

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK SUPPORTS WWF'S EARTH HOUR

A symbolic action to Create a Climate for Change by switching off on 28 March 2009 at 8.30pm

23 March 2009, Shanghai – Standard Chartered China, along with people, businesses and iconic buildings across the world will switch off their lights at 8:30pm on this Saturday, 28 March for WWF's Earth Hour showing support for a global mandate on climate change.

Earth Hour is a global campaign to raise awareness of carbon emissions and climate change. A billion people are expected to sign up to Earth hour in 2009, and this year's event is the start of WWF's global deal campaign in the lead up to the UN climate summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. Standard Chartered is supporting WWF's movement to convince governments across the world to agree to take effective action to tackle climate change when they meet at the summit in December.

Katherine Tsang, CEO and Executive Vice Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited says, "We are happy to join people from across the world in WWF's Earth Hour campaign and help raise global awareness for combating climate change. In our capacity as advisors, lenders, investors and community partners, we recognise the instrumental role that financial institutions play in catalysing the shift to a low carbon economy."

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the planet, and demands urgent global action. Unless action is taken to prevent average global temperatures rising more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, there is a high risk of severe and irreversible changes in the planet's natural systems, which will be devastating for people, economies and nature.

Standard Chartered is committed to building a sustainable business that continues to be high performing and views all actions in terms of their environmental impact, and economic and social contribution. By signing up to Earth Hour and switching off, Standard Chartered is showing commitment to climate change ahead of the Climate Summit at Copenhagen.

In 2007 the Bank partnered with WWF for the Race for a Living Planet environment challenge and donated USD1m for WWF environmental projects benefiting the three most supported countries (Brunei, Taiwan, Hong Kong). The challenge asked people to pledge to do simple things to benefit the environment. They received over 3.4 million pledges and engaged over 500,000 people.

To find out more about Earth Hour please visit www.earthhour.org.cn
To join Standard Chartered's efforts and sign up please visit www.standardchartered.com.cn/earthhour

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Note to Editors:

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

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both London and Hong Kong stock exchanges, ranks among the top 25 companies in the FTSE-100 by market capitalisation. The London-headquartered Group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets, leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its income and profits have more than doubled over the last five years primarily as a result of organic growth and supplemented by acquisitions.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank for its customers across its markets. The Bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, generated from its Wholesale and Consumer Banking businesses. The Group has around 1,750 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The extraordinary growth of its markets and businesses creates exciting and challenging international career opportunities.

Leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders, the Group is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental

protection and employee diversity. It employs 75,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 115 nationalities, of which 60 are represented among senior management.

In China, the Bank set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, and has remained in operation throughout the past 150 years. Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited is one of the first foreign banks to locally incorporate in China in April 2007. This demonstrates the Bank's commitment to the China market, and its leading position as a foreign bank in the banking industry.

Standard Chartered has one of the largest foreign bank networks – with 15 branches, 37 sub-branches and 1 representative office in China (*Approval for the Dalian representative office to upgrade to a branch has been granted and preparation is in progress*). In 2008, Standard Chartered China clinched the Asian Banker's Best Foreign Retail Bank in China Award, and the "Outstanding Corporate Award of 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Ranking in China" by China Business Network. In 2007, Standard Chartered China won the "Top 10 Financial Institution Award" and the "Best SME Services Award" by China CFO World.

In addition, Standard Chartered Bank set up its first village bank in Hellingee, China in November 2008.

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