

press release

Standard Chartered Restores Sights of Hundreds of Students and Teachers in World Sight Day

Jakarta, 17 October 2011 – Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to furthering efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness by distributing free eyeglasses to students and teachers in three Secondary Schools in the Jakarta area today. The Bank supports the promotion of eye care awareness through its global Seeing is Believing initiative. In partnership with Helen Keller International – Indonesia, the Bank distributed 515 pairs of eyeglasses to Secondary School students and teachers in SMPN 101, Palmerah, SMPN 38, Tanah Abang and SMPN 42, Pademangan.

As part of efforts to commemorate World Sight Day, Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia volunteers presented spectacles prescriptions, administered eye checks and distributed eyeglasses to students and teachers. Chairman of Standard Chartered PLC Sir John Peace was among the group of volunteers at the schools. The event was also graced by Indonesian Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Linda Amalia Sari Gumelar.

A collaboration between the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness and leading international eye-care NGOs, Seeing is Believing is the Bank's global initiative to tackle avoidable blindness. The programme was started by Standard Chartered employees in 2003 as a way of celebrating the Bank's 150th anniversary. Since 2003, USD37 million has been raised for eye-care initiatives, half of which has been donated by Standard Chartered through dollar-for-dollar matching.

Sir John said, "Tackling avoidable blindness is one of the most cost-effective health interventions with 80 percent of blindness is preventable or treatable. Seeing is Believing has provided access to eye-care services to more than 25 million people since it was launched in 2003. It has helped fund more than 2.7 million eye surgeries, training for more than 58,000 health care workers, 3.4 million eye-care screenings and the distribution of 126,000 pairs of eye glasses across Asia, Africa and the Middle East."

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 sustainability efforts in Indonesia is focused on eye health care. Through the Seeing is Believing programme, we have donated over USD2 million, which has funded free cataract surgeries, diabetic retinopathy treatment and eyeglasses distribution across Indonesia."

In Indonesia, Standard Chartered Bank partners with Helen Keller International to provide refractive error checking and free eyeglasses for the needy. Over the last two years, the Bank has distributed 13,466 eye glasses to students and 3,627 for teachers in secondary schools across Indonesia.

Standard Chartered's 85,000 employees around the world are a key driver of the Seeing is Believing programme. Many employees use their paid volunteering leave to participate in the programme by raising awareness of eye-care issues in local communities - reinforcing the Bank's 'Here for good' brand promise.

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For further information please contact:

Sonitha Poernomo

Country Head of Corporate Affairs

Standard Chartered Bank

Tel: 021- 57999000 Fax: 021-5719625

CorporateAffairs_Indonesia@sc.com

Note to Editors:

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