

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 August 2006

**The results of the first round of selection for  
“China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow Award” announced  
Manufacturing is still the majority, and technology or innovation-driven  
enterprises are also the key winners**

(Beijing 15 August 2006)-Standard Chartered Bank today announced the results of the first round of selection for “A Legend of the Future - China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow” Award – an event which is organized by Standard Chartered Bank with special support from the SME Division of NDRC.

The selection has attracted broad attention and proactive feedback. Since kick-off, the organizer has received a lot of enquiries and registrations from SMEs nationwide. Until now, more than 600 SMEs have registered with the selection, while the click rate on the official websites - Alibaba.com and other partners’ websites - reached 120,000.

The over 600 registered enterprises are from various provinces - around 30% of them are from Yangtze River Delta, over 30% from Pearl River Delta, 23% from Beijing, Tianjin, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou and Heilongjiang, and 22% from other provinces. The majority are from the manufacturing sector, representing 76% of all registers, followed by the innovative enterprises and the wholesalers,

retailers as well as service providers. The breakdown roughly represents the current status of SMEs in China on an overall basis.

Two key features of the entrants were also discovered in the analyses. On the one hand, the entrants are from diverse geographical locations, mainly in the east and the south of China, on the other hand, the key category is electronics and IT, followed by chemicals and metalworks.

Top 300 entrants have now been selected according to criteria covering basic operation and financial data. These 300 “Qualified entrants” have been invited to attend “China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow” seminar on the theme of “how to improve the overall capabilities of SME”. As an important part of the award, the seminar is organised by Standard Chartered Bank and ran by “Money Journal”, “Economic Observer” and “Fortune China” program of Hunan Satellite TV. On 15 August, 17 August and 19 August, three seminars are to be held respectively in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen, with the aim of building up a sharing and learning platform for SMEs. The representatives from the “Qualified SMEs” have opportunities to discuss with the experts from the fields of banking, audit, taxation, branding, internet, VC, IPO, real estate appraisal and overseas business development. Wang Yuan Zhi, Director General, SME Department, NDRC delivered the keynote speech named “SME long-term development planning” on Beijing seminar.

Katherine Tsang, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank China said:” We noticed the number of technology-driven SMEs has increased. Undoubtedly, it shows the current situation of the market. China’s core competence has improved, while more and more SMEs have upgraded their R&D and innovation capabilities. They own patents, set up production standards and build up their brand, making themselves competitive and growing enterprises. It is one of the goals of “SME Growth Project” as well as the key objective of “China’s Leading Enterprises of Tomorrow” Award initiated by Standard Chartered Bank. We are happy if the

seminar could bring some useful information and skills to the entrants and act as a platform for sharing.”

The 300 “Qualified Entrants” will enter the second round of selection soon, in which 60 winners will be selected by the judging panel consisted of experts from SME Banking of Standard Chartered Bank and the Management School of Fudan University. The final round is scheduled in the mid of October. Three Overall Award winners and five Special Award winners will be selected. The grand awarding ceremony is to be hold in Beijing early November. The final winners will be invited to attend Hong Kong International SME Expo, having a chance to meet with SMEs and other institutions from Hong Kong and worldwide.

- End -

For further information please contact :

Crystal Qian,  
Head of Corporate Communication, Standard Chartered Bank China  
Tel: 021 3896 3198

Lena Sun,  
Senior Media Executive, BlueFocus PR Consulting  
Tel: 021 5404 5399 ext.1023

### **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 consistently 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 with an extensive global network of over 1,200 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in over 50 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 50,000 people, representing over 90 nationalities, worldwide. This

diversity lies at the heart of the Bank's values and supports the Bank's growth as the world increasingly becomes one market.

With strong organic growth supported by strategic alliances and acquisitions and driven by its strengths in the balance and diversity of its business, products, geography and people, Standard Chartered is well positioned in the emerging trade corridors of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Standard Chartered uniquely derives over 90 per cent of profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Serving both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers worldwide, 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.

Trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility, Standard Chartered takes a long term view of the consequences of its actions to ensure that the Bank builds a sustainable business through social inclusion, environmental protection and good governance.

Standard Chartered is also committed to all its stakeholders by living its values in its approach towards managing its people, exceeding expectations of its customers, making a difference in communities and working with regulators.

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](http://www.standardchartered.com)