Ambow Education Announces Second Quarter and First Half 2016 Unaudited Financial Results

BEIJING, Aug. 22, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Ambow Education Holding Ltd. ("Ambow" or the "Company"), a leading national provider of educational and career enhancement services in China, today announced unaudited financial and operating results for three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2016.

"Our focus on excellence and seasoned operating experience produced strong operating and financial results in the second quarter and first half of 2016, highlighted by a significant year-over-year decrease in operating expenses for the second quarter and solid growth in our Better Schools and Better Jobs business segments for the first half of the year," commented Dr. Jin Huang, Ambow's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Our commitment to optimizing educational outcomes through innovative technologies has also been recognized by the United States Patent and Trademark Office with a patent award for our innovative Adaptive Computer-Assisted Learning System and Method platform. This is a milestone for us as we continue to enhance our unique learning engine while tirelessly pursuing our founding vision to harness the power of technology to provide better and more effective student-centric educational and career enhancement services."

"Furthermore, in the second quarter we continued to show leadership in application-oriented education by successfully organizing the Application-Oriented University Development and Presidents' Forum, which drew nationwide participation. With education industry dynamics rapidly shifting toward career enhancement, we are well positioned as the industry forerunner with our unique Ambow University model and adaptive learning methods. Moving forward, we remain committed in our drive to help students achieve outstanding academic results and develop successful careers in the workplace," added Dr. Huang.

Kia Jing Tan, Chief Financial Officer, added, "In the second quarter, our diligent cost control efforts demonstrated impressive results with operating expenses recording a 34.2% decrease, excluding share-based compensation, from the same quarter last year. This decrease was largely driven by continued cost-saving initiatives. We also recorded seasonally strong revenue results for the second quarter with net revenues reaching RMB122.1 million, a 10.6% increase from the year-ago period. With notable improvement in our operating efficiencies, continuing solid results from our Better Schools and Better Jobs business segments, and strong cash generation trends, we look forward to carrying this strong momentum into the second half of 2016."

"During the second quarter, we continued to march forward implementing our Enterprise Resource Planning system into our major business units and are on-track for Company-wide integration by year-end. Together with our enhanced Standard Operating Procedure and transparent Vendor Evaluation System, these strategic initiatives help us lay a solid and systematic foundation to further improve our operating efficiencies and support our unique cloud-based Ambow platform," concluded Chiao-Ling Hsu, Chief Operating Officer.

Financial Highlights For The Three Months Ended June 30, 2016

- Net revenues were RMB122.1 million, a 10.6% increase from RMB110.4 million for the same period of 2015. The increase was mainly driven by new programs launched with partner schools, and to a lesser extent by an increase in the average selling price for some K-12 school programs.
- Gross profit was RMB59.4 million, a 17.4% increase from RMB50.6 million for the same period of 2015. Gross profit margin was 48.7%, compared with 45.8% for the same period of 2015.
- Operating expenses were RMB44.9 million, a 51.1% decrease from RMB91.9 million for the same period of 2015. The decrease was largely driven by effective cost control measures and by continued headcount and expense reduction. Excluding share-based compensation expense of RMB23.6 million for the second quarter of 2015, operating expenses for the second quarter 2016 decreased 34.2%, compared with the same period year-over-year.
- Income from continuing operations was RMB10.7 million, compared to a loss from continuing operations of RMB28.6 million for the same period of 2015.
- Net income attributable to the Company was RMB10.8 million, or RMB0.28 per basic and diluted share, compared with a net income of RMB318.4 million, or RMB8.43 per basic and diluted share, for the same period of 2015. Excluding a gain of RMB347.4 million from the disposal of 100% interest in Beijing Jinghan Education and Technology Co., Ltd. and Beijing Jinghan Taihe Education Technology Co., Ltd., and the 64% interest in Ambow Jingxue (Beijing) Technology Co., Ltd. (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Jinghan Group") in the second quarter of 2015, net loss for the second quarter of 2015 was RMB29.0 million, or RMB0.77 per basic and diluted share.

