

press release

Standard Chartered 2009 operating profit climbs 13% to US\$5.15bn Strong business momentum delivers seventh successive year of record income and profit

London, 3rd March. Standard Chartered PLC today announced a seventh successive year of record income (\$15.18 billion) and operating profit before tax (\$5.15 billion) during 2009, demonstrating the underlying strength and momentum across our markets and businesses, despite the ongoing adverse global economic conditions. Our strong liquidity and capital position enabled us to continue building out market share across our footprint, generating positive business momentum as we enter 2010.

2009 delivered strong and diversified profit and income growth across our markets in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Five markets delivered income of over \$1 billion, with India and Hong Kong also delivering over \$1 billion in operating profit before tax (OPBT). Wholesale Banking continued to demonstrate strong business momentum with significant increases in both client and own account income growth, while Consumer Banking saw a strong upturn in performance during the second half of the year.

Peter Sands, Group Chief Executive, Standard Chartered said:
“2009 was the seventh consecutive year when we produced record income and profits. The bank has used its strong capital and liquidity position and its increasingly powerful brand to capture market share from competitors and to deepen relationships with customers and clients. We enter 2010 with real resilience and momentum.”

Standard Chartered PLC's profit in China up more than 200 per cent to \$280 million, on the back of income up 17 per cent, China is becoming a significant business for us.

Lim Cheng Teck, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of Standard Chartered China, said, “Building on more than 150 years of uninterrupted operations in China, Standard Chartered is the oldest foreign bank operating in the country today – a position we have maintained by continuously investing in our network, cultivating local talent, developing innovative products and enhancing our business infrastructure. Leveraging on our international experience and global network, Standard Chartered China is committed to providing our customers in China with financial products and services that help them meet their long-term financial goals – as well as supporting Chinese enterprises seeking new markets and business opportunities abroad.”

--- ENDS ---

For further information please contact:

Eva Chow, Head of Corporate Communications, Standard Chartered China
Tel: 86 (21) 3896 3198

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.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank for its customers across its markets. The Group earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, from its Wholesale and Consumer Banking businesses. The Group has over 1600 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 around 70,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 125 nationalities, of which about 70 are represented in the 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 in China – with 15 branches, 37 sub-branches, one representative office and a Village Bank. Approvals for the setting up of the Ningbo and Huhhot branches have been granted and preparation is in progress.

In 2009, Standard Chartered China is named by the *Economic Observer* as the “Best Trade Finance Bank in China”. It also clinched the *Economic Observer's* “Best Innovation in Cash Management” award, *Global Finance's* “Best SME Lending Bank” and the *China Business New's* “Outstanding Corporate Award of 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Ranking in China”.

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