# AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER of the Audit Committee of New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc.

This Audit Committee Charter (the "Audit Committee Charter") was adopted by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc., a Cayman Islands company (the "Company") on July 21, 2006, and shall become effective immediately upon the completion of the Company's initial public offering of its common shares, in the form of American Depositary Shares, in the United States and elsewhere (the "Effective Time").

# I. Purpose

The purpose of the Audit Committee (the "Committee") is to assist the Board with its oversight responsibilities regarding: (i) the integrity of the Company's financial statements; (ii) the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (iii) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence; and (iv) the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent auditor. The Committee shall prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") to be included in the Company's annual report on Form 20-F.

In addition to the powers and responsibilities expressly delegated to the Committee in this Charter, the Committee may exercise any other powers and carry out any other responsibilities delegated to it by the Board from time to time consistent with the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, as amended from time to time (the "Memorandum and Articles of Association"). The powers and responsibilities delegated by the Board to the Committee in this Charter or otherwise shall be exercised and carried out by the Committee as it deems appropriate without requirement of Board approval, and any decision made by the Committee (including any decision to exercise or refrain from exercising any of the powers delegated to the Committee hereunder) shall be at the Committee's sole discretion. While acting within the scope of the powers and responsibilities delegated to it, the Committee shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Board. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Committee shall have the power to determine which matters are within the scope of the powers and responsibilities delegated to it.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee's responsibilities are limited to oversight. Although the Committee has the responsibilities set forth in this Charter, it is not the responsibility of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements and disclosure are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable laws, rules and regulations. These are the responsibilities of management and the independent auditor.

Further, auditing literature, particularly Statement of Accounting Standards No. 100, defines the term "review" to include a particular set of required procedures to be undertaken by independent auditors. The members of the Committee are not independent auditors, and the term "review" as used in this Charter is not intended to have that meaning and should not be interpreted to suggest that the Committee members can or should follow the procedures required of auditors performing reviews of financial statements.

## II. Membership

The Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Board, as determined by the Board. Each Committee member shall be financially literate as determined by the Board in its business judgment or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Committee. Members of the Committee are not required to be engaged in the accounting and auditing profession and, consequently, some members may not be expert in financial matters, or in matters involving auditing or accounting. However, at least one member of the Committee shall be an "audit committee financial expert" with past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background as determined by the Board in its business judgment, and the Company shall disclose in its annual report on Form 20-F required pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") the reasons why at least one member of the Committee is not an "audit committee financial expert." At least a majority of the members of the Committee shall satisfy the independence requirements of the New York Stock Exchange and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Exchange Act within the one-year period after the Effective Time. All Committee members shall satisfy the independence requirements of the New York Stock Exchange and Rule 10A-3(b)(1) under the Exchange Act beginning from the first anniversary of the Effective Time. No Committee member may simultaneously serve on the audit committee of more than two other public companies, unless the Board determines that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the Committee and such determination is disclosed in the Company's annual report on Form 20-F.

The members of the Committee, including the Chair of the Committee, shall be appointed by the Board. Committee members may be removed from the Committee, with or without cause, by the Board.

## **III.** Meetings and Procedures

The Chair (or in his or her absence, a member designated by the Chair) shall preside at each meeting of the Committee and set the agendas for Committee meetings. The Committee shall have the authority to establish its own rules and procedures for notice and conduct of its meetings so long as they are not inconsistent with any provisions of the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association that are applicable to the Committee.

The Committee shall meet at least once during each fiscal quarter and more frequently as the Committee deems desirable. The Committee shall meet separately, periodically, with management and with the independent auditor. Any meeting of the Committee may be conducted in person or via teleconference.

All non-management directors that are not members of the Committee may attend and observe meetings of the Committee, but shall not participate in any discussion or deliberation unless invited to do so by the Committee, and in any event shall not be entitled to vote. The Committee may, at its discretion, include in its meetings members of the Company's management, representatives of the independent auditor, any other financial personnel employed or retained by the Company or any other persons whose presence the Committee believes to be necessary or appropriate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may also exclude from its meetings any persons it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, any non-management director that is not a member of the Committee.

