

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANDARD CHARTERED'S ONLINE CAPABILITIES RECOGNISED AS BEST IN WORLD

Awarded Best-in-Class in 11 Categories including Best Corporate and Institutional Internet Bank

1 September 2008, LONDON – Standard Chartered Bank's excellence in online banking has been recognised by Global Finance Magazine which named the Bank the *World's Best Internet Bank for Africa and the Middle East*. The Bank out-performed the competition in eight markets within Africa and the Middle East to take the top honours for the superiority of its overall online servicing capabilities in Botswana, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Jordan, Qatar and United Arab Emirates

Continuing the winning streak, Standard Chartered was also awarded Best Corporate and Institutional Internet Bank for offering the Best Trade Finance Services and Best Integrated Corporate Bank Site. The Bank also picked up the regional award for Best Corporate Bank.

Standard Chartered was recognised for its strong online client service, broad online product offering and high quality website design and functionality which have underpinned its success in growing its online client base.

Standard Chartered continues to focus on strengthening its capabilities and on delivering flexible and convenient solutions for its clients – whether they are a small enterprise, a multi-national corporation or a financial institution. With Straight2Bank, Standard Chartered's single interface electronic platform launched last year, clients can undertake increasingly sophisticated transaction, hedging and information services or access a range of scalable, leading-edge working capital solutions to suit their segments, products and geographies.

Commenting on the multiple wins, **Neal Livingston**, Global Head of Client Access, Transaction Banking at Standard Chartered Bank said, "Straight2Bank represents our commitment to supporting our clients with the online capabilities they need to move and grow online. We are honoured with this recognition and the positive feedback from our clients who tell us that they are delighted with the flexibility and convenience that a global platform with a standardised interface provides them. In the current economic climate, it is even more important that clients have the ability to manage their risks but are also assured that no matter where they take their business cross border, there are the same standards of quality and consistent customer service. There are also advantages in terms of economies of scale and obvious benefits from a BCP perspective."

Global Finance magazine is regarded as a leading industry publication for the financial services. The magazine celebrated its 21st year of publishing in 2008, has 50,000 subscribers and more than 284,000 readers in over 158 countries.

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Tan Hsueh Mei
Wholesale Banking Corporate Affairs
Tel: +65 67257729 or Mobile: +65 98428620
E-mail: Tan.Hsueh-Mei@standardchartered.com

Corina Blum-Evans
Wholesale Banking Corporate Affairs
Tel: +44 20 7885 7261 or Mobile: +44 78 8169 4437
E-mail: Corina.Blum-Evans@standardchartered.com

Notes to Editors:

About Transaction Banking

As part of the Bank's Wholesale Banking business for Corporate and Institutions, Transaction Banking provides Cash Management, Securities Services and Trade Services to clients for and in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The business provides a full suite of transactional products and also serves as a bridge to these markets for clients from the U.S and Europe. A leading provider of Transaction Banking services, some highlights of the Bank's external recognition are as follows:

- Top 4 Cash Management Bank globally in *Euromoney's* Cash Management Poll
- Top-Rated Sub-Custodian by *Global Custodian* magazine
- Best Structured Trade Finance Bank by *The Asset* magazine
- Best Bank for Liquidity Management in Africa by *Global Finance*
- Best Cash Management Bank in the Middle East by *Euromoney magazine*
- Custodian of the year (Asia & Australia and Middle East & Africa) by the *International Custody and Fund Administration magazine*
- Best Sub-custodian Bank Award (for Asia, Middle East, UAE, India, Indonesia) by *Global Investor* magazine
- Best International Trade Bank (for the Middle East, North Africa, Su-Saharan Africa, India and Singapore) by the *Trade Finance* magazine

About Standard Chartered Bank

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