

Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia concerning the encouragement and reciprocal protection of investments

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia,

Desiring to encourage, protect and create favourable conditions for investment by investors of one Contracting State in the territory of the other Contracting State based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit and for the purpose of the development of economic cooperation between both States,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1.

For the purpose of this Agreement:

1. The term "investments" means every kind of asset invested by investors of one Contracting State in accordance with the laws and regulations of the other Contracting State in the territory of the Latter, including mainly:

- (a) Movable and immovable property and other property rights;
- (b) Shares in companies or other forms of interest in such companies;
- (c) A claim to money or to any performance having an economic value;
- (d) Copyrights, industrial property, know-how and technological process;
- (e) Concessions conferred by law, including concessions to search for or exploit natural resources.

2. The term "investors" means:

In respect of the People's Republic of China;

- (a) Natural persons who have nationality of the People's Republic of China;
- (b) Economic entities established in accordance with the laws of the People's Republic of China and domiciled in the territory of the People's Republic of China;

In respect of the Republic of Slovenia:

- (a) Natural Persons who have nationality of the Republic of Slovenia;
- (b) Economic entities or other legal person established in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Slovenia.

3. The term "return" means the amounts yielded by investments, such as profits, dividends, interests, royalties or other legitimate income.

4. The term "territory" means the territory of the State as defined in its laws and all possible other areas having the status of sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with international law.

Article 2.

1. Each Contracting State shall encourage investors of the other Contracting State to make investments in its territory and admit such investments in accordance with its laws and regulations.

2. Each Contracting State shall grant assistance in and provide facilities for obtaining visa and working permit to nationals of the other Contracting State to or in the territory of the Former in connection with activities associated with such investments, according to its laws and regulations.

Article 3.

1. Investments and activities associated with investments of investors of either Contracting State shall be accorded fair and equitable treatment and shall enjoy protection in the territory of the other Contracting State.

2. Either contracting Party shall to the extent possible, accord treatment in accordance with the stipulations of its laws and regulations to the investments of investors of the other Contracting Party the same as that accorded to its, own investors.

3. The treatment and protection referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be less favourable than that accorded to investments and activities associated with such investments of investors of a third State. Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be less favourable than that accorded to investments and activities associated with such investments of investors of a third State.

4. The treatment and protection as mentioned in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall not include any preferential treatment accorded by the other Contracting State to investments of investor of a third State based on customs union, free trade zone, economic union, agreement relating to avoidance of double taxation or for facilitating frontier trade. Paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall not include any preferential treatment accorded by the other Contracting State to investments of investor of a third State based on customs union, free trade zone, economic union, agreement relating to avoidance of double taxation or for facilitating frontier trade.

Article 4.

1. Neither Contracting Party shall expropriate, nationalize or take similar measures (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") against investments of investors of the other Contracting Party in its territory, unless the following conditions are met:

(a) For the public interests;

(b) Under domestic legal procedure;

(c) Without discrimination;

(d) Against compensation.

2. Such compensation shall be computed on the basis of the market value of the investments immediately prior to the point of time when the decision for expropriation was announced or became publicly known. Where the market value cannot be readily ascertained, the compensation shall be determined in accordance with generally recognized principles of valuation and on equitable principles taking into account, inter alia, the capital invested, depreciation, capital already repatriated, replacement value and other relevant factors.

3. The compensation shall include interest at the current rate of interest applicable to the currency in which the investment was originally undertaken from the date of expropriation until the date of payment. The amount of compensation finally determined shall be paid to investors in freely convertible currencies and allowed to be repatriated without undue delay.

Article 5.

1. Each Contracting State shall, subject to its laws and regulations, guarantee investors of the other Contracting State the transfer of their investments and returns held in the territory of one Contracting State, without unreasonable delay and provided that all financial obligations required by law have been settled, including:

(a) Profits, dividends, interests and other legitimate income;

(b) Amounts from total or partial liquidation of investments;

(c) Payments made pursuant to a loan agreement in connection with investments;

(d) Royalties in Paragraph 1 (d) of Article 1; Paragraph 1 (d) of Article 1;

(e) Payments of technical assistance or technical service fee, management fee;

(f) Payments in connection with projects on contract;

(g) Earnings of nationals of the other Contracting State who work in connection with an investment in the territory of one Contracting State.

2. The transfer mentioned above shall be made at the prevailing exchange rate of the Contracting State accepting investment on the date of transfer.

Article 6.

If a Contracting State or its Agency makes payment to an investor under a guarantee it has granted to an investment of such investor in the territory of the other Contracting State, such other Contracting State shall recognize the transfer of any right or claim of such investor to the former Contracting State or its Agency and recognize the subrogation of the former Contracting State or its Agency to such right or claim. The subrogated right or claim shall not be greater than the original right or claim of the said investor.

Article 7.

1. Any dispute between the Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled by consultation through diplomatic channel.