The Committee may retain any independent counsel, expert or advisor (accounting, financial or otherwise) that the Committee believes to be necessary or appropriate. The Committee may also utilize the services of the Company's regular legal counsel or other advisors to the Company. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditor for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attestation services, for payment of compensation to any counsel, expert or advisor employed by the Committee and for ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

The Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of the powers and responsibilities delegated to the Committee.

### IV. Powers and Responsibilities

# A. Interaction with the Independent Auditor

- 1. Appointment and Oversight. The Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention, removal and oversight of the work of the independent auditor (including resolution of any disagreements between Company management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work or performing other audit, review or attestation services for the Company, and the independent auditor shall report directly to the Committee.
- 2. Pre-Approval of Services. Before the independent auditor is engaged by the Company or its subsidiaries to render audit or non-audit services, the Committee shall preapprove the engagement. Committee pre-approval of audit and non-audit services will not be required if the engagement for the services is entered into pursuant to pre-approval policies and procedures established by the Committee regarding the Company's engagement of the independent auditor, provided the policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service, the Committee is informed of each service provided and such policies and procedures do not include delegation of the Committee's responsibilities under the Exchange Act to the Company's management. The Committee may delegate to one or more designated members of the Committee the authority to grant pre-approvals, provided such pre-approvals are presented to the Committee at a subsequent meeting. If the Committee elects to establish preapproval policies and procedures regarding non-audit services, the Committee must be informed of each non-audit service provided by the independent auditor. Committee preapproval of non-audit services (other than review and attestation services) also will not be required if such services fall within available exceptions established by the SEC.
- 3. <u>Independence of Independent Auditor</u>. The Committee shall, at least annually, review the independence and quality control procedures of the independent auditor and the experience and qualifications of the independent auditor's senior personnel that are providing audit services to the Company. In conducting its review:
- (a) The Committee shall obtain and review a report prepared by the independent auditor describing (i) the auditing firm's internal quality-control procedures and (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the auditing firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or

professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the auditing firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues.

- (b) The Committee shall ensure that the independent auditor prepare and deliver, at least annually, a written statement delineating all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard 1. The Committee shall actively engage in a dialogue with the independent auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that, in the view of the Committee, may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditor. If the Committee determines that further inquiry is advisable, the Committee shall take appropriate action in response to the independent auditor's report to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence.
- (c) The Committee shall confirm with the independent auditor that the independent auditor is in compliance with the partner rotation requirements established by the SEC.
- (d) The Committee shall consider whether the Company should adopt a rotation of the annual audit among independent auditing firms.
- (e) The Committee shall, if applicable, consider whether the independent auditor's provision of any permitted information technology services or other non-audit services to the Company are compatible with maintaining the independence of the independent auditor.

#### B. Annual Financial Statements and Annual Audit

- 1. Meetings with Management and the Independent Auditor.
- (a) The Committee shall meet with management and the independent auditor in connection with each annual audit to discuss the scope of the audit, the procedures to be followed and the staffing of the audit.
- (b) The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the independent auditor: (i) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; (ii) any analyses prepared by management or the independent auditor setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the Company's financial statements; (iii) the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the Company's financial statements; and any material off-balance sheet transactions, arrangement, obligations (including contingent obligations) and other relationships of the Company with unconsolidated entities of which the Committee is made aware that do not appear on the financial statements of the Company and that may have a material current or future effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, capital resources or significant components of revenues or expenses.
- (c) The Committee shall review and discuss the annual audited financial statements with management and the independent auditor, including the Company's

disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" included in the Company's annual report on Form 20-F.

