

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2006

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK LAUNCHES ITS SHENZHEN FUTIAN CENTRAL SUB-BRANCH Foreign Banks' first new branch office in 2006

(Shenzhen: 5 January, 2006) Standard Chartered Bank today celebrated the opening of its Futian Central sub-branch in Shenzhen. It represents another step forward in the Bank's expansion plans for the Pearl River Delta, and also further strengthens its presence in the retail banking market in China.

The new sub-branch is the first sub-branch launched by foreign banks in China in 2006. It is located at Anlian Plaza, which is in the heart of the central business district of Shenzhen City, next to many retail outlets and entertainment facilities with a direct access to the metro network. It provides a full range of consumer banking services including foreign currency services to mainland Chinese citizens and renminbi and foreign currency services to foreign nationals and permanent residents of Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan.

A modern Priority Banking Center has also been set up inside the new sub-branch which is the first-ever for the Bank in Shenzhen. The Priority Banking Centre offers even more convenience and customised service to customers with international banking needs - customers who have official permits to live or work abroad can apply for a Priority Banking account with the Bank in an overseas country or territory. They can also have their overseas banking needs arranged for them prior to their departure from mainland China. Customers can enjoy the

expertise of a dedicated Customer Relationship Manager and the support of a highly specialized team of financial experts to plan, build and protect their wealth.

Katherine Tsang, the Chief Executive of Standard Chartered Bank China said, "I'm so glad that we are the first bank to open a new branch office to welcome 2006, the most challenging year for all the banks because China will fully open its financial industry under the WTO agreement. The Pearl River Delta region is one of the most dynamic economic regions in China with many foreign nationals and permanent residents of Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan. Through the new sub-branch and its Priority Banking Centre, we look forward to providing excellent banking services to our customers in the area."

The Bank also announces the appointment of Christine Ip to be the Bank's new Country Head of Consumer Banking. Before this post, Christine was Group Head of Priority Banking of Standard Chartered Bank. Foo Mee Har, the former Head has been promoted to become the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank in Thailand.

Katherine added: "Christine has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of HK and the Mainland markets. I am confident that with her expertise in Priority Banking and her many years of experience in the banking industry, she will lead her team to make a valuable contribution to the development of the consumer banking business in China. Most important is that our customers will benefit from our enhanced services and product offerings under her leadership."

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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, three sub-branches (with 1 more to open before Q1 2006) and four representative offices in China. There are altogether 7 branches in China that have been granted the license for providing RMB banking services to Corporate clients (namely Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing and Xiamen; with Zhuhai and Tianjin now in preparation for the offering of such services).

Website: www.standardchartered.com