

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Standard Chartered named best internet bank in Asia, Africa and the Middle East**

*Straight2Bank highlighted for special congratulations*

19 November 2008, Shanghai – Standard Chartered Bank's excellence in online banking has been congratulated once again by Global Finance Magazine, which awarded it best corporate / institutional internet bank in Asia, Africa, Middle East as well as for Trade Finance Services. This builds on the multiple wins Standard Chartered achieved in the Global Finance Best Internet Bank Awards in September 2008 where it was awarded best-in-class for 11 categories.

Standard Chartered won the awards based on the strength of their strategy for attracting and serving online customers and the breadth of the products they offer. Straight2Bank, which offers the most comprehensive range of products on a single interface, was especially congratulated in the awards. It is the only internet based banking solution which extends to their clients' eco-systems and allows for a common workflow between their clients' trading partners who may not be direct clients of the bank.

Standard Chartered endeavours to keep strengthening its online capabilities and on delivering flexible and convenient solutions for its clients. Straight2Bank, which was launched in May 2007, is proof that Standard Chartered continues to undertake increasingly sophisticated transaction, hedging and information services or access a range of scalable, leading-edge working capital solutions to suit their segments, products and geographies.

Commenting on the awards, Peter Sun, Head of Transaction Banking, Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited, said,

“We are delighted once again to be recognised for our strengths in online banking. In particular, Straight2Bank represents our commitment to supporting our clients with the online capabilities they need to move and grow online. We are thrilled with this recognition and the positive feedback from our clients. Particularly now, in the unsteady economic climate, clients need the reassurance that no matter where they take their business cross border, the same standards of quality and consistent customer service apply.”

In China, since the launching of Straight2Bank last May, all of Standard Chartered Bank’s corporate and institutional clients of electronic banking have successfully migrated to Straight2Bank. With the strong Info Manager function, Straight2Bank has enabled the clients to centrally monitor and manage their global financial status, hence it has received extremely warm welcome from Chinese corporates who are developing their businesses overseas.

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**Note to editors:**

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

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both London and Hong Kong stock exchanges, 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 profits 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 for its customers across its markets. The Bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, generated from its Wholesale and Consumer Banking businesses. The Group has around 1,750 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The extraordinary growth of its markets and businesses creates exciting and challenging international career opportunities.

Leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders, 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. It employs 75,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 115 nationalities, of which 60 are represented among senior management.

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 foreign banks to locally incorporate 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 15 branches, 33 sub-branches and 1 representative office in China (*Approval for the Dalian representative office to upgrade to a branch has been granted and preparation is in progress*). In 2008, Standard Chartered China clinched the Asian Banker's Best Foreign Retail Bank in China Award. In 2007, Standard Chartered China won the "Top 10 Financial Institution Award" and the "Best SME Services Award" by China CFO World, together with the "China's Best Corporate Citizenship Award" by 21st Century Business Herald.

For more information on Standard Chartered, please log on [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)

#### **About Transaction Banking**

As part of the Bank's Wholesale Banking business for Corporates and Institutions, Transaction Banking provides Cash Management, Securities Services and Trade Services to clients for and in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The business provides a full suite of transactional products and also serves as a bridge to these markets for clients from the U.S and Europe. A leading provider of Transaction Banking services, some highlights of the Bank's external recognition are as follows:

- Top 4 Cash Management Bank globally in Euromoney's Cash Management Poll
- Top-Rated Sub-Custodian by Global Custodian magazine
- Best Structured Trade Finance Bank by The Asset magazine
- Best Bank for Liquidity Management in Africa by Global Finance
- Best Cash Management Bank in the Middle East by Euromoney magazine
- Custodian of the year (Asia & Australia and Middle East & Africa) by the International Custody and Fund Administration magazine
- Best Sub-custodian Bank Award (for Asia, Middle East, UAE, India, Indonesia) by Global Investor magazine
- Best International Trade Bank (for the Middle East, North Africa, Su-Saharan Africa, India and Singapore) by the Trade Finance magazine

In China, Standard Chartered's Transaction Banking has achieved the following awards in the recent two years:

- CFO World: 2008 "Best Supply Chain Finance"
- The Economic Observer: 2007 "Best Trade Finance Bank in China"