

# press release

*With the participation of the Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon:*

## **Standard Chartered to hold Thought Leadership MENA Bankers Conference**

***Several groundbreaking deals and partnerships will be announced***

UAE, 20 September, 2010 – Standard Chartered announced today that it will be holding its Second Annual Thought Leadership MENA Bankers Conference on the 27th of September, 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon. The conference will be attended by more than 75 Senior Bankers representing the MENA Banking industry including banks from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, GCC and Pakistan. The Conference aims to discuss the latest trends and issues facing the MENA banking industry and comes at an ideal time when cross border activity between the MENA region and markets in the US, China and South East Asia is expected to witness tremendous growth. In line with this, several groundbreaking deals and partnerships will also be announced at the event.

At the conference, Dr. Riad Salameh, Governor Banque Du Liban (Central Bank of Lebanon) will be giving a key note speech and will be the guest of honor at the event. Also present at the Conference will be Dr. Jihad Azour, Vice-President Senior Executive Advisor, Booz & Co Lebanon (former Minister of Finance, Lebanon) and other senior bankers and senior members of the Standard Chartered management.

**Commenting on the importance of the conference, Motasim Iqbal, Regional Head of Transaction Banking (Banks Segment), MENA, Standard Chartered said:**

”The Conference is considered an ideal platform for networking and sharing expertise between Financial Institutions from across the region. In addition to that, Standard Chartered will be signing ground breaking partnerships with banks from across the region to facilitate regional and international cross border trade and finance activities.

The conference comes as part of the Bank's increased focus on the MENA region, especially on its Transaction Banking and Financial Institutions business. Last year, the event was a great success and this year, we decided to hold it in Beirut, Lebanon which is a renowned banking and finance capital in the region. "

This year, the conference will have a special session titled "China – The Growth Frontier" which will focus on the value proposition for bank clients out of China and specifically on the new developments around RMB. The Conference will be inaugurated by a key note speech by Dr. Riad Salameh, Governor Banque Du Liban followed by a presentation on Global and Regional Economics by Marios Maratheftis, Regional Head of Research West at Standard Chartered. Dr. Jihad Azour, Vice-President Senior Executive Advisor, Booz & Co Lebanon (former Minister of Finance, Lebanon) will also chair a panel discussion on the World in 2011: What is in store for countries, companies and regions as the world struggles out of recession, the Economic Shift from West to East: how important is Asia becoming for the Middle East and North Africa region and the Global Trends impacting Banks: customer behaviours, market size, competitors landscape and regulations.

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**Note to editors:**

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

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for more than 80,000 staff. It 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. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

For more information on Standard Chartered, please visit [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)