

press release

Standard Chartered Launches ASEAN Sustainability and Community Engagement Month

Bank reaffirms commitment to support local communities across region

3 October 2014, Bangkok – Standard Chartered Bank will engage with communities across ASEAN in the month of October to help raise awareness of health and education issues that may have an impact on the region’s goal to foster Sustainable Economic Growth.

Standard Chartered, which has 17,000 staff in the region, is the only international bank that has a presence in all ten ASEAN markets. The initiative will see its employees engaging in community development efforts across the ASEAN region.

The Bank champions the importance of financial education for SMEs and youth, as well as the need to address health issues like avoidable blindness and HIV across its footprint of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

When business owners and the young have limited access to finance and education, society suffers as economic and social opportunities are restricted. Providing access to financial education to these groups can boost job creation, raise income and reduce financial vulnerability.

Similarly, health concerns like visual impairment and HIV diminish the quality of life for individuals and can negatively impact economic growth. The Bank has strived to help address these issues through Seeing is Believing – the Bank’s global initiative to tackle avoidable blindness and visual impairment, Living with HIV – a global HIV and AIDS education programme that aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections and reduce the stigma associated with HIV. These efforts are driven by employee volunteering.

“Standard Chartered’s brand promise is to be Here for good and we believe we can demonstrate that by playing an active role in communities by helping to tackle issues that may hinder sustainable social and economic development. This is important because we believe that

the long term success of our business depends on the health and prosperity of the communities in which we operate.” said **Lim Cheng Teck, Chief Executive Officer, ASEAN.**

In Thailand, some of the activities being organised by the Bank include staff volunteers conducting Financial Education and Living with HIV awareness training for youths in Bangkok. The Bank will also be supporting with its global corporate client McDonald’s to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charity at its fun run on 12 October at Vachirabenjatas Park in Chatchucak. Standard Chartered will be sponsoring a “dunking booth” to lend support to this worthwhile cause. Additionally, the Standard Chartered sponsored Lampang Eye Foundation mobile eye care van will be conducting eye checks in rural communities along the Thai-Myanmar border.

“We are proud to have been in Thailand for 120 years and we are committed to contributing to the sustainable economic growth of the Kingdom. Sustainability sits at the heart of our business strategy and it guides everything we do. This can be seen in the way we provide financial services to clients, the way we run our Bank and in the way we support the development of the local community. Our volunteering efforts exemplify how we utilize our financial expertise to address a significant local issue and bring our Here for good brand promise to life.”, said **Lyn Kok, President and CEO for Thailand and the Greater Mekong Sub-region.**

Key activities taking place in other ASEAN countries in October include:

Brunei: The Bank will organise a charity auction to raise funds for Seeing is Believing; Staff will also be engaging with the elderly at a Senior Citizen day-care centre in Lambak.

Indonesia: The Bank will organise a series of sporting events to spread awareness of eye health in the community. Around 2000 staff, members of the media and the local Seeing is Believing partner will participate in the programme. Activities include a fun walk, a bike ride and Lomba bakiak, lomba balap karung competitions.

Malaysia: The Bank will facilitate the donation of 50,000 spectacle frames from Singapore Private Banking clients to the Ministry of Health. The eye glasses will be distributed to underprivileged communities across Malaysia.

Philippines: Staff volunteers will help build homes and deliver HIV awareness, Financial Education and eye-health sessions to children in areas around Manila; Seeing is Believing –

The Bank will partner with the Cataract Foundation of the Philippines to conduct eye screening sessions in schools.

Singapore: In collaboration with the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), an old item Collection Drive will be led by the Bank's Environment Council. The items will be donated to the MINDS Thrift Shop, which provides employment and training opportunities for the intellectually disabled to learn retail and commercial skills.

Thailand: The Bank will be organising Financial Education Train-the-Trainer programmes for school teachers in primary schools in Bangkok; Staff volunteers will conduct Financial Education and Living with HIV awareness training for youths in Bangkok; The Bank sponsored Lampang Eye Foundation mobile eye care van will conduct eye checks at rural communities along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Vietnam: The most physically challenging fundraising event will see staff undertake a 444km "Bike for Sight" challenge from Ho Chi Minh City to Nhatrang. The five day activity seeks to raise funds for Seeing is Believing. The volunteers will also participate in community improvement activities in villages along the route.

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For further information please contact:

Trongjate Namwong – Corporate Affairs
Tel.: 02 724 8024 Fax: 02 724 8019
Trongjate.Namwong@sc.com

Notes to Editors

Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East

Standard Chartered is a leading international banking group. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years. Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, the Group offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities to over 88,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility,

environmental protection and employee diversity. Standard Chartered's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

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