

# press release

## Access Africa – 2013 China-Africa Investment Forum Held in Beijing

**March, 19 2013, Beijing** - Access Africa – 2013 China-Africa Investment Forum, co-hosted by the China Chamber of International Commerce and Standard Chartered Bank, is held in Beijing today. **Zhang Wei**, Vice Chairman, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade & China Chamber of International Commerce, **Jaspal Singh Bindra**, Executive Director and CEO Asia of Standard Chartered Bank, and **Wei Jianguo**, former Vice-Minister of Ministry of Commerce and Secretary General of China Center for International Economic Exchanges delivered the keynote speeches. Experts and scholars from Peking University, Standard Chartered Bank, China Development Bank, Export-Import Bank of China, China-Africa Fund, Deloitte & Touche, Embassy of South Africa in China, and other foreign institutions gathered together to discuss challenges and opportunities in African markets with more than 200 corporate representatives from various sectors including infrastructure construction, project contracting, energy, mining, telecommunications, and new energy.

Access Africa forum aims to introduce the investment environment, economic prospects, and focused sectors to Chinese companies intending to expand their African markets. With the development of the renminbi internationalisation, the forum also discussed how the new development will impact China-Africa trade and investment flows.

**Zhang Wei**, Vice Chairman, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade & China Chamber of International Commerce, said “China has become Africa’s largest trading partner with the rapid growth of Chinese corporate investment in Africa. However, because Chinese-funded banks have few outlets in Africa, it is difficult for Chinese enterprises to obtain effective financial support in Africa. Due to its long history and excellent placement in Africa, Standard Chartered Bank has become a leading international bank in Africa. The China Chamber of International Commerce and Standard Chartered Bank invited experts and scholars to analyze the difficulties faced by Chinese companies investing in Africa and introduce effective solutions. Members of the China Chamber of International Commerce are very active in the overseas markets. The Chamber will continue to build new platforms for our member companies to help them expand channels for cooperation in foreign countries, minimize the risks of investment in Africa, and build good corporate images in Africa.”

**Jaspal Bindra**, Group Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Asia, Standard Chartered Bank, said: “We are very happy to share our knowledge and experience in Africa with Chinese corporations. Africa’s natural resources and growth potential are

boosting world trade flows and attracting increasing interest from investors around the world including China. China Africa trade has risen tenfold in less than a decade, which is a strong testament to the close trade relationship and huge business opportunities between the two markets. Standard Chartered has long history, extensive footprint and in-depth knowledge in both China and Africa. With a strong international network, Standard Chartered is well placed to support our Chinese clients for investment and doing business in Africa. ”

**Wei Jianguo**, former Vice-Minister of Ministry of Commerce and Secretary General of China Center for International Economic Exchanges, analyzed the current economic situation in a global context. Wei said “The year of 2013 is full of good opportunities for Chinese companies to ‘go out’. Africa has become a huge emerging market that has attracted Chinese corporate investment. In this process, Chinese enterprises should be careful to choose the right projects, partners, and partnership structures.”

Access Africa is a Standard Chartered’s global initiative to introduce Africa to the world. The similar forum was held in South Korea before. The Bank’s decision to host this event in China is another demonstration of the importance that the Bank places on the linkages between China and Africa. This is Standard Chartered’s another important event on China-Africa trade and investment flows following the Bank’s African Chairmen Conference held in Beijing last July.

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**Note to editors:**

**China Chamber of International Commerce**

China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) is a nationwide business organization in China, representing the most dynamic and internationalized Chinese companies of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as national and local non-governmental organizations.

CCOIC's mission is, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China, to expand the international business relationship to the benefit of its membership and, more broadly, the Chinese economy. It favors constructive engagement with foreign countries to eliminate trade and investment barriers and develop a rules-based commercial environment; improvement of business self-regulation in China and representation of China in the setting of international business rules and standards; advocacy for members whenever the Chinese or foreign government makes decisions that crucially affect corporate interests; spreading of business expertise to the development of Chinese economy, international business cooperation and the growth and prosperity of less developed countries.

CCOIC is governed by a board of directors composed of over 100 distinguished corporate leaders. The current chair is Mr. Wan Jifei, Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

CCOIC served as the National Committee of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) since China's entry into ICC in 1994. Headquartered in Beijing, CCOIC maintains a professional staff of policy experts, lawyers, trainers, event organizers, and communicators. Special initiatives covering banking rules, new energy, recycling resources, infrastructure, education and training, debt collection, and real estate mobilize the involvement and contribution of members with the backup of CCOIC branches and expert commissions.

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

Standard Chartered is a leading international banking group. 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. Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

With 1,700 offices in 68 markets, the Group offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities to over 89,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. Standard Chartered'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 155 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 23 branches, 76 sub-branches and 1 Village Bank, totally 100 outlets.

In 2012, Standard Chartered China received many awards and honors, including the "Best Practice of Social Responsibility Award" from China Banking Association, "China's Ideal Employer among Business students - Top 20" from Universum, "Best SME Services Bank" from CBRC, "Best Cash Management Award" from the Economic Observer, "Best Supply Chain Finance Award" and "Best Cross-border Trade Settlement Award" from CFO World, "2011-2012 Best Asset Management Brand" from 21 Century Business Herald, and etc.

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