

PRESS RELEASE

Standard Chartered Bank forms business alliance with Xinhua Finance (Japan) Limited for priority banking customers

Consultation services for business managers considering entry into China, Hong Kong

April 12, 2006 –Standard Chartered Bank today announced it has entered into a business alliance with Xinhua Finance (Japan) Limited¹ to provide consultation services relating to business in China and Hong Kong. The alliance represents a further expansion of the services Standard Chartered Bank is offering through its priority banking business in Japan for high net worth individuals.

Standard Chartered Bank currently offers a wide range of priority banking products - including innovative deposit and investment trust products - as part of its financial advice and investment planning service. The Bank has formed alliances in various areas through which it provides additional services, such as free consultations and advisory services outside the direct scope of its banking operations.

Under the new alliance, company managers considering business expansion or entry into China or Hong Kong will be able to receive a free initial consultation² with Xinhua Finance, which specializes in assisting companies to enter and operate successfully in those markets.

Through forming these kinds of alliances, Standard Chartered Bank will provide its customers with high quality and convenient services, acting as a bridge between customers and appropriate outside specialists enabling the Bank to say 'yes' to an ever-wider range of requests.

Joji Aonuma, Head of Consumer Banking at Standard Chartered Bank, Japan, says, 'One of our strengths is our wide-ranging international network, covering Asia, Africa, India and the Middle East, and many of our customers are business managers who value access to the kind of information that this network can provide. We have entered into this alliance in the belief that finding solutions for customers, even if it is outside our range of expertise, is critical to creating the kind of hotel concierge-style priority banking service that we aim to provide.'

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¹ Please see boilerplate for overview of Xinhua Finance Limited.

² Any subsequent consultations or services will be arranged directly between priority banking customers and Xinhua Finance.

Xinhua Finance (Japan) Limited

Xinhua Finance (Japan) Limited, a subsidiary of Xinhua Finance Limited (TSE Mothers: 9399), was established in July 2000 to provide Chinese financial information and consulting services for business expansion into China. In addition to its database on Chinese corporations, Xinhua Finance (Japan) Limited delivers Chinese stock prices in real time over the internet, and provides Chinese IR/PR support to Japanese companies looking to expand their business into China. The Company is a pioneer in the field of Chinese financial information with a variety of major companies such as the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the Mainichi Shimbun. Xinhua Finance (Japan) Limited is the sales and marketing arm of Xinhua Finance Limited in Japan, selling its core products of indices, ratings, financial news and investor relations services.

For further information, please visit www.xinhuafinance.com.

About Standard Chartered Bank Worldwide

Standard Chartered Bank employs 38,000 people in 950 locations in more than 50 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas. Standard Chartered is one of the world's most international banks, with employees representing 80 nationalities.

Standard Chartered 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.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is in the top 25 FTSE-100 companies, by market capitalisation.

www.standardchartered.com

About Priority Banking

Priority banking combines the personalized advice and support of private banking with the convenience and cost-efficiency of consumer banking, and is available to Standard Chartered Bank's customers in more than 26 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East and Africa. In Japan, priority banking is designed for customers with deposits of upwards of 20 million yen, and is offered with a 5-star hotel concierge service in which a personal manager provides customers with in-depth support to individually structure their assets.

The main financial products offered in priority banking service are foreign currency accounts and mutual funds. Standard Chartered Bank's foreign currency savings products represent a comprehensive revision of the type of service previously available in Japan, with the highest foreign currency savings interest rate available in Japan and zero currency exchange fees. In other markets served by Standard Chartered Bank, such as Hong Kong and Singapore, this kind of foreign currency savings product is an accepted and successful asset management tool for wealthy customers.

About Standard Chartered Bank in Japan and Asia

Standard Chartered Bank opened its first agency office in Yokohama, Japan in 1880, and celebrated the 125th anniversary of its business in Japan on November 1, 2005. The bank employs 170 people at its offices in Sanno Park Tower, Tokyo, of which 94% are Japanese nationals. Standard Chartered continues to grow in Japan, supporting Japanese companies and banks as they invest in Asia, Africa and the Middle East through the provision of wholesale banking, custodial, treasury and trade services. Standard Chartered Bank opened its first retail branch in Japan on July 5, 2005 in Marunouchi, Tokyo.

Standard Chartered is a leading bank in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, combining ongoing organic growth with an acquisition strategy that in the past 12 months has included: Permatta Bank in Indonesia, Korea First Bank in Korea, ANZ Project Finance Business across Asia and the Middle East, and Prime Credit in Hong Kong. Standard Chartered has operated in China for 150 years, and is growing in the Pearl River Delta area and enhancing its Hong Kong base while also expanding in the North by seeking alliances with local banks and via the existing Standard Chartered Bank China Network (comprising seven branches).

Standard Chartered is committed to making a difference to the communities in which it operates, and is running an active CSR programme supporting local organizations working in the area of vision and HIV Aids awareness.

Standard Chartered Bank in Japan

<http://www.standardchartered.com/jp/index.html> (English)

<http://www.standardchartered.com/jp/japanese/index.html> (Japanese)

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