

# press release

## **World Water Day Standard Chartered commits to reducing its carbon footprint**

**Standard Chartered has committed to reduce its water footprint by two thirds over the next ten years in recognition of the growing concerns about water scarcity in many of the Bank's markets.**

**23 March, 2010 - United Arab Emirates** - In its commitment to raise awareness of water issues among staff, customers and clients, Standard Chartered is celebrating World Water Day in the UAE with the support of the Heroes of the UAE, a campaign developed by Emirates Wildlife Society-WWF and the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi.

To highlight water concerns, this week Standard Chartered's DIFC building reception is featuring a display that represents the average person's daily water wastage in the UAE, which today is at 252 litres per day. Leaflets have also been distributed in order to encourage staff to join the Heroes of the UAE campaign and become a 'Water Hero' by adopting simple tips which will contribute to reducing water wastage and help to achieve the Bank's carbon footprint target.

According to Water - the real liquidity crisis, a report published by Standard Chartered in 2009, climate change, population growth and rapid economic development in Asia, Africa and the Middle East is increasing demands on water in these regions, where water scarcity is already an issue. The good news is that solutions are already available, but they require investment. The sustainable finance aspect of Standard Chartered's environment and climate change strategy focuses on the management of risks and identification of opportunities to finance solutions to climate change includes a focus on water. As part of this, the Bank has developed sector and issue position statements, which outline the social and environmental standards that it requires from clients that it finances. The latest position

statement to be developed focuses on water, and has been released publicly today in recognition of World Water Day.

### **About World Water Day**

World Water Day is an annual event coordinated by UN-Water, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of water as a resource, and of water issues such as poor management, availability and quality.

The theme of this year's World Water Day is "Clean water for a healthy world", which reflects the importance of water quality alongside quantity and availability. Water sustains all life on earth, and as such the quality of life is directly dependent on the quality of water. Poor water quality can negatively affect the wellbeing of human and animal life, and of the environment.

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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 20 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. We have produced seven years of record income and profit, 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 1700 branches and outlets located in 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 75,000 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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