

**Welcome address
UAE Head Office Ground Breaking Ceremony
Peter Sands, Group Chief Executive, Standard Chartered PLC
9 March 2011**

Thank you Shankar.

A special thank you to His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Emirates Airlines, and our Guest of Honour today. I am also delighted to welcome His Excellency Ahmed Humaid Al Tayer, Governor of DIFC and Chairman of Emirates NBD and His Excellency Mohammed Al Shaibani, CEO of Investment Corporation of Dubai.

We are very privileged to have you with us to celebrate the groundbreaking of Standard Chartered UAE's new Head Office.

RESULTS

Last week, we announced our eighth consecutive year of record income and profits. This week, I am very fortunate to be here in the UAE, one of our top five markets and a key contributor to our excellent results. Standard Chartered UAE made strong progress in 2010 with income over USD1 billion, up 6% on 2009.

Overall in the Middle East and South Asia region, profits more than doubled to USD841 million in 2010.

The UAE continues to be our largest market in the Middle East, and we are seeing the benefits of an improving economy.

We remain confident that this market offers significant opportunity for growth and we are continually investing to realise this potential.

As one of the most senior executives in the Bank, Shankar's relocation from Singapore to the UAE last year to take on the appointment of CEO, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Americas is a clear indication of our intent in the region.

CONFIDENCE AND COMMITMENT

Today's ceremony is a demonstration of our commitment to the UAE, and our support of the government's drive to position the UAE as a leading financial centre in the Middle East.

Standard Chartered has a proud 90-year history in the Middle East, making us the oldest bank in the region. Our operations in the UAE commenced in 1958 and we have witnessed and participated in the UAE's multidimensional transformation since then.

Our strong performance and growth underpin our physical expansion in the UAE and we have committed USD140 million to this development.

The premises is designed to be a state-of-the-art facility that meets Standard Chartered Bank's requirements and occupancy needs for the next 15 years. We believe it will provide the right environment for success.

The new head office will have eight floors, spanning 125,000 sq ft. 1,250 employees will now be centralised in one office as we consolidate our existing presence.

These employees will cover a broad spectrum of roles including front line sales, relationship management, operations, finance, risk and compliance.

SUSTAINABILITY

The new UAE office is more than just a new building. It attests to Standard Chartered's care for the business *and* physical environment of the UAE.

We have incorporated many green features in the building to ensure minimal impact on the environment. Let me give you a few examples.

The project site was selected, in part, for its proximity to the Dubai Metro system. We hope employees will take advantage of this "green" public transport option.

The new building will achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification by implementing energy saving and water efficiency measures.

The property is designed to use 30 per cent less water compared to conventional buildings by using recycled wastewater for irrigation and installing water-conserving fixtures.

Our building façade is designed to decrease heat in the interior spaces, thereby reducing the energy required to cool the building in the hot summer months.

The building's design maximises natural light and minimises building material pollutants. In this way, we hope to provide our staff with a comfortable, safe and pleasant workplace.

CULTURE

In addition to our strong performance and growth record, I believe our values-based culture sets us apart in the banking industry.

We are a diverse organisation, but we maintain a cohesive global culture underpinned by our brand promise, Here for good.

We are Here for clients and customers, through good times and bad. We are committed to having a positive impact on the broader economy and on the communities in which we live and work.

In fact, I believe that this new building is emblematic of the many ways in which Standard Chartered strives to be Here for good in the UAE.

CONCLUSION

Today's groundbreaking is another milestone for Standard Chartered UAE. I would like to again thank our Guest of Honour, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed, as well as His Excellency Al Tayer and His Excellency Shaibani. I would also like to thank the developers, the land purveyors, and everyone else who contributed to this undertaking, including those of you with us today.

2011 will certainly bring challenges for the Middle East as well as the rest of the world. But we will remain – as we have for 90 years – open for business, come what may.

The Bank enters 2011 in great shape and with a new Head Office now underway. I look forward to visiting the completed building in 2012.

Now it gives me great pleasure to introduce our Guest of Honour, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Emirates Airlines.