreement, the Shareholders’ Rights Entrustment Agreement, the School Sponsor’s and Directors’ Rights Entrustment Agreement, the School Sponsor’s Powers of Attorney, the Directors’ Powers of Attorney, the Shareholders’ Powers of Attorney, the Loan Agreement and the Spouse Undertakings, further details of which are set out in the section headed “Structured Contracts” in the Prospectus
“Structured Contracts II”	collectively, the structured contracts dated 6 February 2018 entered into by Xinhua Xinjiang with, among others, our PRC Consolidated Affiliated Entities, the terms and conditions of which are the same as the Structured Contracts I in all material aspects
“Subsidiary(ies)”	has the meaning ascribed to it under the Listing Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the Subsidiaries include the PRC Operating Schools and the School Sponsor in the Prospectus
“substantial Shareholder(s)”	has the meaning ascribed to it under the Listing Rules
“U.S.” or “United States”	the United States of America, its territories, its possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction
“US\$” or “USD”	United States dollars, the lawful currency for the time being of the United States
“Xinhua Anhui”	Anhui Ronghua Education Technology Co., Ltd.* (安徽融華教育科技有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC on 30 September 2017, which is wholly owned by Xinhua HK
“Xinhua BVI”	Xinhua Education International Limited (新華教育國際有限公司), a limited liability company incorporated under the laws of the BVI on 31 August 2017 and a wholly-owned subsidiary of our Company
“Xinhua Education Group”	Anhui Xinhua Education Group Co., Ltd.* (安徽新華教育集團有限公司, formerly known as Anhui Xinhua Education Development Co., Ltd.* (安徽新華教育發展有限公司)), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC on 30 March 2004, which is owned as to 38.4% by Mr. Wu Junbao, 51.6% by relatives of Mr. Wu Junbao and 10% by two companies held by Mr. Wu Junbao and his relatives
“Xinhua Group” or “School Sponsor”	Anhui Xinhua Group Investment Co., Ltd.* (安徽新華集團投資有限公司) (previously known as Anhui Xinhua Investment Co., Ltd.* (安徽新華投資有限公司)), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC on 1 September 1999. It is the school sponsor of Xinhua University and Xinhua School, and a consolidated affiliated entity of our Company

DEFINITIONS

“Xinhua HK”	Hong Kong Xinhua Education Limited (香港新華教育有限公司), a limited liability company incorporated in Hong Kong on 8 September 2017 and a wholly owned subsidiary of our Company
“Xinhua School”	Anhui Xinhua School* (安徽新華學校), a private formal secondary vocational school that obtained approval from the Anhui Education Department for its establishment on 11 April 2002, of which the school sponsor’s interest is wholly owned by Xinhua Group and a consolidated affiliated entity of our Company
“Xinhua University”	Anhui Xinhua University* (安徽新華學院), a private formal higher education institution whose predecessor is Anhui Xinhua Vocational College* (安徽新華職業學院) which obtained approval from The People’s Government of Anhui Province (安徽省人民政府) for its establishment on 18 June 2000. The school sponsor’s interest of Xinhua University is wholly owned by Xinhua Group and a consolidated affiliated entity of our Company
“Xinhua US”	Xinhua Education, Inc., a company incorporated in the State of Florida of the United States, with limited liability on 22 August 2017 and a wholly-owned subsidiary of our Company
“Xinhua WFOE”	Xinhua Anhui or Xinhua Xinjiang (as the case maybe), and collectively, “Xinhua WFOEs”
“Xinhua Xinjiang”	Xinjiang Ronghua Education Technology Co., Ltd.* (新疆融華教育科技有限公司), a limited liability company established under the laws of the PRC on 17 January 2018, which is wholly owned by Xinhua HK
“Xinjiang”	Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, a provincial-level autonomous region of the PRC
“Yangtze River Delta”	comprises Jiangsu Province, Zhejiang Province, Anhui Province and Shanghai in the PRC
“%”	per cent
“2016 Decision”	the Decision on Amending the Law for Promoting Private Education of the PRC (《關於修改〈中華人民共和國民辦教育促進法〉的決定》) approved by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress in November 2016, which took effect on 1 September 2017

* *The English translation of company names in Chinese is for identification purposes only. If there is any inconsistency between the Chinese names of entities or enterprises established in China and their English translations, the Chinese names shall prevail.*

CHINA XINHUA EDUCATION GROUP LIMITED
中國新華教育集團有限公司