Financial Highlights For The Six Months Ended June 30, 2016

- Net revenues were RMB190.4 million, a 3.2% increase from RMB184.5 million for the first half of 2015. The growth was mainly driven by new programs launched with partner schools, and to a lesser extent, an increase in the average selling price for some K-12 school programs.
- Gross profit was RMB84.6 million, a 17.0% increase from RMB72.3 million for the first half of 2015. Gross profit margin was 44.4%, compared with 39.2% for the first half of 2015.
- Operating expenses were RMB88.9 million, a 46.4% decrease from RMB166.0 million for the first half of 2015. Excluding share-based compensation expense of RMB39.6 million for the first half of 2015, operating expenses for the first half of 2016 decreased 29.7%, compared for the same period year-over-year. The decrease was mainly due to continued cost-saving initiatives and enhanced operating efficiencies brought about through the new ERP system.
- Loss from continuing operations was RMB8.1 million compared to loss of RMB139.8 million for the first half of 2015.
- Net loss attributable to the Company was RMB8.2 million, or RMB0.21 per basic and diluted share, compared with a net income of RMB203.8 million, or RMB6.44 per basic and diluted share, for the first half of 2015. Excluding a gain of RMB344.1 million from the disposal of Jinghan Group and a one-time RMB56.6 million interest expense of convertible loan discounted amortization, net loss in the first half of 2015 was RMB83.7 million, or RMB2.65 per basic and diluted share.
- As of June 30, 2016, the Company continued to maintain strong capital resources of RMB503.8 million in total, including

- cash and cash equivalents of RMB143.1 million, short-term investments of RMB357.3 million, and restricted cash and term deposits of RMB3.5 million.
- As of June 30, 2016, the Company's deferred revenue balance was RMB123.2 million, a 6.3% increase from RMB115.9 million as of December 31, 2015. Deferred revenue represents tuition and course fees collected and recognized as revenue proportionally over the period services are provided.

Exchange Rate Information

This announcement contains translations of certain RMB amounts into U.S. dollars at a specified rate solely for the convenience of the reader. Unless otherwise noted, all translations from RMB to U.S. dollars are based on the effective exchange rate of 6.6459 as of June 30, 2016.

About Ambow Education Holding Ltd.

Ambow Education Holding Ltd. is a leading national provider of educational and career enhancement services in China, offering high-quality, individualized services and products. With its extensive network of regional service hubs complemented by a dynamic proprietary learning platform and distributors, Ambow provides its services and products to students in 30 out of the 31 provinces and autonomous regions within China.

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Safe Harbor Statement

This announcement contains forward-looking statements. These statements are made under the "safe harbor" provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements can be identified by terminology such as "will," "expects," "anticipates," "future," "intends," "plans," "believes," "estimates" and similar statements. Among other things, the outlook for the third quarter and full year 2016 and quotations from management in this announcement, as well as Ambow's strategic and operational plans, contain forward-looking statements. Ambow may also make written or oral forward-looking statements in its reports filed or furnished to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, in its annual reports to shareholders, in press releases and other written materials and in oral statements made by its officers, directors or employees to third parties. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties. A number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements, including but not limited to the following: the Company's goals and strategies, expansion plans, the expected growth of the content and application delivery services market, the Company's expectations regarding keeping and strengthening its relationships with its customers, and the general economic and business conditions in the regions where the Company provides its solutions and services. Further information regarding these and other risks is included in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. All information provided in this press release is as of the date of this press release, and Ambow undertakes no duty to update such information, except as required under applicable law.

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AMBOW EDUCATION HOLDING LTD. UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (All amounts in thousands, except for share and per share data)

	As of Ju	As of December 31,		
	2016		2015	
	US\$	RMB	RMB	
ASSETS				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	21,525	143,055	246,303	
Restricted cash	354	2,350	2,050	
Term deposits	173	1,150	1,150	
Short term investments, available for sale	34,952	232,289	103,602	
Short term investments, held to maturity	18,809	125,000	151,790	
Accounts receivable, net	2,664	17,704	11,278	
Amounts due from related parties	277	1,838	1,847	
Prepaid and other current assets	23,583	156,732	156,104	
Consideration receivable	1,279	8,500	8,500	
Total current assets	103,616	688,618	682,624	
Non-current assets:				
Property and equipment, net	13,660	90,784	94,982	
Land use rights, net	288	1,915	1,937	

