

press release

Standard Chartered Bank Launches inaugural Financial Markets Forum in Dubai

Forums in key markets planned as part of the Bank's Wholesale Banking Leadership Series for 2009

17 February 2009, Dubai – In line with Standard Chartered's brand promise in leading by example to be the right partner to its clients, the Bank has launched its first Financial Markets forum in Dubai.

Designed as part of the Bank's Wholesale Banking Leadership Series, the forums focusing on financial markets aim to contribute to thought leadership in the industry in the face of ongoing unprecedented market challenges.

Exclusively for Standard Chartered clients, the event presented a robust programme providing participants with the valuable insight, outlook, commentary and networking opportunities to further understand the challenges and seize opportunities that are present in the current climate.

The forum also provided the Bank's clients a platform to interact directly with the Financial Markets senior management and product specialists, gaining local insights and global expertise while having their immediate concerns addressed. Famed investor Jim Rogers who co-founded the Quantum Fund participated in the Dubai forum as a guest speaker.

Hong Kong and India will host successive forums in coming months.

"Lenny Feder, Group Head of Financial Markets, Standard Chartered Bank said: "In the current backdrop of uncertainty, we are pleased and proud to have created this opportunity to bring our senior management even closer to our clients in these key markets. At Standard Chartered, we are focused on working closely with

our clients to provide world-class, innovative solutions for continued growth. In this challenging economic environment, more and more clients are relying on our experience and expertise to help them unlock and more effectively manage their risks and liquidity. These forums provide the perfect platform for us to demonstrate our client centric strategy and to share our expertise in providing solutions."

Speaking at the Forum, Abdulla Al Awar, Managing Director of the DIFC

Authority said: "The ongoing financial crisis offers an opportunity for the GCC region to focus on building its economy and domestic markets. The GCC also has an opportunity to play a more prominent role in the global economy as it is one of the few regions with significant reserves of liquidity and a stable banking sector. The crisis is expected to speed up the launch of the GCC Monetary Union, which can be a major contributor to new financial architecture that will emerge out of the crisis.

For DIFC, the crisis SERVES AS AN opportunity to take centre stage and complement, if not replace, the role so far played by the world's major financial centres. DIFC can serve as a channel for capital flows between emerging economies and mature markets. Due to the global financial crisis, a significant portion of oil wealth is likely to be invested in the region, which will spur regional development. DIFC can potentially play a key role in channelling these funds through financial markets."

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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.

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