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**No. S 804**

INCOME TAX ACT  
(CHAPTER 134)

INCOME TAX  
(SINGAPORE — BELARUS)  
(AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT)  
ORDER 2013

WHEREAS it is provided by section 49 of the Income Tax Act that if the Minister by order declares that arrangements specified in the order have been made with the government of any country outside Singapore with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to tax under the Act and any tax of a similar character imposed by the laws of that country, and that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect, the arrangements shall have effect in relation to tax under the Act notwithstanding anything in any written law:

AND WHEREAS by an Agreement dated 22nd March 2013, between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, arrangements were made, amongst other things, for the avoidance of double taxation:

AND WHEREAS by a Protocol dated 22nd March 2013, between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, the arrangements set out in the said Agreement were modified as prescribed in the said Protocol:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared by the Minister for Finance —

- (a) that the arrangements specified in the Schedule to this Order have been made with the Government of the Republic of Belarus; and
- (b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect notwithstanding anything in any written law.

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THE SCHEDULE

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

FOR

THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

AND

THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Belarus,

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PERSONS COVERED

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

ARTICLE 2

TAXES COVERED

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:

(a) in Belarus:

- (i) the tax on income;
  - (ii) the tax on profits;
  - (iii) the income tax on individuals;
- (hereinafter referred to as “Belarusian tax”);

(b) in Singapore:

— the income tax

(hereinafter referred to as “Singapore tax”).

4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.

ARTICLE 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Singapore or Belarus, as the context requires;
- (b) the term “Belarus” means the Republic of Belarus and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory over which the Republic of Belarus exercises under the laws of Belarus and in accordance with international law, sovereign rights and jurisdiction;
- (c) the term “Singapore” means the Republic of Singapore and, when used in a geographical sense, includes its land territory, internal waters and territorial sea, as well as any maritime area situated beyond the territorial sea which has been or might in the future be designated under its national law, in accordance with international law, as an area within which Singapore may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction with regards to the sea, the sea-bed, the subsoil and the natural resources;
- (d) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (e) the term “company” means:
- (i) in Belarus, any legal person or any entity which is treated as a separate entity for tax purposes;
  - (ii) in Singapore, any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (f) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (g) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (h) the term “national”, in relation to a Contracting State, means:
- (i) any individual possessing the citizenship of that Contracting State; and
  - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in that Contracting State;
- (i) the term “competent authority” means:
- (i) in Belarus, the Ministry of Taxes and Duties of the Republic of Belarus or its authorised representative;
  - (ii) in Singapore, the Minister for Finance or his authorised representative;
- (j) the term “statutory body” means a body constituted by statute and performing only non-commercial functions which would otherwise be performed by the Government of a Contracting State.

2. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Contracting State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Contracting State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Contracting State.

## ARTICLE 4

## RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that Contracting State, is liable to tax

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

therein by reason of that person's domicile, residence, place of registration, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that Contracting State and any local authority or statutory body thereof.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then the status of that individual shall be determined as follows:

- (a) that individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which that individual has a permanent home available to that individual; if that individual has a permanent home available to that individual in both Contracting States, that individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State with which the personal and economic relations of that individual are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the Contracting State in which the centre of vital interests of that individual cannot be determined, or if that individual has not a permanent home available to that individual in either Contracting State, that individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which that individual has an habitual abode;
- (c) if that individual has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, that individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State of which that individual is a national;
- (d) in any other case, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which its place of effective management is situated. If its place of effective management cannot be determined, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop;
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources; and
  - (g) premises used as sales outlet.
3. The term “permanent establishment” also encompasses:
- (a) a building site, a construction, assembly or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only if such site, project or activities lasts more than 12 months;
  - (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise of a Contracting State through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only if activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within the other Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than 270 days in any 12-month period.
4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include:
- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
  - (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, where a person — other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 of this

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

Article applies — is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 of this Article which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that Contracting State through a broker, a general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

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

ARTICLE 6

INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. Ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property. Income derived from immovable property which is taxable in accordance with this Article shall in any case include income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

ARTICLE 7

BUSINESS PROFITS

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other Contracting State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 of this Article shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs of this Article, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

ARTICLE 8

SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT

1. Profits derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to profits from the participation in a joint business or an international operating agency.