Intangible assets, net Goodwill Deferred tax assets, net Other non-current assets, net Total non-current assets	14,993 13,018 4,987 807 47,753	99,639 86,519 33,141 5,365	103,394 85,988 33,903 5,097
Total assets	151,369	1,005,981	1,007,925
LIABILITIES Current liabilities: Short-term borrowings * Deferred revenue * Accounts payable * Accrued and other liabilities * Income taxes payable * Amounts due to related parties * Total current liabilities: Non-current liabilities: Deferred tax liabilities *	18,538 3,989 54,433 48,502 1,153 126,615	123,203 26,506 361,755 322,338 7,662 841,464	2,300 115,886 28,391 367,357 317,785 7,662 839,381
Total liabilities	130,294	865,915	865,102
Preferred shares (US\$ 0.003par value;1,666,667 shares authorized, nil issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015) Ordinary shares (US\$0.003 par value; 40,000,000 and 40,000,000 shares authorized, 38,522,656 and 38,265,177 shares issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively) Additional paid-in capital Statutory reserve	109 519,004 12,189	- 722 3,449,251 81,005	717 3,445,408 81,005
Accumulated deficit Accumulated other comprehensive income Total Ambow Education Holding Ltd.'s equity Non-controlling interests Total equity Total liabilities and equity	(511,093) 866 21,075 - 21,075 151,369	(3,396,671) 5,756 140,063 3 140,066 1,005,981	(3,388,447) 5,113 143,796 (973) 142,823 1,007,925

^{*} All of the VIE's assets can be used to settle obligations of their primary beneficiary. Liabilities recognized as a result of consolidating these VIEs do not represent additional claims on the Company's general assets.

AMBOW EDUCATION HOLDING LTD. UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (All amounts in thousands, except for share and per share data)

	For the six months ended June 30,			For the three months ended June 30,		
_	2016	2016	2015	2016	2016	2015
_	US\$	RMB	RMB	US\$	RMB	RMB
NET REVENUES Educational program and services	28,656	190,448	184,460	18,374	122,113	110,427
COST OF REVENUES Educational program and services	(15,922)	(105,819)	(112,145)	(9,430)	(62,673)	(59,799)
GROSS PROFIT Operating expenses:	12,734	84,629	72,315	8,944	59,440	50,628
Selling and marketing	(3,197)	(21,245)	(28,500)	(1,595)	(10,601)	(14,548)
General and administrative	(9,606)	(63,842)	(134,134)	(4,873)	(32,383)	(75,229)
Research and development	(578)	(3,839)	(3,325)	(293)	(1,944)	(2,107)
Total operating expenses	(13,381)	(88,926)	(165,959)	(6,761)	(44,928)	(91,884)
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	(647)	(4,297)	(93,644)	2,183	14,512	(41,256)

OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)						
Interest income (expense), net Foreign exchange gain (loss),	650	4,322	(56,885)	236	1,568	952
net Other income (expense), net	12 (599)	77 (3,984)	(809) 4,646	2 (148)	13 (985)	(20) 5,067
Gain on sale of investment available for sale Total other income (expenses)	37 100	246 661	- (53,048)	20 110	134 730	- 5,999
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAX, NON-	100_		(55,046)			
CONTROLLING INTEREST, AND						
OPERATIONS	(547)	(3,636)	(146,692)	2,293	15,242	(35,257)
Income tax benefit (expense)	(664)	(4,414)	6,904	(676)	(4,495)	6,630
INCOME (LOSS) FROM CONTINUING						
OPERATIONS Income from and gain on sale	(1,211)	(8,050)	(139,788)	1,617	10,747	(28,627)
of discontinued operations, net of income tax	-	-	344,099	-	-	347,449
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(1,211)	(8,050)	204,311	1,617	10,747	318,822
Less: Net income attributable to non-controlling interest from continuing operations	26	174	542	(13)	(88)	379
Less: Net income attributable to non-controlling interests	20	1/4	342	(13)	(00)	373
on sale of discontinued operations	-	-	11	-	-	-
NET INCOME (LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO						
AMBOW EDUCATION	(1.227)	(0.224)	202.750	1.620	10.025	210 442
HOLDING LTD.	(1,237)	(8,224)	203,758	1,630	10,835	318,443
Net income (loss) from continuing operations per share - basic	(0.03)	(0.21)	(4.44)	0.04	0.28	(0.77)
	(0.03)	(0.21)	(4.44)	0.04	0.20	(0.77)
Net income (loss) from continuing operations per share - diluted	(0.03)	(0.21)	(4.44)	0.04	0.28	(0.77)
Net income from discontinued						
operations per share - basic and diluted			10.88			9.20
Weighted average shares used in calculating basic net income (loss)per share	38,340,092	38,340,092	31,617,431	38,391,139	38,391,139	37,780,846
Weighted average shares used in calculating diluted net	20 240 002	20 240 002	21 617 421	20 250 201	20 250 201	27 700 046
income (loss)per share	38,340,092	38,340,092	31,617,431	39,250,281	39,250,281	37,780,846

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