

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Standard Chartered and PERDAMI Sign New Agreement to Perform Cataract Surgeries**

*The Bank will sponsor 1,000 free cataract surgeries for the underprivileged*

**Jakarta, 13 April 2011** – Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia today has reaffirmed its commitment to the sustainability programme in eye health by signing a new agreement with PERDAMI (Indonesian Ophthalmologist Association) to perform 1,000 cataract surgeries. The free cataract surgery aimed for the underprivileged people is part of the Bank's sustainability programme in eye health named 'Seeing is Believing' (SiB) with its mission to prevent avoidable blindness.

The collaboration between Standard Chartered and PERDAMI to perform cataract surgery has been effective since 2008 and is now entering the fourth year. For the period of 2011-2012, Standard Chartered will sponsor another 1,000 free cataract surgeries for the underprivileged where the Bank operates, namely in Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya, Denpasar, Palembang, Medan and Makassar. For this year, the activity will begin in Jakarta and to be followed by other cities on regular basis. Aligned with the upcoming Kartini Day celebration, the future cataract surgery will specifically aim for women patient to be commenced on April 21, 2011.

Tom Aaker, CEO Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia says, "Standard Chartered Bank has consistently executed Seeing is Believing programme globally since 2003 and was proven to benefit many people to restore their eye sights. In Indonesia alone, Standard Chartered and PERDAMI have performed this free cataract surgery to more than 3,400 people from the less fortunate background. Through Seeing is Believing programme, we are committed to strive continuously to prevent avoidable blindness as well as to help reduce the number of people with cataract in Indonesia."

Meanwhile, Chairman of PERDAMI Prof. Dr. dr. Nila Djuwita F Moeloek, SpM says, "Cataract is turbidity on eyepiece which mostly experienced by elderly people depend on their health condition and environment factor. However, cataract patients can restore their eye sights through operation and lens implantation. Therefore, we are more than enthusiastic to continue this collaboration with Standard Chartered. The new agreement signing has demonstrated Standard Chartered's long term commitment to positively contribute in enhancing eye health quality of the people."

According to the data from the World Health Organization (WHO), Indonesia is one of many countries with the highest number of people who suffered blindness. Today, there are around 3.5 million people or roughly 1.47 percent of Indonesian population experiencing blindness in both eyes whereas around 50-60 percent of

those numbers are due to cataract. The annual increase in the number of new cataract patient is reaching around 210,000 people per year. Thus, the major causes of blindness in Indonesia are cataract, glaucoma and refractive errors. From those numbers, around 80 percent are in the category of avoidable blindness.

Seeing is Believing is the Bank's sustainability programme that has been carried out globally and has helped over 2.5 million people receive sight-restoring cataract surgery worldwide. Aside from performing cataract surgery, SiB also covers eye checking, free eyeglasses distribution for students and teachers, eye checking for diabetic retinopathy as well as establishing pediatric ophthalmology with its services.

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

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns more than 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for more than 80,000 staff. It 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. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

As one of the oldest banks in Indonesia, Standard Chartered Bank has 148 years of operations dating back to 1863. With 26 branch offices in eight major cities in Indonesia including Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya, Denpasar, Medan, Palembang and Makassar and a network of over 23,000 shared ATMs, making the Bank as one of the international bank with widest geographical footprints in Indonesia. Standard Chartered also invested some shares in Permata Bank.

For more information on Standard Chartered, please visit [www.standardchartered.co.id](http://www.standardchartered.co.id).

### **About Seeing is Believing (SiB)**

Seeing is Believing (SiB) is a global initiative to help tackle avoidable blindness, and is a collaboration between Standard Chartered and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) (registered charity, No. 1100559). IAPB is the leading umbrella organisation for NGOs working in the field of eye care. Together with the World Health Organisation, it launched 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight', a global campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020.

To date, Seeing is Believing has raised over USD17 million for blindness initiatives and plans to invest a further USD20 million by 2014. Seeing is Believing is the single largest contributor to the development of VISION 2020 programmes through IAPB.

Seeing is Believing funds leading eye-care NGOs to provide marginalised populations access to complete services from cataract surgery, to preventative treatment and specialised medical interventions. Projects are selected according to strict criteria to ensure they address need and have a sustainable impact, beyond the life-span of project funding.