



press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 May 2006

Standard Chartered Bank launches “A Legend of the Future - China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow” Award

(Beijing, 16 May 2006) - Standard Chartered Bank today announced the launch of “A Legend of the Future - China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow” Award, as a support to the China’s “SME Growth Project”, promoting growth of the country’s SMEs in a healthy and professional manner. The Award is also targeted at triggering more support for SMEs in China, and creating a better social and economic environment for their further development.

The Award is officially kicking off today nationwide, while the final winners are expected to be announced at the end of October in Beijing. Participants will go through 3 rounds of selection for the 8 Final Awards.

To enter for this Award, the SME has to be:

1. a private company or an FIE (Foreign Invested Enterprise);
2. registered and operating in Mainland China (listed companies not included);
3. generating an annual sales turnover between RMB 20m and 200m in the last 2 years;
4. in operation for a minimum of 2 years but not exceeding 15 years.

Standard Chartered Bank will work with its partners to distribute over millions of invitations to enter the Award to the SMEs in China via various channels.

The Award is initiated and organized by Standard Chartered Bank, and specially supported by the SME Division of **NDRC**. We are also most honored to have **China Business** as the key media partner, and The Management School of **Fudan University** supervising the 3-rounds of judging. Other supporting corporations or institutions include **Alibaba, Focus Media, Li Ning Company, Debenham Tie Leung** and the **British Chamber of Commerce**. Besides China Business, more than 10 media partners, including **CBN (China Business News), Shanghai Security News, China Entrepreneur, Business Management Review, Successful Marketing and the Ringer Media Group** (targeting SMEs), will support the Award as well.

Wang Yuan Zhi, Director General, SME Department, NDRC said: “SMEs play a very important role in China’s economic development, and the implementation of the ‘SME Growth Project’ has been highlighted in our 11th Five-Year Plan. The Project is expected to help SMEs to achieve healthy growth via building up an enhanced regulatory system, improving innovation capability, strengthening products structure and resolving financing issues. I am very glad that Standard Chartered, an international bank with sound experience in serving SMEs in China and in many other places of the world, has initiated such a meaningful campaign to enhance the social awareness of SMEs. I hope through the Award, the SMEs who have participated will become the most compliant, innovative and competitive enterprises in the Chinese way.”

Katherine Tsang, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank China added, “We are most honored to have the strong support from NDRC, as well as the various organisations and media partners, in launching this first “China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow” Award. SMEs are playing a more and more important role in the economies everywhere in the world. In China, they contribute around

60% of GDP and provide more than 75% job opportunities. By launching this Award and supporting the country's 'SME growth Project', we wish to provide a global view and growth platform to SMEs here, enabling them to have a sustainable, healthy growth."

Standard Chartered Bank will organize 3 SME seminars in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou respectively for the top 300 entrants from the first round of selection. At the Seminars, the SMEs can share experience and best practices with government officials, academics and renowned entrepreneurs on various topics that can help develop their business. The 60 winners from the second round of selection will receive a "Certificate of Excellence" issued by the Bank as the recognition for their professionalism and success in growing their business. The final 8 winners from the third (and final) round of selection will receive "Business Presentation Skills" training; have opportunities to present their strategy to Venture Capitalists; and will be invited to a learning tour to Hong Kong. Lastly, Standard Chartered Bank will create substantial exposure for the 8 Award winners through the media and position them as role models for SMEs in China.

Moreover, individuals and corporations that can identify suitable candidates for this Award are encouraged to be the "nominator", and a prize will be given to the top 3 nominators who have the most "qualified" SMEs selected in the first round, while all the nominators of the 8 Award winners will be recognized as well.

For more information please visit the official website of the Award:
www.standardchartered.com.cn

All interested parties must fax the completed application form to **(86 21) 3896 3376 before 5pm, 16 July, 2006.**

- End -

For further information please contact :

Crystal Qian, Head of Corporate Communication, Standard Chartered Bank
China

Tel: 021 3896 3198

Karl Woo, Senior Account Manager, BlueFocus PR Consulting

Tel: 021 5404 5399 ext.1031

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

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

Standard Chartered has a history of over 150 years in banking and is in many of the world's fastest growing markets. It has an extensive global network of over 1,200 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in 56 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas. As one of the world's most international banks, Standard Chartered employs almost 44,000 people, representing 89 nationalities, worldwide.

Standard Chartered's strengths lie in its breadth, diversity and balance and is trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility. The Bank is committed to all its stakeholders by living its values in its approach to managing its people, exceeding expectations of its customers, making a difference in the communities that we operate in and working with its regulators.

Standard Chartered uniquely derives 95% of profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Serving both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers, the Bank combines deep local knowledge with global capability to offer a wide range of innovative products and services as well as award winning solutions.

Some of the major awards won in 2005 by the Bank include:

1. IFR Asia's Domestic Bond House of the Year
2. Finance Asia's Best Local Currency Bond House & Best Securitisation House
3. Asia Risk's Interest Rates Derivatives House of the Year
4. Trade Finance's Best Trade Finance Bank in Sub Saharan Africa
5. Global Custodian's Best Agent Bank in Asia
6. The Asset's Best Cash Management Bank for South Asia
7. Retail Banker International's Best Retail Bank in Asia Pacific.

In China, the Bank set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, and has remained in operation throughout the past 150 years. Recently, Standard Chartered Bank has been named as “2005 Best Foreign Bank” by Hexun Web. It has one of the largest foreign bank networks – with eleven branches (Qingdao to be opened soon), four sub-branches and three representative offices in China. There are altogether 7 branches in China that can provide full banking services including RMB to corporate clients (namely Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing, Xiamen, Zhuhai and Tianjin).

For more information on Standard Chartered, please log on to www.standardchartered.com