3. For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall include:

- (a) (i) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft;
- (ii) profits from the use, maintenance or rental of containers (including trailers and related equipment for the transport of containers), used for the transport of goods or merchandise;

where such rental or such use, maintenance or rental, as the case may be, is incidental to the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic; and

- (b) interest derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from its deposits of moneys incidental to and connected with its operations of ships or aircraft in international traffic.

ARTICLE 9

ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

1. Where —

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

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

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State — and taxes accordingly — profits on which an enterprise of the

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

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

ARTICLE 10

DIVIDENDS

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends. This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State if the beneficial owner of the dividends is:

- (a) in the case of Belarus,
  - (i) the Government of Belarus;
  - (ii) the National Bank;
  - (iii) a statutory body; and
  - (iv) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Belarus as may be agreed from time to time between the Government of Belarus or authorities authorised by the Government of Belarus and the competent authority of Singapore;
- (b) in the case of Singapore,
  - (i) the Government of Singapore;
  - (ii) the Monetary Authority of Singapore;
  - (iii) the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd;

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (iv) a statutory body; and
- (v) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Singapore as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authority of Singapore and the Government of Belarus or authorities authorised by the Government of Belarus.

4. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares, or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other Contracting State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other Contracting State, nor subject the company’s undistributed profits to a tax on the company’s undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other Contracting State.

ARTICLE 11

INTEREST

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State if the beneficial owner of the interest is:

- (a) in the case of Belarus,
  - (i) the Government of Belarus;
  - (ii) the National Bank;
  - (iii) a statutory body;
  - (iv) a bank; and
  - (v) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Belarus as may be agreed from time to time between the Government of Belarus or authorities authorised by the Government of Belarus and the competent authority of Singapore;
- (b) in the case of Singapore,
  - (i) the Government of Singapore;
  - (ii) the Monetary Authority of Singapore;
  - (iii) the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd;
  - (iv) a statutory body;
  - (v) a bank; and
  - (vi) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Singapore as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authority of Singapore and the Government of Belarus or authorities authorised by the Government of Belarus.

4. The term “interest” as used in this Article means income from debt claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor’s profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether the person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

ROYALTIES

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, any computer software, patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether the person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13

GAINS FROM THE ALIENATION OF PROPERTY  
(CAPITAL GAINS)

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

3. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares, other than shares traded on recognised stock exchange, deriving more than 75 per cent of their value directly or indirectly of immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this Article shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

ARTICLE 14

INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that Contracting State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:

- (a) if that individual has a fixed base regularly available to that individual in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing activities of that individual; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other Contracting State; or
- (b) if that individual is present in the other Contracting State for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 270 days in any 12 month period; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from the activities performed by that individual in that other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term “professional services” includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities, as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

ARTICLE 15

INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19 of this Agreement, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Contracting State if:

- (a) the recipient is present in the other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any 12 month period; and

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other Contracting State; and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other Contracting State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

ARTICLE 16

DIRECTORS' FEES

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

ARTICLE 17

ARTISTES AND SPORTSPERSONS

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, circus, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsperson, from the personal activities of such persons as exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Where income in respect of or in connection with personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsperson accrues not to the entertainer or sportsperson but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsperson are exercised.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to income derived from activities exercised in a Contracting State by an artiste or sportsperson if the visit to that Contracting State is wholly or mainly supported by public funds of one or both of the Contracting States or local authorities or statutory bodies thereof. In such case, the income shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the artiste or the sportsperson is a resident.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

ARTICLE 18

PENSIONS

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19 of this Agreement, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, payments received by an individual being a resident of a Contracting State under the social security legislation of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State.

ARTICLE 19

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1.—(a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or authority or body shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that Contracting State who:

- (i) is a national of that Contracting State; or
- (ii) did not become a resident of that Contracting State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2.—(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, pensions and other similar remuneration paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a local authority or a statutory body thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or authority or body shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

(b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that Contracting State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages, pensions, and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

ARTICLE 20

STUDENTS

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

ARTICLE 21

OTHER INCOME

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing articles of this Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other Contracting State.

ARTICLE 22

ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. In Belarus, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

Where a resident of Belarus derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Singapore, then Belarus shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid in Singapore;

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

Such deduction in either case shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income which may be taxed in Singapore.

