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STANDARD CHARTERED BANK PROMOTES AWARENESS ON WORLD AIDS DAY

Staff volunteers in renovation of ‘HIV AIDS Education House’ at Pegangsaan Area, Central Jakarta

1 December 2010 - Standard Chartered Bank is marking World AIDS Day by urging communities to focus on HIV awareness to combat further spread of the killer virus, which remains one of the greatest global health challenges. On top of this, Standard Chartered Bank’s staff is also volunteers in the renovation of HIV AIDS Education house or a recovery house partnering with Nurani Dunia, located at Tambak Kali, Pegangsaan - Central Jakarta.

According to the latest data from the Ministry of Health of Indonesia, the number of HIV infected in Indonesia has increases from 93 thousand in 2009 to 130 thousand in 2010. This significant increase shows that the country is in need of HIV education on how the virus is spread. Globally, Standard Chartered Group has been partnering with Clinton Global Initiative since 2007 and until today has educated 1.4 million people on HIV awareness.

CEO Standard Chartered Indonesia, Tom Aaker said, “We believe that it is important to build more awareness on HIV AIDS in Indonesia. With the number of HIV infected is rising annually and in the absence of a cure or vaccine, the only hope of tackling HIV is to educate people on ways to avoid contracting the virus in the first place – or passing it on if they are HIV positive. Across the Standard Chartered network, in every market that we operate, we always aim to play a significant role in improving public awareness of HIV Aids including Indonesia.”

There is growing evidence that prevention programmes are working, with the World Health Organisation and UNAIDS this month reporting a 17 per cent decline in new infections globally over the past 9 years. Since 2001, new infections have declined 15 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, 25 per cent in East Asia and 10 per cent in South and South East Asia. However, prevalence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is on the rise.
Whilst the latest findings are encouraging, the rate of new infections is still very high at 7,400 per day. In the absence of a cure or vaccine, education remains key to tackling the spread of the virus, by providing people with the facts to make safe lifestyle choices.

Around 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV, and this increase (compared to 33.2 million in 2007) can be attributed to continued high levels of new infection as well as the beneficial impact of improved access to Anti-retroviral treatment. Whilst it is good news that less people are dying from AIDS related illnesses (5,500 daily, compared to 5,700 in 2007), for every two people treated, five people become newly infected.

Since last year, Standard Chartered has further expanded the reach of Living with HIV with the launch of www.vir.us, with interactive web-learning modules which deliver HIV and AIDS education in a fun and engaging format. The site was developed to reach 15-24 year olds, who account for 40 per cent of all new infections. According to a survey conducted by the Bank, 80 per cent of young people use the internet to research sexual health issues. The website is the first of its kind and is presented in 12 languages including in Bahasa Indonesia.

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About Living with HIV:
Standard Chartered Bank’s best practice Living with HIV program began as an internal workplace HIV education campaign before it was rolled out to local communities. The success of the Bank’s community investment is largely due to the varied partnerships—with business, foundations and academic institutions—that allowed the company to bring its workplace program to scale effectively.

Through collaboration with other organizations, the Bank aims to educate one million people about HIV and AIDS by 2010, using resources, models and tools—including an online e-learning module and website, www.vir.us —that the company has developed during ten years of experience conducting HIV education for its employees. The HIV education tools are available in 10 languages, and Living with HIV uses a volunteer network of “HIV Champions” who educate their peers about HIV—including components on reducing stigma and encouraging people to get tested for HIV.

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

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world’s most dynamic markets and earns more than 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.
With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for more than 80,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. The Bank’s heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, ‘Here for good’.

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