

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANDARD CHARTERED PRE-TAX PROFITS RISE 31% AND INCOME 33% IN FIRST HALF

Building a balanced business of scale in China

5 August 2008, SHANGHAI – Standard Chartered PLC today delivered another record performance for the first half year ended 30 June 2008 with operating profit before tax (OPBT) rising 31 per cent to US\$2.59 billion and operating income increasing 33 per cent to US\$6.99 billion. Normalised earnings per share increased 19.6 per cent to 120.4 cents. The Board today declared an interim dividend of 25.67 cents per share, up 11 per cent.

Mr. Peter Sands, Group Chief Executive, said:

“I am very proud of what we have achieved in terms of both financial performance and strategic progress, despite the turmoil in financial markets. The Bank is in great shape - we are strongly positioned to weather the economic uncertainties and superbly placed to capture opportunities.”

Operating income for the Group as a whole in China increased 24% to \$306 million in the first six months of 2008.

Ms Katherine Tsang, CEO and Executive Vice Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited (“Standard Chartered China”) commented:

“With our 150 years of operating history in China, this is a market that we understand and we are committed to. We have taken a deliberate decision to continue to invest in China in expanding our branch network, in developing our people and products, as well as in building our technology infrastructure. As a result, we have seen very strong income growth across both Consumer Bank and Wholesale Bank businesses. I’m confident that with our innovative products and quality services, Standard Chartered China will continue to go from strength to strength.”

Standard Chartered China currently has a network of 46 outlets and over 140 ATMs. Among other consumer bank products, just two weeks ago, the Bank launched a debit card in China. In 2008, Standard Chartered China was named the “Best Foreign Retail Bank in China” by the Asian Banker, and was awarded the “The Best Trade Finance Bank in China” by Economic Observer.

- End -

For further information please contact:

Eva Chow
Head of Corporate Communications
Tel: (8621) 3896 3198
E-mail: Eva.Chow@standardchartered.com

Notes for editors:

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

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, ranks among the top 25 companies in the FTSE-100 by market capitalisation. The London-headquartered group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world’s most dynamic markets, leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its income and the number of employees have more than doubled over the last five years primarily as a result of organic growth and supplemented by acquisitions.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank in its markets through leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders. The group now employs over 73,000 people, representing 115 nationalities, in more than 1,700 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with balanced income derived from both Wholesale and Consumer Banking.

The group is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity.

In China, the Bank set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858, and has remained in operation throughout the past 150 years. Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited is one of the first banks to incorporate officially in China in April, 2007. This demonstrates the Bank’s commitment to the China market, and its leading position as a foreign bank in the banking industry.

Standard Chartered China has one of the largest foreign bank networks – with 14 branches, 30 sub-branches and 2 representative offices in China (*approval for the Dalian representative office to upgrade to a branch and the establishment of the Nanchang branch have been granted. Preparation is in progress*). In 2008, Standard Chartered China was crowned as the Best Foreign Retail Bank in China by the Asian Banker. In 2007, Standard Chartered China was granted the “Top 10 Financial Institution Award” and the “Best SME Services Award” by China CFO World, and has been named the “China’s Best Corporate Citizenship” by 21st Century Business Herald.

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