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“MSC MALAYSIA COLLABORATES WITH SCOPE INTERNATIONAL TO FURTHER REVOLUTIONIZE THE ICT AND BANKING INDUSTRIES IN MALAYSIA”

UGRAD–Scope International Programme to tap further into the potential of local ICT talent and enhance employability of fresh graduates

KUALA LUMPUR, August 25, 2008: Graduates in Malaysia now face fiercer competition in job-hunts and often find themselves in unfamiliar territory and inadequately equipped in the early phases of their jobs.

To enhance the employability of fresh graduates in Malaysia and bridge the gap between the supply and demand of local K-Workers, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC) is collaborating with Scope International Malaysia to launch the “MSC Malaysia Undergraduate Apprenticeship and Development (UGRAD)–Scope International Programme” under the MSC Malaysia K-Workers Development Initiative.

The collaborative programme will provide practical training for undergraduates nationwide with the aim of creating and cultivating an industry-relevant talent pool for both the information and communications technology (ICT) and banking industries in Malaysia. The programme represents a means of tapping further into the potential of local ICT talent and as such, will maintain Malaysia’s competitive-edge as a regional ICT hub.

Careers in the ICT and banking industries are among the most sought-after in the Malaysian job opportunities landscape. The programme will not only provide an edge for Malaysian graduates to face the challenges ahead, it will also prepare them for seamless entry into the highly competitive global ICT and banking sectors upon graduation.

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The UGRAD-Scope International Programme is a six-month programme structured around five Specialist Courses from which students have the opportunity to select any one of the following:

- Software and Systems Development
- I.T. Support Services
- Wholesale Banking Operations
- Consumer Banking Operations
- Customer Call Centre Management

In addition to the five Specialist Courses, the programme will also offer two compulsory core modules:

- Business Communications
- Customer Service Excellence

The programme will revolutionize ICT and banking-related courses available at various Malaysian tertiary education institutions, through the provision of regular industry input, as well as the integration of academic lectures with real-time practical training at various business divisions in Scope International.

Dato' Badlisham Ghazali, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MDeC, said "The needs of various industries, particularly the ICT and banking sectors, in Malaysia are changing more rapidly than ever. Graduates need to be kept abreast with the demands of these industries, especially fresh upon graduation and in the midst of seeking job opportunities."

"The UGRAD-Scope International Programme is designed with the objective of providing graduates a cutting edge against competition in the quest for jobs, and also to keep up with the needs and demands of the ICT and banking industries in Malaysia. This is another step for MSC Malaysia in driving the nation's economy towards further growth and advancement," he added.

"Upon successful completion of the programme and assessments, these graduates will have the opportunity to be absorbed as an employee of Scope International and also the opportunity to work in any Standard Chartered office worldwide, based on international assignments, as they progress in their careers," said Arif Siddiqui, CIO Malaysia and Director, Scope International.

"More importantly, the graduates would have obtained intensive "hands-on" and real-time training of world-class standards as required by a leading international bank," he added.

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The success of the programme will provide a boost to advanced skill levels available to the ICT and banking sectors, which in turn will propel the nation's economy forward.

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About MSC Malaysia (www.msc.com.my)

MSC Malaysia is a national initiative spearheaded by the Malaysian Government to promote both the national ICT industry and provide a test-bed for the global ICT industry. MSC Malaysia provides a conducive enabling environment designed to facilitate companies to harness the full potential of ICT and multimedia technologies. With its ideal business environment coupled with the availability of talent resources, the MSC Malaysia has attracted participation from major global ICT companies to develop and host their leading-edge technologies in the designated MSC Malaysia Cybercities. MSC Malaysia also provides the ideal growth environment for Malaysian ICT SMEs to transform themselves into world-class companies.

Come explore the unlimited opportunities of the ICT world by locating in MSC Malaysia and be part of our global network of businesses and connected communities.

About Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC)

Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC) is a unique high powered government-owned corporation, established to facilitate the development and promotion of MSC Malaysia, the premier Malaysian ICT initiative. MDeC is tasked to advise the Malaysian Government on ICT legislation and policies, develop MSC Malaysia as a key growth driver of the economy and set breakthrough standards for ICT and multimedia operations. MDeC also promotes MSC Malaysia locally and globally, as well as supports companies which are located within the MSC Malaysia designated areas.

MDeC works closely with various parties and government agencies to ensure that MSC Malaysia offers a conducive enabling environment for companies to harness the full potential of ICT and multimedia technologies.

ABOUT SCOPE INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

Scope International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Plc., United Kingdom, is the first Shared Services Hub of an International Bank in Malaysia.

Established in 2001, Scope International Malaysia is a strategic partner to the Standard Chartered Bank through the provision of a wide range of services from software and systems development, wholesale and consumer banking operations, as well as I.T. and helpdesk services in up to 70 countries worldwide. The company's International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM) is the largest software development centre in Malaysia. Scope International plans to double its workforce from 2,250 to 4,500 by 2011

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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 offices in 70 countries worldwide and has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

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