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

2. In Singapore, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

Where a resident of Singapore derives income from Belarus which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Belarus, Singapore shall, subject to its laws regarding the allowance as a credit against Singapore tax of tax payable in any country other than Singapore, allow the Belarusian tax paid, whether directly or by deduction, as a credit against the Singapore tax payable on the income of that resident. Where such income is a dividend paid by a company which is a resident of Belarus to a resident of Singapore which is a company owning directly or indirectly not less than 10 per cent of the share capital of the first-mentioned company, the credit shall take into account the Belarusian tax paid by that company on the portion of its profits out of which the dividend is paid.

ARTICLE 23

NON-DISCRIMINATION

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other Contracting State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities.

3. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to:

(a) residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which it grants to its own residents; or

(b) nationals of the other Contracting State those personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for tax purposes which it grants to its own nationals who

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

are not residents of that Contracting State or to such other persons as may be specified in the taxation laws of that Contracting State.

4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable property of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State.

5. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned Contracting State are or may be subjected.

6. Where a Contracting State grants tax incentives to its nationals designed to promote economic or social development in accordance with its national policy and criteria, it shall not be construed as discrimination under this Article.

7. The provisions of this Article shall apply to the taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 24

MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, the person may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present the case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which the person is a resident or, if the case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting State of which the person is a national. The case must be presented within 3 years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs of this Article.

ARTICLE 25

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 of this Article by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that Contracting State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

information the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other Contracting State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 of this Article but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

## ARTICLE 26

MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS  
AND CONSULAR POSTS

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

## ARTICLE 27

## ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. The Contracting States shall notify each other in writing, through diplomatic channels, that the procedures required by its law for the entry into force of this Agreement have been completed. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last notification.

2. This Agreement shall have effect:

(a) in Belarus:

- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year in which the Agreement enters into force;
- (ii) in respect of other taxes, to taxes chargeable for any tax period beginning on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year in which the Agreement enters into force; and

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (iii) in respect of Article 25, for requests made on or after the date of entry into force concerning information for taxes relating to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the date on which the Agreement enters into force; or where there is no taxable period, for all charges to tax arising on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the date on which the Agreement enters into force.
- (b) in Singapore:
- (i) in respect of tax chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1 January in the second calendar year following the year in which the Agreement enters into force; and
  - (ii) in respect of Article 25, for requests made on or after the date of entry into force concerning information for taxes relating to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the date on which the Agreement enters into force; or where there is no taxable period, for all charges to tax arising on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the date on which the Agreement enters into force.

## ARTICLE 28

## TERMINATION

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate the Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year following after the period of five years from the date on which the Agreement enters into force. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- (a) in Belarus:
- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, to income derived on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year in which the notice is given;
  - (ii) in respect of other taxes, to taxes chargeable for any tax period beginning on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year in which the notice is given; and
  - (iii) in respect of Article 25, to requests made on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year in which the notice is given.

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

(b) in Singapore:

- (i) in respect of tax chargeable for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1 January in the second calendar year following the year in which the notice is given; and
- (ii) in respect of Article 25, to requests made on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year in which the notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Singapore on the 22nd day of March 2013, in duplicate in the English and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

## PROTOCOL

At the moment of signing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, the undersigned have agreed upon the following provisions which shall be an integral part of the Agreement.

1. With reference to this Agreement:

- (a) It is understood that the term “place of effective management” is the place where key management and commercial decisions that are necessary for the conduct of the person’s business as a whole are in substance made;
- (b) It is understood that the term “fixed base” includes a fixed place such as an office or room, through which the activity of an individual, performing independent personal services is wholly or partly carried on.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of Article 12 of this Agreement:

It is understood that the term “industrial, commercial or scientific equipment” includes transport vehicles for cargo transportation.

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of Article 23 of this Agreement:

It is understood that, for the purposes of allowing deduction of an interest payment to a non-resident, nothing in the said paragraph shall prevent a

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

Contracting State from disallowing a deduction of such interest payment if tax is not withheld on the payment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Singapore on the 22nd day of March 2013, in duplicate in the English and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Made this 27th day of December 2013.

LIM SOO HOON  
*Permanent Secretary*  
*(Finance) (Performance),*  
*Ministry of Finance,*  
*Singapore.*

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