

press release

Standard Chartered China opens the first RMB nostro account for an Islamic bank

- To facilitate trade activities between China and MENA -

27 September 2010, Shanghai - Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited today announced that it has successfully opened a RMB nostro account for Alinma Bank Saudi Arabia, one of the largest Islamic banks in MENA. This is the first RMB nostro account opened with an Islamic bank since the launch of RMB Cross-border Trade Settlement Scheme, demonstrating that Standard Chartered has become the first international bank to offer such service for Islamic banks.

Standard Chartered Bank also signed RMB Cross Border Trade Settlement Account Agreements with another four MENA based banks: **Bank Al Falah Pakistan, Habib Metropolitan Bank Pakistan and Union Bank Jordan** today in Lebanon. The move will allow these banks to open RMB nostro accounts at Standard Chartered China, through which Standard Chartered and the MENA based banks will be able to help their clients to settle cross-border trade between China and MENA with RMB.

Commenting on it, **Peter Sun**, Head of Transaction Banking, Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited, said, "This demonstrates Standard Chartered's strong capabilities and commitment to providing RMB cross-border trade settlement solutions across our extensive footprint globally. As the trade volume between China and the MENA region continues to grow significantly year on year, Standard Chartered is well positioned to meet the increasing RMB requirements of our corporate and bank clients. Being one of the first banks conducting this business, we are very proud that Standard Chartered China has completed the largest amount of RMB settlement amongst foreign banks in China."

A pioneer in the RMB Cross-border Trade Settlement Pilot Programme, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited was the first foreign bank to complete a two-way trade settlement with China in July 2009. Shortly after, in August 2009, Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited became the first foreign bank appointed as the Agent and Settlement Bank for RMB cross border settlement. Standard Chartered First Bank was also the first bank in Korea to facilitate a cross-border RMB transaction between Korea and China in January this year. In addition, since the elucidation circular by Hong Kong Monetary Authority in mid February, Standard Chartered Bank Hong Kong was the first bank to facilitate a domestic RMB trade settlement transaction.

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Note to Editors:

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

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for its 80,000 staff. It 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. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

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 17 branches, 41 sub-branches and 1 Village Bank. Approval for the setting up of the Wuhan branch has 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 News’* “Outstanding Corporate Award of 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Ranking in China”.

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