

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2006

Standard Chartered Bank has submitted both the applications to establish a locally incorporated subsidiary bank in China and for Retail RMB Business License today

(Shanghai, 16 November 2006) Standard Chartered Bank (“Standard Chartered”) submitted the application to establish a locally incorporated subsidiary bank in China as well as the application for Retail RMB business license to the China Banking Regulatory Commission (“CBRC”) this morning.

In line with China’s commitment to WTO, the CBRC has announced the new set of foreign banking regulations today. These new regulations form an important part of the government’s strategy to open up the banking market, allowing foreign banks access to the local currency (RMB) retail market and subjecting them to the same regulatory requirements as that of local banks.

Standard Chartered has strong expertise in many of the Consumer Banking products in their network, including mortgages, wealth management, credit cards and personal loans. With the capability of providing RMB business to local individuals upon regulatory approval, the Bank is committed to extend their product suite and offer more choices to the consumers in China.

Katherine Tsang, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank China, said, “We are pleased about the announcement as we are actively interested in the

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opportunity to locally incorporate our business in China. We have submitted our applications to the CBRC today, and we look forward to their favourable response. With this new set of regulations and the local incorporation of foreign banks, we expect the Chinese banking market to grow and mature as a whole, benefiting all customers – individual or corporate - ultimately. Once our applications are approved, we can provide our customers in China with a wider product suite and a broader network that are tailored to their financial needs.”

Subject to the approval of its applications and the granting of RMB license for local consumers, Standard Chartered has plans to continue to expand its network and launch a wider range of consumer banking products in 2007. At present, the Bank has one of largest foreign bank networks in China with 20 outlets (including 11 branches, 6 sub-branches and 3 representative offices) in 14 cities across the country. It is scheduled to open two additional sub-branches before the end of 2006, and to double the number of existing outlets within the next 18 months. To cope with the rapidly increasing demand for self-service facilities, the Bank will install at least 20 ATMs in key cities over the next few months. Private Banking Services is also expected to be launched in 2007.

Mervyn Davies, Group Chief Executive, Standard Chartered Bank, added, “We are very excited about this opportunity to incorporate our business in China, and welcome further developments in the banking system as we continue to rapidly grow our franchise in the world’s fastest-growing major economy.”

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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.

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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), six 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:
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