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CNOOC LTD
Form 6-K
December 19, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For December 19, 2005

CNOOC Limited
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

65th Floor
Bank of China Tower
One Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F)

Form 20-F X Form 40-F
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(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

Yes No X
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(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A.)

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Company Press Release

CNOOC Limited's Partner Makes A New Discovery In South China Sea

(Hong Kong, December 19, 2005) - CNOOC Limited (the "Company" or "CNOOC Ltd."; NYSE "CEO", SEHK "883") announced today that its partner Eni has made a new discovery well Huizhou (HZ) 25-4 in the Eastern South China Sea.

The discovery well HZ25-4-1 is located at Block 16/19 in the Pearl River Mouth Basin, approximately 180 kilometers southeast of Hong Kong. This well was drilled to a total depth of more than 3,900 meters in approximately 102 meters of water. During the drill stem test, HZ25-4-1 was tested to produce approximately 5000 barrels of high quality oil per day.

Mr. Zhu Weilin, Vice President of the Company and General Manager of Exploration Department, commented, "I am pleased to know that our partner has scored another success in the Pearl River Mouth Basin. Due to its proximity to the existing production facilities of HZ19-3/2/1, the discovery of HZ25-4 is more likely to be commercially viable."

According to the Production Sharing Contract with Eni, the Company has the right to acquire up to 51% working interest in any commercial discoveries in this block.

End

Notes to Editors:

CNOOC LIMITED - BACKGROUND

CNOOC Limited (the "Company", together with its subsidiaries, the "Group") - Incorporated in Hong Kong in August 1999, CNOOC Limited was listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") (code: CEO) and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("HKSE") (code: 0883) on 27 and 28 February 2001, respectively. The Company was admitted as a constituent stock of the Hang Seng Index in July 2001.

The Group is China's largest producer of offshore crude oil and natural gas and one of the largest independent oil and gas exploration and production companies in the world. The Company mainly engages in offshore oil and natural gas exploration, development, production and sales.

The Company has four major oil production areas offshore China which are Bohai Bay, Western South China Sea, Eastern South China Sea and East China Sea. It is the largest offshore oil producer in Indonesia. The Group also has certain upstream assets in regions such as Australia.

As at 31 December 2004, the Company owned net proved reserves of approximately 2.2 billion barrels-of-oil equivalent and its annual daily average net production was 382,513 barrels-of-oil equivalent per day.

As at 31 December 2004, the Group had 2,524 employees.

CNOOC LIMITED - Relationship with its parent company, CNOOC

CNOOC Limited, incorporated in Hong Kong, is a 70.64% held subsidiary of China National Offshore Oil Corporation ("CNOOC"). CNOOC Limited is the sole vehicle through which CNOOC carries out oil and gas exploration, development,

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production and selling activities offshore China and internationally.

CNOOC, the parent company, is involved in the administrative, research and services functions for the People's Republic of China's offshore petroleum industry as well as other mid- or down-stream petroleum projects.

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This press release contains statements that are not historical facts, including statements about beliefs and expectations of the directors of CNOOC Limited (the "Company"). These forward-looking statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections, and therefore you should not place undue reliance on them. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and the directors of the Company undertake no obligation to update publicly any of them in light of new information or future events. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. You are cautioned that a number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Such factors include, but are not limited to, changes in the PRC economic, political and social conditions as well as government policies.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report on Form 6-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CNOOC Limited

By: /s/ Cao Yunshi

Name: Cao Yunshi
Title: Company Secretary

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Dated: December 19, 2005