



# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2005

## **THE GREATEST RACE ON EARTH HAS STARTED!**

*4 challenging marathons, 4 exotic cities*

***Largest prize pool in athletics***

24 October 2005, Shanghai – The Greatest Race on Earth has started successfully in Nairobi yesterday. LIU Xiaohuan of the Chinese Team, the only Asian female running in the race, finished in third position with a time of 02:50:13, and placed an impressive 10th position overall in the Nairobi Marathon. Xiaohuan said, “I wanted to do better. It was my first time running at such high altitudes. I believe I can do better next time.”

Katherine Tsang, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank China, said, “We are very proud of Ms Liu and her achievements. It was a difficult and challenging race. We are confident that our Chinese athletes will continue to have outstanding performance in the three remaining races.”

578 runners, double of the number of runners from last year, will compete in The Greatest Race on Earth 2005/06 Series with its record prize pool of \$1.57 million. The Greatest Race on Earth is the world’s only relay of marathons, and spans across four countries in Asia and Africa.

There are 32 professional teams competing in this year’s event, with participation of the quickest debut marathoner ever, Joseph Osoro of Kenya and with former world

record holder and marathon great Tegla Loroupe from Kenya participating in the new women's event. Runners will battle altitude, heat and humidity to better last year's winning team time of four marathons in 09:11:32.

Each team comprise of four individuals, each running one marathon in Nairobi, Singapore, Mumbai or Hong Kong. The Chinese team - sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, China - is made up of four professional women runners who have substantial experience in international races. They are:

**Nairobi Marathon (already held on 23 Oct 05):** LIU Xiaohuan, born on 5th March, 1987, finished in the 3rd place with a time of 02:50:13 in the women's category of Nairobi Marathon.

**Singapore Marathon:** WANG Xiaoshu, born on 7th December, 1986, is the Champion of 2004 Kuala Lumpur International Marathon. Her marathon personal best time is 2:34.

**Mumbai Marathon:** WANG Dan, born on 6th July, 1987, is the Champion of 2005 Kuala Lumpur International Marathon. Her marathon personal best time is 2:34.

**Hong Kong Marathon:** DAI Yanyan, born on 8th January, 1980, is the Champion of 2004 Macau International Marathon and Champion of 2005 Hong Kong Standard Chartered International Marathon. Her marathon personal best time is 2:24.

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## **About the Greatest Race 2005/06 series**

The Greatest Race 2005/06 series -- bigger and better:

- The Main Team Challenge is open to any team of four runners – professional and amateur alike. Total prize pool of \$1,125,000, including a new bonus pool of \$175,000 for the top three all-women teams. This is to widen participation and encourage more female athletes to join the competition.
- The Nations Challenge – open to National Athletic Association teams only. Teams are divided into the following regions – Africa, Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia, North East Asia, Americas and Europe & Oceania. The regional prize pool is \$175,000. The top three national association teams will also share a \$145,000 overall prize. Nation teams are automatically entered into the Main Team Challenge and are eligible to win the associated prize money.
- The Individual Challenge – run all four marathons as an individual and compete for a prize pool of \$130,000.

**The schedule of the four marathons is as follows:**

- (1) Nairobi Marathon on October,2005
- (2) Singapore Marathon on December,2005
- (3) Mumbai Marathon on January,2006
- (4) Hong Kong Marathon on February,2006

To find out more about the Greatest Race on Earth, visit the website:

[www.thegreatestrace.com](http://www.thegreatestrace.com)

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

Standard Chartered is one of the world's most international banks, employing over 40,000 people, representing 80 nationalities, across its network. Standard Chartered operates in over 1,200 locations (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in more than 50 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is in the top 25 FTSE-100 companies, by market capitalisation.

It serves both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corporate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, securities services, foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance.

Standard Chartered is well-established in growth markets and aims to be the right partner for its customers. The Bank combines deep local knowledge with global capability.

The Bank is trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility as well as its commitment to making a difference in the communities in which it operates.

Standard Chartered set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, remaining throughout the last 150 years. Now it has ten branches (Chengdu and Suzhou to be opened soon), one sub-branch and four representative offices in China. The Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing and Xiamen Branches can provide full banking services (including RMB) for corporate customers and foreign currency services for local citizens. The Nanjing Branch is the only foreign bank in Jiangsu Province to be allowed to conduct RMB business. It was also among the first group of foreign banks to be granted the QFII custodian bank and derivative licence.

[www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)