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CNOOC LTD  
Form 6-K  
January 02, 2003

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 January 2, 2003

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  Form 40-F

(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

(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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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CNOOC's Successful Oil Appraisal In South China Sea

(Hong Kong, January 2, 2003) - CNOOC Limited (the "Company", SEHK: 883; NYSE: CEO) today announced the success of an appraisal well, XJ23-1-4 in the Pearl River Mouth Basin of the Eastern South China Sea at the end of last year.

XJ23-1-4, an appraisal well on XJ23-1 discovery, is located about 19 km west of XJ24-3 oil field and 1 km south of XJ23-1-1 discovery well. During two drill stem tests, the well flowed over 4000 barrels of API 24.51-31 degrees crude per day on 15/64" and 30/64" chokes.

Mr. Ru Ke, Executive Vice President of the Company, commented: "The well encountered about 50 meters of pay zones. It shows that the Pearl River Mouth Basin continues to offer new hydrocarbon prospects."

The Company acts as the operator and owns 100% of the discovery.

End

Notes to Editors:

#### CNOOC LIMITED - BACKGROUND

Incorporated in Hong Kong in August 1999, CNOOC Limited (SEHK: 883; NYSE: CEO) is the dominant producer of crude oil and natural gas offshore China. CNOOC Limited is also one of the largest independent crude oil and gas exploration and production companies in the world. As of December 31, 2001, its net proved reserves were 1.8 billion barrels-of-oil equivalents and its net production totaled 261,379 BOE per day.

CNOOC Limited has interests in 45 crude oil and gas properties in four major producing areas: Bohai Bay, Western South China Sea, Eastern South China Sea and East China Sea. The Company is a major oil and gas company in China with slightly over 1,000 employees. The Company has become the largest offshore producer in Indonesia after the acquisition of Indonesian assets.

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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 Ltd. (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, of the PRC's economic, political and social conditions as well as government policies.

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For further enquiries, please contact:  
Mr. Xiao Zongwei

CNOOC Limited  
Tel: +86 10 8452 1646  
Fax: +86 10 8452 1441  
E-mail: xiaozw@cnooc.com.cn  
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Ms Anne Lui/ Ms. Zelda Yung/Ms. Maggie Chan  
Ketchum NewsScan Public Relations  
Tel: 852-3141-8016/ 852-3141-8028/3141-8063  
Fax: 852-2510-8199  
E-mail: anne.lui@knprhk.com  
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Zelda.yung@knprhk.com  
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maggie.chan@knprhk.com  
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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 to be issued on its  
behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CNOOC Limited

By: /s/ Cao Yunshi  
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Name: Cao Yunshi  
Title: Company Secretary

Dated: January 2, 2003