2. If a dispute cannot thus be settled within six months, it shall, upon the request of either Contracting State, be submitted to an ad hoc arbitrary tribunal.

3. Such tribunal comprises of three arbitrators. Within two months from the date on which either Contracting Party receives the written notice requesting for arbitration from the other Contracting Party, each Contracting Party shall appoint one arbitrator. Those two arbitrators shall, within further two months, together select a third arbitrator who is a national of a third State which has diplomatic relations with both Contracting Parties. The third arbitrator shall be appointed by the two Contracting Parties as Chairman of the arbitral tribunal.

4. If the arbitral tribunal has not been constituted within four months from the date of the receipt of the written notice for arbitration, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to appoint the arbitrator(s) who has or have not yet been appointed. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the next most senior member of the International Court of Justice who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointment(s).

5. The arbitral tribunal shall determine its own procedure. The tribunal shall reach its award in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the principles of international law recognized by both Contracting Parties.

6. The tribunal shall reach its award by a majority of votes. Such award shall be final and binding on both Contracting Parties. The ad hoc arbitral tribunal shall, upon the request of either Contracting Party, explain the reasons of its award.

7. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its appointed arbitrator and of its representation in arbitral proceedings. The relevant costs of the Chairman and the tribunal shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties.

Article 8.

1. Any dispute between the investor of one Contracting State and the other Contracting State in connection with an investment in the territory of the other Contracting State shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

2. If the dispute cannot be settled through negotiations within six months, either party to the dispute shall be entitled to submit the dispute to the competent court of the Contracting State accepting the investment.

3. If a dispute involving the amount of compensation for expropriation cannot be settled within six months after resort to negotiations as specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, it may be submitted at the request of either party to an ad hoc arbitrary tribunal. The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply if the investor concerned has resorted to the procedure specified in the Paragraph 2 of this Article. Paragraph 1 of this Article, it may be submitted at the request of either party to an ad hoc arbitrary tribunal. The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply if the investor concerned has resorted to the procedure specified in the Paragraph 2 of this Article.

4. Such an arbitrary tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way: each party to the dispute shall appoint an arbitrator and these two shall select a national of a third State which has diplomatic relations with the two Contracting States as chairman. The first two arbitrators shall be appointed within two months of the written notice for arbitration by either party to the dispute to the other, and the Chairman be selected within four months. If within the period specified above, the tribunal has not been constituted, either party to the dispute may invite Secretary General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes to make the necessary appointments.

5. The tribunal shall determine its own procedure. However the tribunal may, in the course of determination of procedure take as guidance the Arbitration Rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

6. The tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be final and binding on both parties to the disputes. Both Contracting States shall commit themselves to the enforcement of the decision in accordance with their respective domestic law.

7. The tribunal shall adjudicate in accordance with the law of the Contracting State to the dispute accepting the investment including its rules on the conflict of laws, the provisions of this Agreement as well as the generally recognized principle of international law accepted by both Contracting States.

8. Each party to the dispute shall bear the costs of its appointed member of the tribunal and of its representation in the proceedings. The cost of the appointed Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the parties to dispute.

Article 9.

If the treatment to be accorded by one Contracting State in accordance with its laws and regulations to investments or activities associated with such investments of investors of the other Contracting State is more favourable than the treatment provided for in this Agreement, the more favourable treatment shall be applicable.

Article 10.

This Agreement shall apply to existing investments which are made prior to or investments after its entry into force by investors of either Contracting State in accordance with the laws and regulations of the other Contracting State in the territory of the latter.

Article 11.

1. The representatives of the two Contracting States shall hold meeting from time to time for the purpose of:

- (a) Reviewing the implementation of this Agreement;
- (b) Exchanging legal information and investment opportunities;
- (c) Resolving dispute arising out of investments;
- (d) Forwarding proposals on promotion of investments;
- (e) Studying other issues in connection with investments.

2. Where either Contracting State requests consultation on any matters of Paragraph 1 of this Article, the other Contracting State shall give prompt response and the consultation be held alternatively in Beijing and Ljubljana. Paragraph 1 of this Article, the other Contracting State shall give prompt response and the consultation be held alternatively in Beijing and Ljubljana.

Article 12.

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the following month after the date on which both Contracting States have notified each other in writing that their respective internal legal procedures have been fulfilled, and shall remain in force for a period of five years.

2. This Agreement shall continue to remain in force if either Contracting State fails to give a written notice to the other Contracting State to terminate this Agreement one year before the expiration of the period specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article. Paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. After the expiration of the initial five year period, either Contracting State may at any time thereafter terminate this Agreement by giving at least one year's written notice to the other Contracting State.

4. With respect to investments made prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of Article 1 to 11 shall continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from such date of termination. Article 1 to 11 shall continue to be effective for a further period of ten years from such date of termination.

Done in duplicate at Ljubljana on the 13th of September, 1993 in the Chinese, Slovene and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

For the Government of the Republic of Slovenia