

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 August 2006

20 Countries to Compete in the First-ever Nations Challenge at the 2006 Standard Chartered Ironman Korea

Zhigang Bai is representing China

(25 August 2006, Seogwipo) - Top athletes from 20 countries across Asia, Africa and the Middle East as well as North America competed in the first ever Nations Challenge, as part of the 2006 Standard Chartered Ironman Korea held in Seogwipo City, Jeju Island today.

Zhigang Bai, the Chinese athlete, who is sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, is representing China to compete in the Nations Challenge. The Challenge combines three sports: 3.8 km swim, 180.2 km bike ride and 42.195 km run.

Zhigang Bai, 45, regards the triathlon training as a challenge to both body and mind. He started participating in triathlons in 2003 and has since completed 10 events. He aims to run 100 triathlons and 100 marathons in his lifetime.

Under the Nations Challenge, countries will be divided into 5 regions and athletes within the same region will compete against each other to be the region's top triathlete. The top finishers in the male and female categories from among the regions will take home the Nations Challenge trophy. Standard Chartered Bank is putting up an additional prize pool of US\$30,000 specifically for the Nations Challenge.

“We are very glad to provide Chinese athlete the great experience to compete with some of the world’s best athletes in an international field. Ironman is the toughest race for a triathlete, and completing the distance is in itself a remarkable accomplishment. We admire Mr. Bai’s strong volition very much, and wish him to achieve excellent result.” said Katherine Tsang, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank China.

“The Nations Challenge will also be a good opportunity to introduce and popularise Ironman in countries like China where the triathlon is a new or developing sport.” she added.

Standard Chartered Bank is the title sponsor of the Standard Chartered Ironman Korea 2006. Ironman Korea Triathlon is an annual event hosted by Seogwipo City and IMG (International Management Group) since 1991 and last year attracted over 1,200 competitors.

- End -

For further information please contact:

Crystal Qian, Head of Corporate Communication, China

Tel: 021 3896 3198

Song Yu, Corporate Affairs Assistant Manager, China

Tel: 010 8518 8838 Ext. 8019

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 consistently 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 with an extensive global network of over 1,200 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in over 50 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 almost 50,000 people, representing over 90 nationalities, worldwide. This diversity lies at the heart of the Bank's values and supports the Bank's growth as the world increasingly becomes one market.

With strong organic growth supported by strategic alliances and acquisitions and driven by its strengths in the balance and diversity of its business, products, geography and people, Standard Chartered is well positioned in the emerging trade corridors of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Standard Chartered uniquely derives over 90 per cent of profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Serving both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers worldwide, 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.

Trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility, Standard Chartered takes a long term view of the consequences of its actions to ensure that the Bank builds a sustainable business through social inclusion, environmental protection and good governance.

Standard Chartered is also committed to all its stakeholders by living its values in its approach towards managing its people, exceeding expectations of its customers, making a difference in communities and working with regulators.

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 eleven branches (Qingdao to be opened soon), five sub-branches and three 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).

For more information on Standard Chartered, please log on to www.standardchartered.com