

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered Bank Holds Free Cataract Surgery in Five Provinces Simultaneously

The Bank sponsors 170 cataract surgeries for the underprivileged in Medan

Medan, 08 October 2011 – In light of celebrating the upcoming World Sight Day, Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia held free cataract surgery in five provinces in Indonesia today. Aside from Medan representing North Sumatera, the cataract surgery was also held simultaneously in West Java, Central Java, East Java and DKI Jakarta. The cataract surgery in Medan was held in Lions Hospital on Jl. Tengku Amir Hamzah to restore sights of 170 patients from Medan and its surrounding areas, such as Prapat and Kisaran. A number of Standard Chartered staff in Medan were also involved as volunteer to help during the preparation of pre and post surgery.

The free cataract surgery for the underprivileged people was part of Standard Chartered Bank sustainability programme in eye health named 'Seeing is Believing' (SiB) with the mission to prevent avoidable blindness. Collaborating with PERDAMI (Indonesian Ophthalmologist Association), Standard Chartered has conducted the cataract surgery since 2008. For the period 2011-2012, Standard Chartered would sponsor 1,000 free cataract surgeries throughout Indonesia.

Tom Aaker, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia said, "Blindness and vision impairment are serious health issues worldwide and especially in Indonesia. Suffice to say, Indonesia is ranked as the second most visually impaired country in the world. That's why one of our supports in Indonesia is in the area of eye health care through Seeing is Believing programme. And in light of the upcoming World Sight Day, we hold the cataract surgery in five provinces simultaneously. Through Seeing is Believing programme, we have a long term commitment to prevent avoidable blindness and help to reduce cataract patients in Indonesia."

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.

Standard Chartered Bank has conducted Seeing is Believing programme globally since 2003. Aside from performing cataract surgery, the SiB programme also covers eye checking and free eyeglasses distribution for students and teachers in junior high schools (SMP) in various cities, eye checking for diabetic retinopathy as well as establishing pediatric ophthalmology with its services.

Through Seeing is Believing, Standard Chartered has helped over 2.7 million people across the globe to restore their eye sights through cataract surgery. In Indonesia alone, Standard Chartered and PERDAMI have performed the free cataract surgeries to more than 3,700 people since 2008 until present in over 15 cities across the country. Apart from cataract surgery, Standard Chartered has various activities to be held in commemorating World Sight Day that falls on October 13, 2011. The activities will vary from eye checking and 531 eyeglasses distribution to three public junior high schools (SMP) in Jakarta on October 17, 2011 to fundraising for the SiB programme through annual Standard Chartered Half Marathon (21KM) and 10KM to be held on Oktober 30, 2011.

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