

press release

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK PARTNERS WITH THE VARKEY GEMS FOUNDATION TO DELIVER TEACHER TRAINING

Friday 9 May 2014 - Mukono, Uganda: Standard Chartered Bank has sponsored the Varkey GEMS Foundation Teacher Training Program in Uganda, an initiative that will help train and upskill Ugandan teachers, hence improving on the quality of education in Uganda. This was at a training session in Seeta High School, Mbalala Campus, where over 90 headteachers and teachers from Mukono District were trained. Similar training has already been conducted in Gulu and Mpigi Districts. Standard Chartered invested UGS 63m in the project.

The Varkey GEMS Foundation (VGF) is the philanthropic arm of international education provider, GEMS Education. It set up the pilot training in May 2013, in partnership with Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports and other Ugandan NGOs, because it believed that free training for Ugandan teachers by international educationalists could play a key role in improving the lives of the 65% of Ugandans who, according to World Bank figures, currently live in poverty. The pilot was run by a mix of Ugandan teachers and international ex-teachers who are working as consultants for GEMS Educational Solutions.

Speaking at the closing of the 5 day training session, Ms Margaret Nakitto, the Mukono District Education Officer, pointed out that because of the young and growing population, the need to improve the skills of teachers is acute in Uganda.

'A young population combined with the introduction of free primary in 1997 and free secondary schooling in 2007 has led to a boom in school enrolments in Uganda over the last fifteen years. As class sizes grow, improving the quality of teaching in Uganda is more urgent than ever. The Varkey GEMS Foundation's Teacher Training Program, generously supported by Standard Chartered Bank, will help more Ugandan students reach their potential,' Nakitto said .

At the same ceremony, Herbert Zake, Head of Corporate Affairs, Standard Chartered Bank Uganda said ***'Standard Chartered Bank is pleased to be supporting the Varkey-GEMS Foundation's Teacher Training Program. The pilot scheme showed that it was a proven success. The implementation phase has equally proved to be a success. Thousands of young lives will be transformed if teachers can improve their teaching***

techniques, and teach children in a learner-centred manner. The world is waking up to the economic opportunities that Africa offers. But improving standards in education is essential if the continent is to tackle poverty and accelerate its development. Better educated children are proven to be healthier and wealthier and their own children are more likely to be educated too. So I am delighted that Standard Chartered is supporting the Varkey GEMS Foundation and the Ugandan authorities to deliver high quality teacher training and achieve this dream". Zake said.

The Varkey GEMS Foundation (funded by GEMS Education) has committed significant funds towards the set-up and delivery of the programme in Uganda and is now seeking partners such as and beyond Standard Chartered to support the growth of the program so that its impact can be extended as far as possible.

The VGF Approach combines international best practice in teaching with an understanding of Uganda's local context, supported by on-going Monitoring and Evaluation of the project to ensure quality outcomes are delivered.

While speaking at the closure of the training, Varkey GEMS Foundation's Program Director, Lachlan Mackinnon, said: ***'I am delighted by the support Standard Chartered Bank has offered to help the Varkey-GEMS Foundation provide teacher training in Uganda. Businesses need to do more to support education in Africa – and Standard Chartered is setting the standard for others. We are continuing to seek other corporate partners who will help this vital work, and a fundraising event is scheduled for 31 May 2014. Improving global education is as urgent a cause as improving global health. Teacher quality has been shown to directly correlate to key economic indicators - higher lifetime earnings, low teen pregnancy and female empowerment. Our low-cost teacher training program addresses the common gaps in teaching standards across rural communities.'***

The Varkey GEMS Foundation believes that the greatest impact on student outcomes can be achieved through improving the quality of teaching, and that education frees people from poverty. The Varkey GEMS Foundation Teacher Training Programme has committed to train 250,000 teachers over the next 10 years to underserved communities across the world. Every teacher trains another 10 teachers who in turn teach an average of 50 learners.

Notes to Editors

The Varkey GEMS Foundation Teacher Training Programme develops head teachers and teaching staff to improve student outcomes through better teaching and learning. It trains participants to become trainers and, equipped with new skills and best practice pedagogy, they are empowered to go back to their schools and embed sustainable and long-lasting changes in teaching practices. The program aims to:

- Improve the quality of teaching and active, student-centred learning in Uganda through developing a body of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable both students and teachers to thrive.
- Equip principals and other key staff in schools with the practical skills for change leadership, so that they are able to deliver high quality professional development within their schools.

The Varkey GEMS Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established to improve the standards of education for underprivileged children. For every child enrolled in a GEMS school, the Foundation aims to impact 100 underprivileged children. The Honorary Chair of the Foundation is former US President, Bill Clinton

GEMS Education was founded in 1959, and is an international K – 12 Education Company. Its vision is to be the world’s leading provider of quality education, enriching the lives of millions of children and the communities in which they live. GEMS Education works across both the private and public sectors. In the private sector the company is the largest kindergarten to grade 12 education provider in the world. It educates 130,000 students from over 150 nationalities across four continents. GEMS employs over 11,000 education professionals, specialists and staff from over 80 countries. In the public sector GEMS Education works with governments to lift school performance and improve the standards and expertise of government schools across the globe. GEMS has offices in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States of America, Singapore, India, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kenya, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

About Standard Chartered Bank in Uganda

Standard Chartered Bank Uganda is a member of the Standard Chartered Group. The Bank has been operating in Uganda for over 100 years having celebrated its centenary in August last year. As Uganda’s first bank, established in 1912, it currently has a network of 12 branches and 30 ATMs spread across the country. The Bank employs over 500 people. Standard Chartered’s core businesses in Uganda are in Retail Clients and Corporate and Institutional Banking products and services.

Standard Chartered is committed to the community in Uganda through various community relations programs, working closely with the Ministry of Health, Uganda Red Cross, Sight Savers International, World Vision and Water Aid. The Bank’s philanthropic work in Uganda was recognized when we won the awards below;

- Bank of the Year” 2012 in Uganda – Financial Times - The Banker - Bank of the Year

- *Euromoney Best Bank in Uganda 2009 & 2010*
- *EMEA Finance Best Bank in Uganda 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013*
- *Best Bank in Quality Standards by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards 2013*
- *Best in CSR 2013 – Health (Seeing is Believing) by The Uganda Chapter on Corporate Social Responsibility*
- *Tumaini Best Corporate Award 2013*
- *Public Opinions Uganda Responsible Investment Best Bank 2013*
- *Consumer Insights; Best Bank in customer service 2009*

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