

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Standard Chartered Bank celebrates its 125th year in Japan by participating in the Yokohama Port Festival Parade

- Part of major global fundraising campaign to restore sight to 1 million people
- Honoured with award for most creative float

Tokyo, May 4, 2006—Standard Chartered Bank Japan recently participated in the 54th Yokohama Port Festival International Costume Parade to celebrate 125 years in Japan. In keeping with its corporate motto of “the Right Partner” and its commitment to community welfare, Standard Chartered presented a float and booth to raise awareness of *Seeing is Believing*—their global campaign against preventable blindness, which aims to raise enough money to restore sight to one million people by the end of 2006.

More than 30 volunteers and supporters of *Seeing is Believing* including 5 international schools and the Achilles Track Club Japan (an organization sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank that promotes running for people with disabilities) joined

Standard Chartered employees in this 125th anniversary celebration. The parade was enjoyed by more than 250,000 people along a 3.8 km route that ran through Yokohama’s sparkling Minato Mirai district.



The award winning float design, based on the children’s book “Run with Me”, depicts the whimsical African village of *Seeing is Believing* global ambassador’s Henry Wanyoike. (See About the Standard Chartered Bank Parade Float for more information)

The Standard Chartered Bank *Seeing is Believing* booth—provided courtesy of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry—was stationed along the parade route near the historic Akarenga (Red Brick Warehouse). Various *Seeing is Believing* items were available, based on the “Run With Me” theme, inspired by a children’s book about the life of blind Kenyan marathon Paralympic Gold medallist Henry Wanyoike and his guide runner and childhood friend Joseph Kibunja. The book was edited and translated into Japanese by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado for the *Seeing is Believing* campaign. A pull-out page in the book can be submitted to Standard Chartered Bank for inclusion in a publication about “Good Partners” that will be compiled later this year. All donations raised by Standard Chartered from this event will go towards *Seeing is Believing*.

High-resolution professionally taken pictures are available. Please contact:

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About the Standard Chartered Bank Parade Float

The Standard Chartered Bank Yokohama Parade float was built to celebrate the 125th year anniversary of Standard Chartered Bank's first office in Japan, which opened in the city of Yokohama in 1881. The float design incorporates scenes from "Run With Me", an inspirational children's book about Henry Wanyoike edited and translated into Japanese by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado. Henry Wanyoike, a blind Kenyan runner, is a world marathon record holder for the visually impaired and winner of three Paralympic gold medals. He serves as Global Ambassador for Standard Chartered Bank's *Seeing is Believing* campaign. On the roof of the float are the *Seeing is Believing* wrist bands, representing the wrist bands used by blind runners and their guides, symbolizing the importance of partnership.

About Seeing is Believing

Launched in 2003, *Seeing is Believing* is a major global community programme aimed at helping alleviate the issue of blindness across the globe. There are 37 million blind people in the world with one additional person going blind every 5 seconds and a child every minute, yet 75% of this blindness can be prevented or cured. In partnership with Sight Savers International and VISION 2020 - the international body for the elimination of avoidable blindness - *Seeing is Believing* aims to raise US\$6 million over the next three years, targeting one million sight restorations. In its first year enough money was raised to restore the sight of 56,000 people, exceeding the goal of raising enough to restore sight to 28,000 people by World Sight Day October 9, 2003.

- 75% of blindness is avoidable
- A person goes blind every five seconds and a child every minute
- 161 million people are visually impaired worldwide and 37 million are blind
- 100 million people will be saved from going blind by VISION 2020
- 90% of avoidable blindness occurs in the developing world
- 60% of children die within one year of becoming blind

<http://www.seeingisbelieving.org.uk/>

http://www.standardchartered.com/corporateresponsibility/com_seeing.html (English)

About Standard Chartered Bank in Japan and Asia

Standard Chartered Bank opened its first agency office in Yokohama, and will be celebrating 125 years in Japan on November 1, 2005. The bank employs 170 people and is located in Sanno Park Tower, Tokyo. 94% of employees 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. A new Priority Banking retail branch was launched in Tokyo in July.

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 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 capitalization.

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. It was recently awarded the 2005 UK IR Magazine Award for Best CSR Practice.

Standard Chartered Bank Japan

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www.standardchartered.com (English)

www.standardchartered.com/jp/index.html (English)

www.standardchartered.com/jp/japanese/index.html (Japanese)