

# press release

## **STANDARD CHARTERED NAMED 'BEST BANK FOR ASIA' AT THE BANKER'S 2009 AWARDS**

Tokyo, 8 December 2009– The Banker magazine has named Standard Chartered as 'Best Bank for Asia', in its 2009 'Bank of the Year' awards -- cementing Standard Chartered's position as the one of the leading banking groups across Asia.

Standard Chartered was also awarded 'Best Bank in Hong Kong', 'Best Bank in South Korea', 'Best Bank in Nepal' and 'Best Bank in Brunei' in its 2009 'Bank of the Year' awards.

The five awards reflect both Standard Chartered's roots and expertise in Asia, a key region for the Bank's long-term growth strategy.

The Banker's Bank of the Year Awards are regarded as the industry standard for banking excellence. The winners are judged on their ability to deliver shareholder returns and to gain strategic advantage.

Asia is playing an increasingly pivotal role in leading the global economy out of the financial crisis. Japanese corporations and financial institutions continue to shift attention to the rest of Asia. For example, from 2003-08, its stock of FDI in into industrial economies gained 70%, but in Asia increased 150% (led by India at 526% and China at 220%). On the back of this award, as Standard Chartered enters its 130th year of history in Japan, the Bank is well-positioned to support Japanese companies as they reorient their strategies towards capturing Asian demand.

### **On winning 'Best Bank for Asia' in 2009**

Jaspal Bindra, CEO Asia, Standard Chartered, said:

"We are extremely pleased to receive the Banker Award for Best Bank for Asia. Standard Chartered has been conducting business in Asia for more than 150 years. The key for us has been to remain focused on our strategy – we do business in markets we know, deal in products we understand and engage with clients with whom we have deep relationships. Our strategy has enabled us to emerge strongly from the crisis, and Standard Chartered is well positioned for growth given our presence and expertise in Asia."

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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 London and Hong Kong stock exchanges, 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 profits 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 for its customers across its markets. The Bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, generated from its Wholesale and Consumer Banking businesses. The Group has around 1,750 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The extraordinary growth of its markets and businesses creates exciting and challenging international career opportunities.

Leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders, 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. It employs 75,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 115 nationalities, of which 60 are represented among senior management.

For more information, please visit: [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)

**About Standard Chartered Bank in Japan**

Standard Chartered Bank opened its first agency office in Yokohama, Japan in 1880, and is now celebrating the 129th anniversary of its business in Japan. The Bank employs over 290 people at its branches in Sanno Park Tower and Marunouchi. Its wholesale banking services continue to grow in Japan, supporting Japanese corporate and financial institutions as they invest in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Standard Chartered launched "Priority Banking" on July 5, 2005 to serve a growing demand for wealth management.

For more information, please visit: Standard Chartered Bank, Japan  
[www.standardchartered.co.jp/index\\_english.html](http://www.standardchartered.co.jp/index_english.html)