

press release

Standard Chartered launches Working Capital Management Guide 2008/09

Guide shares industry best practice and critical insights for business success in Asia, Africa and the Middle East

13 March 2008, United Arab Emirates – Standard Chartered has launched the ‘*Standard Chartered – Working Capital Management Guide for Asia, Africa and the Middle East 2008/09*, to provide critical business and regulatory insights for doing business in these emerging market regions.

The book is the second edition in a series, carrying articles examining China’s relationships with Africa and the Middle East and the opportunities and issues within these major trade corridors. This second edition has now also been expanded to cover Central and South Asia with specific analysis on Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Topics range from technology, security, electronic delivery channels and Basel compliance.

The Bank has been doing business in the Asian, African and Middle East markets for over 150 years and is recognised in these regions as being one of the oldest international banks with an extensive domestic presence as well as cross border network, all focused on providing the best services for clients, for and in these regions.

Farooq Siddiqi, Transaction Banking Head, Standard Chartered UAE said, “With the issues brought about by tightening of liquidity and uncertainties in the global economy, corporates face greater challenges in managing their working capital and

in fact their end to end supply chain. This Guide will help companies better understand the business and regulatory environment in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, putting them in a stronger position to not only navigate these challenging times but also find solutions to optimise their business operations.

“Standard Chartered is a forerunner in Financial supply chain solution and has strong expertise and networks in the emerging markets of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Coupled with our depth of knowledge and our longevity across these key emerging markets, we are well-positioned to offer our expertise and guidance in this area,” added Farooq.

Standard Chartered Bank aims to be the number one transaction bank for corporate and institutional clients based or operating in the Asia, African and Middle Eastern regions. It offers its Corporate and Institutional clients a full suite of working capital solutions encompassing Cash Management, Securities Services and Trade Services.

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About Standard Chartered

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 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 more than 70,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 125 nationalities, of which 68 are represented among senior management.

For more information, please visit: www.standardchartered.com

About Transaction Banking

As part of the Bank's Wholesale Banking business for Corporates and Institutions, **Transaction Banking** provides Cash Management, Securities Services and Trade Services to clients for and in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The business provides a full suite of transactional products and also serves as a bridge to these markets for clients from the U.S and Europe. A leading provider of Transaction Banking services, some highlights of the Bank's external recognition are as follows:

- Top 4 Cash Management Bank globally in *Euromoney's* Cash Management Poll
- Top-Rated Sub-Custodian by *Global Custodian* magazine
- Best Structured Trade Finance Bank by *The Asset* magazine
- Best Bank for Liquidity Management in Africa by *Global Finance*