

# press release

## Giving the Blind Sight

*Scope International donates RM60,000 for corneal transplants and eye treatment*

**PETALING JAYA, 16 December 2008** – Scope International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Plc., United Kingdom, made its third contribution of RM20,000 to the Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital (THONEH) today to fund corrective eye surgery and treatment for underprivileged Malaysians. In total, since December 2007, Scope International Malaysia has donated RM60,000 to the Hospital to restore sight to blind children and teenagers.

RM40,000 of the contribution has been used by THONEH to fund corneal transplants for two previously blind teenagers, who are now able to see and lead normal lives, as well as purchase a state-of-the-art Corneal Collagen Cross-Linking machine. The Swiss-made UV-X™ System slows down and even halts the thinning of corneas. Due to the availability of this machine, Malaysians who are early sufferers of Keratoconus will no longer require corneal transplants, which cost thousands of ringgit. So far, 28 children and teenagers have benefited from this treatment at THONEH since the purchase of the system. Within the next 5 years, no less than 250 blind or partially-blind Malaysians will have benefited from the machine.

Goh See Wee, Head of the International Software Centre Malaysia, the software development arm of Scope International Malaysia, said,

*“It is a tragedy to live permanently in a world of darkness. The blind patients we have helped are young and still have a lifetime ahead of them. The exuberant joy they experience when they are able to see again and live normal lives is worth every small cent that Scope International has contributed to the community.”*

He added, *“Next year, Scope International has set plans in place to extend our support to the blind in other hospitals across the country. “*

Scope International Malaysia’s Keratoconus initiative is part of Standard Chartered’s global initiative ‘Seeing Is Believing – A New Vision’ which seeks to invest USD 20 million in sustainable eye-care services for 20 million people across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

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**For more information**, please contact:

Joanna Ng Head, Corporate Affairs Scope International Malaysia Tel: +603 8992 8187 Fax: +603 8996 1663 <a href="mailto:Joanna-Mei-Foong.Ng@standardchartered.com">Joanna-Mei-Foong.Ng@standardchartered.com</a>	Intan Suriya Ramly Executive, Corporate Affairs Scope International Malaysia Tel: +603 8992 8132 Fax: +603 8996 1663 <a href="mailto:Intan-Suriya.Ramly@standardchartered.com">Intan-Suriya.Ramly@standardchartered.com</a>
<a href="http://www.scopeinternational-kl.com">www.scopeinternational-kl.com</a>	

### **About Scope International Malaysia**

Scope International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Plc., United Kingdom, is the first Global 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 75 countries worldwide. The company’s International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM) is the largest software development centre in Malaysia. An MSC-status company, Scope International Malaysia currently employs over 2,200 staff and plans to double its staff strength to 4,500 over the next few years.

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 employs 75,000 people comprising 115 nationalities with branches in 70 countries and has operated for over 150 years in some of the world’s most dynamic markets in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The Standard Chartered Group’s Global Shared Services Centres (GSSC) are located in Malaysia, India and China.