

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered named Best Regional Retail Business in Asia

*Wins total of 5 awards at Asian Banker's Excellence
in Retail Financial Services 2008 Awards*

Singapore, 20 May 2008 – Standard Chartered Bank has been named Best Regional Retail Business in Asia at The Asian Banker's Excellence in Retail Financial Services 2008 Awards ceremony, held in Bangkok on 16 May 2008. At the same time, Standard Chartered won another four country awards - The Best Retail Bank in Bangladesh, Brunei, Pakistan and Best Foreign Retail Bank in China.

The Asian Banker, a leading industry publication and provider of strategic business and financial information, said in its citation, "Standard Chartered's long-stated policy to focus on emerging markets paid off spectacularly in 2007 as it reported a profits bonanza... Now the fifth largest UK-based bank by market capitalisation, Standard Chartered has grown rapidly in the past few years."

The Asian Banker also noted, "Standard Chartered is now concentrating on deepening customer relationships and leveraging their in-depth local knowledge and extensive cross-border network."

John Small, Chief Operating Officer of Standard Chartered Bank said the Bank was delighted with the awards. He said:

"These awards are an acknowledgement of the outstanding performance and excellent track record of the Consumer Banking team. Standard Chartered Consumer Bank provides innovative financial products and services to over 14

million customers, including individuals and small and medium enterprises (SME's) in Asia, Africa and the Middle-East. Our Consumer Banking business has a strong market foothold, spread across multiple products and multiple geographies, enabling us to focus on continuously improving the benefits and banking experiences of our customers.”

On Standard Chartered winning The Best Regional Retail Business in Asia Award, Phillip Strause, Chairman for The Excellence in Retail Financial Services Programme said, “Standard Chartered Bank’s consumer banking business has been on a steady upward curve and has outperformed its close rivals by winning the evening’s most coveted award – The Best Regional Retail Business in Asia. Strong growth in operating profits, reduced impairment charges, fast-paced organic growth and continued acquisitions, helped Standard Chartered Bank outshine its close competitors.”

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Note to editors

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

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, ranks among the top 25 companies in the FTSE-100 by market capitalisation. The London-headquartered Group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets, leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its income and the number of employees have more than doubled over the last five years primarily as a result of organic growth and supplemented by acquisitions.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank in its markets through leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders. The Group now employs 73,000 people, representing 115 nationalities, in more than 1,700 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The Bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with balanced income derived from both Wholesale and Consumer Banking.

The Group 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.

For more information, please visit: www.standardchartered.com