

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2006

## **Standard Chartered Bank Launches “Priority Banking UK Excursion”**

Standard Chartered Bank launches its “Priority Banking UK Excursion” in China today. This Excursion is an innovative development plan targeting the children of Standard Chartered Priority Banking customers. A total of 40 children of such customers will be selected to join a 10-day excursion in the UK, during which they will be able to learn more about the English language and culture in renowned schools, as well as visiting the global headquarters of Standard Chartered Bank in London and the City of London. The exposure and experience in one of the world’s largest financial centres would be invaluable to the participants.

Priority Banking is an exclusive banking and wealth management service that Standard Chartered Bank provides to its valuable customers. With its unique operational platform, exclusive privileges and world-class service delivered by dedicated Relationship Managers and Personal Financial Consultants, Priority Banking customers can have a comprehensive wealth management and financial plan for themselves and their families.

Participants of the “Priority Banking UK Excursion” will be invited to lunch with senior management of the Bank in China, and will also be attached to different departments of the Bank’s headquarters in the country to gain real-life experience in banking.

The selection process will be open and transparent to the public, and yet fulfilled. All children who meet the entry criteria can get an application form and go through an initial test by calling Standard Chartered Bank Service Hotline, logging onto Standard Chartered Bank China Website, or visiting the nearest Standard Chartered Bank branch or sub-branch. Those who pass the initial test will be invited to attend a written and oral test held in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen respectively by the end of May. The tests will focus on basic financial knowledge and communication skills.

All of those who managed to pass the initial test are welcomed to join Standard Chartered Bank's "Priority Banking Young Elite Club". The aim of the Club is to provide continued networking opportunities and career exposure for its members, and to create a forum where they can share financial knowledge and plan for their future career.

Christine Ip, Country Head of Consumer Banking of Standard Chartered Bank China, said, "Apart from growing their wealth and advancing in their careers, our customers in China are most concerned about the education and development of their children. We hope that through our "Priority Banking UK Excursion" – which is a most innovative development program - Standard Chartered can provide China's young elite with learning opportunities in a real-life banking environment, as well as exposing them to an overseas environment. The Program is part of our commitment to contribute to the grooming of talents for the banking and financial industry as a whole, and we are also committed to serve our Priority Banking customers as well as their families with the best of our capabilities."

The "Priority Banking UK Excursion" is organised by Standard Chartered Priority Banking, with the full support from Education & Culture Department of the British Embassy.

- End -

For further information please contact:

Crystal Qian, Head of Corporate Communication, China

Tel: 021 3896 3198

“Priority Banking UK Excursion” Project Team

Tel: 021 3896 3053

Notes to the Editor:

### **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 44,000 people, representing 89 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.

In China, the Bank set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, and has remained in operation throughout the past 150 years. Recently, Standard Chartered Bank has been named as “2005 Best Foreign Bank” by Hexun Web. It has one of the largest foreign bank networks – with ten branches, four sub-branches and four representative offices in China. There are altogether 7 branches in China that can provide full banking services including RMB to corporate clients (namely Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Nanjing, Xiamen, Zhuhai and Tianjin).

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