

press release

Standard Chartered's Women Win at Work

5 May 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka – Standard Chartered was proud to launch its first women's empowerment network "W3"– Women Win at Work – at a gala gathering graced by not only leading women from various spheres of enterprise but also by the Honourable Minister Eran Wickramaratne, MP, Deputy Minister of State Enterprise Development. Justice Shiranee Tillekewardene was the Chief Guest at the launch. W3 aims to support the advancement of women at Standard Chartered by providing professional and personal support, guidance and opportunities.

Deshika Rodrigo, Head of Human Resource, Standard Chartered, speaking at the event reiterated the need for a continued call to action, stating that: "Whilst women represent half the world's population they represent less than half of reported economic activity. There are about 865 million women around the world today who have the potential to contribute so much more. Moreover, when women do participate, often they tend to be in low-paying jobs. Therefore, we see that women are the main victims of extreme poverty in the world today making up 70% of the billion people existing on less than US\$1 a day."

In Sri Lanka although women comprise approximately 57% of the population, only 33% are economically active; the majority consisting of garment workers, tea pluckers and domestic workers in the Middle East. Of women in the workforce, less than 10% are estimated to be in management. Global trends are increasingly acknowledging that greater female participation in the working population has a positive impact on economic growth. The elimination of gender gaps in economic participation can lead to big jumps in income per capita; the crucial measure of economic wellbeing.

Standard Chartered firmly believes that change begins at home – the bank’s gender balance is almost 50:50. The Bank also has many significant initiatives that address possibly the greatest challenge faced by working women: motherhood. To enable women to continue working after becoming mothers the bank provides a crèche, 100-days of maternity leave, and paternity leave, as a result of which, the number of female employees who resign for this reason is zero.

W3 will contribute additionally to support the retention and advancement of women at Standard Chartered by providing a source of social support and contacts across the bank, professional development opportunities, and the network will organize events and activities to contribute towards this mission both within the bank as well as by reaching out to external stakeholders and partners.

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Note to Editors

Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with around 86,000 employees and a 150-year history in some of the world’s most dynamic markets. We bank the people and companies driving investment, trade and the creation of wealth across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, where we earn around 90 per cent of our income and profits. Our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

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