

press release

Standard Chartered Oman offers OMR 15, 000 (USD39,000) scholarships for student excellence

18 November 2009 – Standard Chartered Oman announces scholarship programmes valued at OMR 15,000 (USD39,000) to be offered to students from the Indian schools in Muscat. Over 25,000 students across the fifteen Indian schools based in Oman stand a chance to benefit from the Standard Chartered Excellent Achievement scholarships.

The announcement was made at a cheque presentation ceremony held under the auspice of the Indian Embassy and H.E. Anil Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman was the guest of honour. Mr. Ravneet Chowdhury, Chief Executive Officer Standard Chartered Oman presented the cheque to Mr Yusuf Nalwala, Chairman of the board of directors for the Indian Schools, Oman. Also present at the event was the Head of Consumer Banking from Standard Chartered, Mr Bikram Rishi.

Five students from the Senior years, will be selected for demonstrating leadership and overall excellence by the Board comprising teachers and senior executives from Oman. Out of the five excellent achievement scholarships, four students will be awarded for excellence in academics or sports and one for promoting community activities for the protection of the environment. Details of the sponsorship criteria were furthered distributed to the schools.

The initiative is an extension of the Bank's focus on building a sustainable economy for the communities. Ravneet Chowdhury, Chief Executive Officer Standard Chartered Bank Oman said "As a leading international bank, Standard Chartered recognises the importance of helping to promote growth within the economy by supporting the community. We are truly passionate about helping the youth in our local communities through educational and sporting activities. The scholarship programme is a reinforcement of our sustainable business agenda and is integral to our social development dimensions.

"We aim to lead by example, sustaining the determination to be a force for good by deepening our relationships not only with our stakeholders but with the communities in which we live and work."

The project, a three year agreement between the Bank and the schools, is an active measure of support to the communities. It is aimed at encouraging the students to aspire to do more and strengthen their leadership abilities.

Recently the Bank's staff actively raised funds for the Al Noor Training Centre for Children with Special Needs and led on the environment initiative on "Reduce Plastic Bags campaign". The Bank also provides two day leave for staff to do charity work as part of its ambition to promote a caring society. "

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Photo caption:

From left to right:

1. Mr. Yusuf Nalwala, Chairman for the Board of Directors of Indian Schools, Oman
2. H.E. Anil Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Sultanate of Oman
3. Ravneet Chowdhury , Chief Executive Standard Chartered Bank, Oman
4. Bikram Rishi , Head of Consumer Banking Standard Chartered Bank, Oman

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

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.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank for its customers across its markets. The Group earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, 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 around 70,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 125 nationalities, of which about 70 are represented in the senior management.

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