

Press Release

Feb 24, 2014

[Standard Chartered Bank to fund USD 1 Million for an eye project through Tilganga under its Seeing is Believing program](#)

Standard Chartered Bank has agreed in principle to fund a major expansion project by Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology (TIO). Subject to final contract, the Bank has agreed to grant USD 1,000,000 to fund the TIO's project titled 'Upgrading the facilities at District Community Eye Centres (DCEC) for sustainable eye care in rural and semi-urban Districts' covering the areas Bhaktapur and Nuwakot districts for the period 2014 to 2018. The project aims to reduce avoidable blindness by developing a surgical facility in rural and semi-urban areas.

The objective of the project is to construct two permanent eye centres in two districts, upgrade Bhaktapur District Community Eye Centre (DCEC) into Secondary Level Eye Centre (SLEC) and upgrade Nuwakot DCEC into a periodic surgical facility. The project also aims to create an awareness of eye care among school teachers through training program; train 750 primary school teachers on basic eye care; screen school children and supply 3,810 spectacles and provide cataract surgery service to people in need through cross-subsidy model.

Sir Thomas Harris, Vice Chairman -Asia, Standard Chartered Bank, handed over the letter of intent to this effect to Dr. Sanduk Ruit, Director, TIO amidst the presence of Chief Executive Officer and senior officials of the Bank and TIO on 24 February.

On the occasion, Sir Harris stated "Standard Chartered is honoured to be associated with the work of Tilganga, a world class facility for dealing with avoidable blindness. This support of one million dollars is a part of the Bank's Seeing is Believing programme which has a target of raising USD 100 million for the prevention of avoidable blindness."

It may be recalled that the Bank had earlier extended a financial support of USD 1 Million to the Biratnagar Eye Hospital (EREC-P) under the Groups' Seeing Believing Phase IV program.