

# press release

## Restoring Hope for the Blind

*Scope International's Keratoconus Fund restores sight for two Malaysian youths*

**PETALING JAYA, 21 JULY 2008** – Scope International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Plc., United Kingdom, has helped to restore sight to two Malaysian teenagers, victims of the Keratoconus eye disorder which causes blindness.

Vekineswaree a/p Jayakumar, 18, and Saravanan a/l Subramaniam, 15, who successfully underwent Corneal Keratoplasty surgery at the Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital (THONEH) in June 2008, are the first beneficiaries of Scope International's Keratoconus Fund. The Fund was established through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with THONEH in December 2007. Scope International contributes RM40,000 on an annual basis towards the Fund.

Arif Siddiqui, CIO of Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia, and Head, Global Shared Services Centre Kuala Lumpur, said, *"We are very happy to be able to make a difference in the community, to restore sight to young people, who still have a long future ahead. The Keratoconus Fund is unique as it is made up of personal pledges by Scope International staff, who contribute in cash, or credit money directly into a specified bank account. Money collected from drink vending machines in certain Scope International offices also go into this Fund."*

Dato Dr. Veera Ramani, Medical Director, Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital, said, *"In recent years, there has been a steady increase in Keratoconus cases. Many people are still unaware of this disease and its physical symptoms, which can cause the loss of sight. We*

*are pleased that through this Fund, Scope International has generated public awareness on Keratoconus and will help fund Corneal Keratoplasty surgery for more Malaysians to come.”*

Keratoconus causes progressive thinning of the cornea and is prevalent in children, teenagers and adults in their 20s. The eye disorder arises when the middle of the cornea thins and gradually bulges outward, forming a rounded cone shape. This abnormal curvature changes the cornea's refractive power, producing moderate to severe astigmatism and blurriness of vision. In severe cases, permanent loss of sight is experienced.

The Keratoconus Fund initiative is part of Standard Chartered's global initiative 'Seeing Is Believing' which aims to restore the sight of 10 million people suffering from curable blindness world-wide. By 2010, Standard Chartered will have achieved this objective through 35 projects across 17 countries.

The remarkable success of the first phase of this project has given rise to the second phase, **“Seeing is Believing – A New Vision”** which seeks to invest USD 20 million in sustainable eye-care services for 20 million people across 20 cities. Standard Chartered will work in partnership with leading eyecare NGOs to fund the development of sustainable eye-care services in less-advantaged areas of 20 cities, giving poor, marginalized populations access to cataract surgery, preventative treatment and specialised medical interventions

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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 Global Shared Services Centre, Kuala Lumpur**

Standard Chartered's Global Shared Services Centre in Kuala Lumpur (GSSC KL) is the first Shared Services Hub of an International Bank in Malaysia.

Established in 2001, GSSC KL comprises Scope International Malaysia and IT-365 Malaysia, which are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Standard Chartered Plc., United Kingdom. GSSC KL is a strategic partner to the Standard Chartered Bank globally through the provision of a wide range of value-added and complex services from Software Development and Maintenance to Banking Operations, as well as I.T. and Helpdesk Services.

GSSC KL supports the Group's Wholesale & Consumer Banking operations across 15 countries in Asia and the Middle East. It also assists more than 40,000 Standard Chartered staff in 14 countries across North and South East Asia in terms with I.T. helpdesk services, incident and problem management, change management, data centre operations, I.T. security management and operations, service reporting, technical services, service quality and call centre management.

The largest software development centre in Malaysia is GSSC KL's International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM), Formed in August 2002, ISCM supports the Standard Chartered Group in over 65 countries. ISCM develops and manages the Group's applications such as Core Retail Banking System, Credit Card Management System, Secured Lending, Testing & Configuration Management, Engineering Quality, Channel Wealth Management, Global Release Management, Management Office and Regional Resource Management.

GSSC KL currently employs over 2200 staff and plans to increase its staff strength to 4500 by the year 2011. Standard Chartered has two other GSSCs : in Chennai and Tianjin.

Organizational Structure

