



press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2006

Standard Chartered Bank Launches “Electronic Travellers Cheque – EASIGO” in China

Standard Chartered Bank today launches its latest innovative product – “Easigo”, an Electronic Travellers Cheque, which enables both domestic and foreign individuals to make purchases worldwide and settle their payments more conveniently. “This new and innovative product from Standard Chartered Bank is supported by the extensive global network of Travelex and Visa.”

Individuals can obtain “Easigo” instantly upon application at the Bank’s branches. With “Easigo”, travellers no longer have to carry thick wads of banknotes and will be able to make overseas purchases at any of VISA’s 24 million merchants worldwide or withdraw cash anytime outside of China from around one million ATMs. There is also a 24-hour Chinese language-enabled Toll-Free Helpline for customers’ emergency assistance, balance enquiry and other services relating to Easigo.

Mike DeNoma, Group Executive Director of Consumer Banking, says:” Standard Chartered takes pride in the growth and innovativeness of our Consumer Banking business worldwide. China is one of the most important markets for the Bank and we are very pleased to launch this innovative product here. We believe

customers would find ‘Easigo’ most user-friendly and adds to their pleasure in travelling.”

“Standard Chartered has a strong commitment to our customers in China. The launch of ‘Easigo’ marks a new milestone in serving our customers by bringing them the utmost convenience and security when they travel overseas. “says Katherine Tsang, CEO China of the Bank. “We will continue to develop more innovative products that can better meet our customers’ financial needs.”

Russell Atkinson, Director e-Payments of Travelex, says: “Travelex are delighted to be working together with Standard Chartered to launch this innovative new travel product. ‘Easigo’ is designed to ensure that Chinese travellers can take advantage of the convenience, budgeting and safety benefits of the product.

The local knowledge and expertise of Standard Chartered combined with Travelex's extensive expertise in supporting the travelling consumer will ensure that the Chinese traveller is assured of a first class product underpinned by first class support. “

Richard Chang, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Visa Greater China, says: “Visa is strongly committed to bringing new innovative products and services to the China market. China is the world’s fastest growing major electronic payments market. It is also one of the most important outbound tourism markets globally. We have a long standing relationship with the Standard Chartered Bank and are honored to be its partner to introduce ‘Easigo’ to Chinese consumers to meet their growing payment needs when travelling abroad.”

Shanghai is the first city the Bank is launching “Easigo” and more cities will be added soon if the product is well received by Chinese travellers.

- End -

For further information please contact:

Crystal Qian, Head of Corporate Communication, China

Tel: 021 3896 3198

Vivian Zhou, Corporate Communication Manager, China

Tel: 021 3896 3068

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

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

Standard Chartered has a history of over 150 years in banking and is in many of the world's fastest growing markets. It has an extensive global network of over 1,200 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in 56 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas. As one of the world's most international banks, Standard Chartered employs over 40,000 people, representing 80 nationalities, worldwide.

Serving both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers, the Bank combines deep local knowledge with global capability to offer a wide range of innovative products and services as well as award winning solutions.

Standard Chartered is committed to be the Right Partner to all our stakeholders by living its values in its approach to managing its people, exceeding expectations of its customers, making a difference in the communities that we operate in and working with its regulators. The Bank is trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility.

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, three sub-branches (with 1 more to be opened by end of Q1 2006) and four representative offices in China. There are altogether 5 branches in China that have been granted the license for providing RMB banking services to Corporate clients (namely Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing and Xiamen) and Zhuhai and Tianjin now in preparation for the offering of such services.

www.standardchartered.com

About Travelex

Travelex is the world's largest foreign exchange specialist, with offices in 35 countries, nearly 700 retail branches and 16,000 commercial customers. The company's retail branches are located at key airport, seaport and rail locations, in addition to worldwide tourist and business centers. Nearly 40 percent of the world's airline passengers, over 1.3 billion people, pass through airports at which Travelex's business operates. This includes the major gateways at London, New York, Hong Kong, Frankfurt and Sydney. Travelex operates two North American foreign exchange trading floors - located in Toronto and New York City. Travelex is the world's largest non-bank provider of Commercial Foreign Exchange services, one of the world's leading providers of outsourced travel money and one of the world's oldest issuers of Travelers Cheques. In North America, Travelex is also a leading provider of travel insurance products and services.

About Visa in China

Visa is working closely with The People's Bank of China and its Chinese member banks to ensure that the local payments industry fully supports the country's continuing rapid economic development in the years ahead. Visa opened its Beijing and Shanghai offices in 1993 and 1996. Today, Visa has 17 Chinese member financial institutions and five foreign member banks. Up to 30 September 2005, there are more than 8.3 million international Visa cards issued in China, representing almost 70 percent market share. Visa China's Internet address is www.visa.com.cn .