

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 March 2008

## Standard Chartered Bank Wins SME Recognition Award for the Third Consecutive Year

*The Bank receives SME Sahabat Award from SMI Association Malaysia*

**Kuala Lumpur, Friday, 21 March 2008** – Small Medium Enterprises (SME) are one of the key drivers of the Malaysia's economic growth, accounting for almost 99 percent of the total business establishments in the country. As the oldest bank with over 130 years presence in Malaysia, Standard Chartered Bank is committed to continuously supporting local SMEs not only with financial products and services but also to add value broadly to their businesses.

Over the years, the Bank has established close working partnerships with key industry associations including the SMI Association Malaysia, who recently recognised Standard Chartered Bank with its SME Sahabat Award. This is the third consecutive win for the Bank since 2005.

The Award is presented to corporations/institutions such as government statutory bodies, NGOs, financial institutions or service providers/facilitators which have contributed significantly to the promotion and development of SME in the country.

In accepting the Award recently, Julian Wynter, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad said,

“This award is an encouragement for us to continue our commitment to SMEs in Malaysia and a reflection of our confidence in their tremendous growth potential.”

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“Having deep local knowledge combined with our international expertise, we are able to share valuable insights on economic development, market risks and business tax. Our wide range of innovative banking products and services are closely aligned to the needs of SMEs especially in the areas of cash management, trade, lending and financial market products – important financial solutions that matter to SMEs

“To provide personalised services to our SME customers, we have set up 17 SME Customer Service Centres across the country.”

To assist local SMEs to tap into the international market, Standard Chartered leverages its strong footprint in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as well as with over 150 years of trade experience. In October 2007, the Bank initiated Malaysia-China Trade Corridor Seminar in Guangzhou giving local SMEs a gateway to make connections and build strategic alliances with their counterparts in China. Over 100 SMEs from Malaysia and China attended the seminar. Owing to the success of this maiden effort, the Bank has plans to continue organising similar trade corridors with other ASEAN countries and Africa.

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## **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](http://www.standardchartered.com)

## **Standard Chartered in Malaysia**

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad, a member of the Standard Chartered Group was established in Malaysia in 1875 and locally incorporated on 1 July 1994. As Malaysia's first bank, Standard Chartered leads the way through product innovation, consistent and strong growth performance and sustainability initiatives. It provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services including retail, Islamic and wholesale banking for individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises, corporate and institutions through its network of 37 branches across Malaysia. In 2001, Standard Chartered established one of two of its global shared service centres in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to provide IT support and processing services to the Bank's operations in 15 countries – the first bank in Malaysia to do so. It now houses the biggest software development company in the country, International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM). The other global shared service centre is located in Chennai, India.

Apart from its shared service centres, the Group has also established a wholly owned subsidiary company, Price Solutions Sdn. Bhd. to promote and market Standard Chartered's financial products in Malaysia.

Standard Chartered employs more than 5,000 employees in its Malaysian operations.