

# press release

## **Standard Chartered Vietnam and Korea join hands for Seeing is Believing project**

**29 October 2012, Hanoi, Vietnam** – Mr. Richard Hill, President and CEO of Standard Chartered Korea Financial Group and Standard Chartered Bank Korea (SCBK), is in Vietnam for a two day visit to get hands on experience of the activities in Vietnam of Seeing is Believing (SiB), the Bank's global initiative to tackle avoidable blindness. This visit is a part of the twinning project between Standard Chartered Bank Vietnam and SCBK under which SCBK has raised US\$500,000 for the latest SiB programme in Vietnam.

Mr. Hill visited on 29 October the "Future" school for the disabled children in District 5, Ho Chi Minh City where local doctors provided eyes screening for nearly 120 school children. He was joined by Louis Taylor, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Vietnam and volunteers from the Bank.

Mr. Hill said: "Korea's rapid development has allowed it progress from a donation-receiving country to become a donation-giving country. In this spirit, Standard Chartered Korea is extremely pleased to be able donate funds for Seeing is Believing projects in Vietnam, a country where ties with Korea continue to grow and strengthen. I'm especially proud of our employees in Korea for their fund-raising efforts, demonstrating the passion of our people and the strength of teamwork."

The funds raised from Korea will be matched by the Bank which makes a total US\$1 million donated by the efforts of SCBK for SiB in Vietnam. These funds will be used for the new fifth phase of SiB in Vietnam which aims to expand our reach to unprivileged children in the remote areas in Vietnam.

Mr. Louis Taylor said: "I am completely overwhelmed by the phenomenal efforts of our colleagues in Korea in supporting the people in Vietnam. I am delighted that we not only play an active role in contributing to the robust trade and investment relations between Korea and Vietnam but also in helping to promote people to people links between the two countries. This meaningful cross border project is a great example of the Bank's strong commitment of bringing to life our brand promise - Here for good".

Recently, over 15,000 employees of Standard Chartered and their family members gathered in Everland, Korea's popular theme park, for the Standard Chartered 'Here for good' celebrations – the largest employee event organized by Standard Chartered Korea. This employee event marked the finale of 'The Beautiful Journey' – a 566km nation-wide bicycle journey over six days with 400 people, organized by Bank employees to raise funds for SiB. Mr. Taylor was in Korea to join Mr. Hill in the final part of 'The Beautiful Journey'. Mr. Richard Hill also took on an added challenge of performing live opera at the celebratory event to raise further funds.

During his stay in Vietnam, Mr. Hill also visited a number of key Korean companies and met several high profile Korean clients. Vietnam is currently considered a highly competitive manufacturing base and many Korean companies are expanding their investment in Vietnam because of its production and export advantages.

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## Notes to Editors

### Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam) Limited

In Vietnam, Standard Chartered's history can be traced back to 1904 when the Bank opened its first branch in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City).

Following the official approval from the State Bank of Vietnam, effective 1 August 2009, Standard Chartered commenced operations in its locally incorporated entity – Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam) Limited. Local Incorporation was an important milestone in Standard Chartered's development in Vietnam.

Standard Chartered now has three branches and employs over 850 staff. The Bank provides a full of suite banking products and services for corporates, financial institutions, small and medium enterprises and individuals.

Standard Chartered brings its international expertise and experience in other growing markets to Vietnam, where it actively contributes to the development of the banking and finance sector in the country. The Bank also plays an active role in the Vietnamese community and has demonstrated this through many social and charitable activities.

For more information, please visit: [www.sc.com/vn](http://www.sc.com/vn) and [www.facebook.com/standardcharteredVN](https://www.facebook.com/standardcharteredVN)

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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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