



# press release

2 March 2017

## **Standard Chartered Bank supports Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in support of its Seeing is Believing initiative**

Standard Chartered Bank Nepal has handed over an amount of NPR 783,152 to Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology (TIO). The funding is part of a financial grant of USD 1.0 million (NPR One Hundred million only) agreed earlier by the Bank for funding a major expansion project by (TIO). The project aims to reduce avoidable blindness by developing a surgical facility in rural and semi-urban areas.

The objective of this 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.

At a special function organised in the Bank today, Joseph Silvanus, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Nepal Limited handed over the cheque to Nabin Rai, Project Manager of TIO.

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.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Seeing is Believing**

- Seeing is Believing is the Bank's global initiative to tackle avoidable blindness and visual impairment.
- Launched in 2003, Seeing is Believing (SiB) is a collaboration between Standard Chartered, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and leading international eye health organisations.



- Standard Chartered has committed to raise USD100million between 2003 and 2020 for Seeing is Believing through fundraising and the Bank's matching funds. From 2003 to December 2016, USD92.8million has been raised.
- Funds raised for Seeing is Believing are invested in eye health projects that range from providing comprehensive eye care in low and middle-income countries to building innovative eye health delivery solutions.
- In 2013, Standard Chartered extended its support to eye health by committing USD20million to support the work of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust towards eliminating avoidable blindness.