

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered launches Singapore's first HIV awareness programme for migrant workers

5 April 2009, Singapore – Standard Chartered kicked off its '*Living with HIV*' education programme for migrant workers in partnership with the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME) to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS amongst the migrant community in Singapore.

There are approximately a total of 760,000 migrant workers¹ working in industries such as construction, shipyard, manufacturing and services, of which about 23 per cent are domestic workers. This programme will first focus on educating the domestic workers.

The Bank will partner HOME to train 25 volunteers who will in turn deliver peer-to-peer education workshops for these migrant workers.

In the past 25 years, over 30 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses. There are currently more than 33 million people living with the HIV virus and there are 6,800 new infections daily. Globally, women account for half of all HIV infections—this percentage has remained stable for the past several years². With no cure or vaccine for HIV, education is key to prevention of new HIV infections.

¹ Source: http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_308587.html

² Source: http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2008/20080715_fs_regions_en.pdf



Ray Ferguson, Regional CEO, Southeast Asia and HIV Ambassador, Standard Chartered, said:

“It is absolutely critical for us as a company to help educate people on HIV and AIDS for the sake of the communities where we do business. We are constantly looking at ways to reach out to more people and work with partners to develop sustainable programmes, and maintain a healthy and strong workforce in Singapore.

Standard Chartered is happy to share our knowledge and expertise in our approach to dealing with HIV/AIDS and raising awareness among the community.”

Bridget Lew, President, HOME, said:

“There are some 180,000 domestic workers working in Singapore. As a host nation, it is important to take the interests of migrant workers into consideration. The Standard Chartered ‘*Living with HIV*’ programme gives us a great opportunity to extend this lead by raising awareness on HIV and investing in this community.”

Standard Chartered is uniquely positioned to be a thought leader on raising awareness of HIV/AIDS. Since 1999, the Bank has been championing the cause which started from a peer education programme that was subsequently rolled out to 75,000 staff across its network. In Singapore, the Bank has reached out to more than 35,000 people in schools and companies.

Standard Chartered is offering these education tools and the expertise of HIV Champions free of charge to partner companies who wish to implement HIV education programmes within their own organisations.

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Note to Editors:

About Standard Chartered

Standard Chartered in Singapore is part of an international banking group with an extensive network of over 1,600 branches and outlets in more than 70 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

Standard Chartered has a history of 150 years in Singapore, opening its first branch here in 1859 and in October 1999 was among the first international banks to receive a Qualifying Full Bank (QFB) license, an endorsement of the Group's long-standing commitment to its businesses in the country.

It serves both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corporate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, securities services, foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance.

The Bank employs over 5,500 people in Singapore and has a network of 18 branches, 28 ATMs, and 6 Priority Banking centres. Standard Chartered is the only international bank to offer NETS service, giving its customers access to EFTPOS at over 17,000 outlets islandwide. The Bank's global businesses - Consumer and Wholesale Banking - are managed out of Singapore, as is its global Technology & Operations function.

To learn more about Standard Chartered's sustainability initiatives, please visit: www.standardchartered.com/sustainability



About HOME

The Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME) is a registered society and charity dedicated to the migrant worker community in Singapore. We work with government agencies, civic groups and other partners through rights advocacy and community awareness building. At the same time, HOME responds to displaced and destitute migrants with welfare programmes that alleviate their plight, as well as empower them with skills training for employability and livelihood development

Our Mission

- To develop research and education on the socio-economics of migration
- To provide social integration services for emigrants and immigrants
- To develop humanitarian assistance for the effects of crisis migration

Our Programmes

- Shelter and food for abused female and male migrant workers
- Helpline/Help desk
- Legal assistance
- Outreach and advocacy through public education, awareness raising, campaigns, and dialogues with partners and other stakeholders
- Training courses for knowledge building and skills enhancement