# 2. <u>Separate Meetings with the Independent Auditor.</u>

- (a) The Committee shall review with the independent auditor any problems or difficulties the independent auditor may have encountered during the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to required information or any significant disagreements with management and management's responses to such matters. Among the items that the Committee should consider reviewing with the Independent Auditor are: (i) any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the auditor but were "passed" (as immaterial or otherwise); (ii) any communications between the audit team and the independent auditor's national office respecting auditing or accounting issues presented by the engagement; and (iii) any "management" or "internal control" letter issued, or proposed to be issued, by the independent auditor to the Company. The Committee shall obtain from the independent auditor assurances that Section 10A(b) of the Exchange Act has not been implicated.
- (b) The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditor the report that such auditor is required to make to the Committee regarding: (i) all accounting policies and practices to be used that the independent auditor identifies as critical; (ii) all alternative treatments within US GAAP for policies and practices related to material items that have been discussed among management and the independent auditor, including the ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor; and (iii) all other material written communications between the independent auditor and management of the Company, such as any management letter, management representation letter, reports on observations and recommendations on internal controls, independent auditor's engagement letter, independent auditor's independence letter, schedule of unadjusted audit differences and a listing of adjustments and reclassifications not recorded, if any.
- (c) The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, "Communication with Audit Committees," as then in effect.
- 3. Recommendation to Include Financial Statements in Annual Report. The Committee shall, based on the review and discussions in paragraphs 1 and 2 above of this Section IV.B, and based on the disclosures received from the independent auditor regarding its independence and discussions with the auditor regarding such independence pursuant to paragraph 3 above, determine whether to recommend to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year subject to the audit.

## C. Quarterly Financial Results

The Committee shall review and discuss the quarterly financial results with management and the independent auditor.

#### D. Internal Audit

- 1. *Appointment*. The Committee shall review the appointment and replacement of the internal auditor.
- 2. Separate Meetings with the Internal Auditor. The Committee shall meet periodically with the Company's internal auditor to discuss the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the Company's internal audit function and any issues that the internal auditor believes warrant audit committee attention. The Committee shall discuss with the internal auditor any significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditor and any responses from management.

# E. Other Powers and Responsibilities

- 1. The Committee shall discuss with management and the independent auditor the Company's earnings press releases (with particular focus on any "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information), as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. The Committee's discussion in this regard may be general in nature (i.e., discussion of the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made) and need not take place in advance of each earnings release or each instance in which the Company may provide earnings guidance.
- 2. The Committee shall review all related party transactions on an ongoing basis and all such transactions must be approved by the Committee.
- 3. The Committee shall discuss with management and the independent auditor any correspondence from or with regulators or governmental agencies, any employee complaints or any published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements, financial reporting process, and accounting policies.
- 4. The Committee shall discuss with the Company's outside counsel any legal matters brought to the Committee's attention that could reasonably be expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.
- 5. The Committee shall request assurances from management and the independent auditor that the Company's foreign subsidiaries and foreign affiliated entities, if any, are in conformity with applicable legal requirements, including disclosure of affiliated party transactions.
- 6. The Committee shall discuss with management the Company's policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management. The Committee shall discuss with management the Company's significant financial risk exposures and the actions management has taken to limit, monitor or control such exposures.
- 7. The Committee shall set clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the Company's independent auditor.
- 8. The Committee shall establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters. The Committee shall also establish procedures for the

confidential and anonymous submission by employees regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

- 9. The Committee shall provide the Company with the report of the Committee with respect to the audited financial statements required by Item 306 of Reg. S-K, for inclusion in each of the Company's annual reports filed on Form 20-F with the SEC.
- 10. The Committee, through its Chair, shall report regularly to, and review with, the Board any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's independent auditor, the performance of the Company's internal audit function or any other matter the Committee determines is necessary or advisable to report to the Board.
- 11. The Committee shall at least annually perform an evaluation of the performance of the Committee and its members, including a review of the Committee's compliance with this Charter.
- 12. The Committee shall at least annually review and reassess this Charter and submit any recommended changes to the Board for its consideration.