

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Standard Chartered Bank Tianjin Branch - Received RMB License for Corporates

Standard Chartered is delighted to announce that its Tianjin Branch has been granted the RMB license for business with corporate clients. It is a major step forward in the Bank's expansion plan in the Bohai region. The Bank now has the license or the capability to provide RMB services in 7 branches in China.

Today's approval will enable the Bank's Tianjin Branch to start setting up its operations to offer full foreign currencies and RMB services to all corporate customers and foreigners - including those from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao - in the 25 cities and regions that allow foreign banks to offer RMB services. Tianjin Branch aims to serve customers through effective and differentiated financial solutions. Its financial products and services include market-leading Cash Management services, Trade & Supply Chain Financing Solutions, Funding Solutions and Global Markets products.

SME (Small & Medium Sized Enterprises) financing and financial services to MNCs (Multi-national Corporates) are key businesses for Standard Chartered Bank. More and more corporates from different places are investing in Tianjin now, and SMEs in Tianjin are developing at a most rapid pace. With the newly

granted RMB license, Tianjin Branch could expand their scope of business and provide more convenient and efficient banking services to all kinds of corporates.

Katherine Tsang, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank China, said, "In order to match the new development strategy of pan-Bohai area, Tianjin municipal government is endeavoring to improve the financial environment. The approval of the RMB license will not only enable us to provide a full range of services to our clients, but also helps us to develop together with the economy here."

The Tianjin Branch, set up in 1992, is the first branch of any foreign bank in this area.

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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 sets up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, and has remained in operation throughout the past 150 years. Now it has ten branches, two sub-branches (with 2 more to be opened by end of Q1 2006) and four representative offices in China. There are altogether 7 branches in China that have been granted the license for providing RMB banking services to Corporate clients (namely Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing and Xiamen; with Zhuhai and Tianjin now in preparation for the offering of such services).

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