

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANDARD CHARTERED CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS FIRST VILLAGE BANK IN CHINA

The Inner Mongolia Helingeer Standard Chartered Village Bank marks many firsts

04 February 2009, Huhhot – Standard Chartered PLC (“*Standard Chartered*” or “the Bank”) celebrated the opening of Inner Mongolia Helingeer Standard Chartered Village Bank Limited (“Helingeer Standard Chartered Village Bank”) today with a grand ceremony in Helingeer.

Helingeer Standard Chartered Village Bank is Standard Chartered’s first village bank – both in China and around the world – and marks the arrival of the first foreign bank to launch operations in Inner Mongolia. The new village bank is an integral part of Standard Chartered’s three-prong strategy for rural finance in China, which focuses on agri-business, intermediaries and direct financing.

Standard Chartered chose to open its first village bank in Inner Mongolia due to the region’s significant number of farmers and businesses engaged in agriculture and farming. The Bank also believes that Inner Mongolia’s strong economic growth potential, which has seen the region’s GDP figures increasing by double digits every year, provides a solid foundation for the Bank to build a sustainable business.

Mr. Jaspal Bindra, CEO Asia of Standard Chartered Bank and Chairman of Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited, said: “The opening of Inner Mongolia Helingeer Standard Chartered Village Bank is a ground-breaking venture in this region, and a major milestone in Standard Chartered’s commitment to enhancing the economic development of China’s rural areas. By providing financial services directly to farmers through our Village Banks, we are helping to support the long-term, sustainable growth of entire communities and local economies.”

With over 150 years of operations in China – as well as experience in rural finance projects across 13 countries – Standard Chartered is confident in working together with financial regulators and local authorities to support the Chinese Government’s ambitions for enhancing development of China’s rural economies.

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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 has one of the largest foreign bank networks – with 15 branches, 34 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, and the "Outstanding Corporate Award of 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Ranking in China" by China Business Network. In 2007, Standard Chartered China won the "Top 10 Financial Institution Award" and the "Best SME Services Award" by China CFO World.

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