

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2005

STANDARD CHARTERED RECEIVED APPROVAL TO OPEN THREE MORE SUB-BRANCHES IN CHINA

(October 25, 2005) Standard Chartered Bank is delighted to announce that it has been approved to open three more sub-branches in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen respectively. This represents a significant step forward in the Bank's expansion plans in China.

The three sub-branches will provide individual customers with tailor-made Wealth Management and Mortgage services, as well as a full range of investment tools carefully crafted by the Bank's investment specialists. A dedicated team will also support SMEs (Small & Medium Sized Enterprises) with products covering banking trade finance, cash management and credit facilities.

Katherine Tsang, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank China, said: "This approval not only represents a great step forward for the expansion of our business in China, but also reflects our commitment to customers who require innovative banking products and high quality services to meet their increasing financial needs. We intend to extend our footprint to where our target customers are located, and provide them with convenient and superior customer services. "

The three sub-branches are expected to start business before the end of first quarter of 2006.

For further information please contact:

Crystal Qian, Head of Corporate Communication, China

Tel: 021 58871230 Ext. 7365

Irene Yin, Corporate Affairs Manger, China

Tel: 010 85188838 Ext. 8012

Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East

Standard Chartered is one of the world's most international banks, employing over 40,000 people, representing 80 nationalities, across its network. Standard Chartered operates in over 1,200 locations (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in more than 50 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is in the top 25 FTSE-100 companies, by market capitalisation.

It serves both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corporate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, securities services, foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance.

Standard Chartered is well-established in growth markets and aims to be the right partner for its customers. The Bank combines deep local knowledge with global capability.

The Bank is trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility as well as its commitment to making a difference in the communities in which it operates.

Standard Chartered set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, remaining throughout the last 150 years. Now it has ten branches (Chengdu and Suzhou to be opened soon), one sub-branch (with 3 more to open before Q1 2006) and four representative offices in China. The Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing and Xiamen Branches can provide full banking services (including RMB) for corporate customers and foreign currency services for local citizens. The Nanjing Branch is the only foreign bank in Jiangsu Province to be allowed to conduct RMB

business. It was also among the first group of foreign banks to be granted the QFII custodian bank and derivative licence.

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