

# press release

**For Immediate Release**

## **Standard Chartered Bank MOU Universities Essay Challenge 2008/09 To Create More Top-Notch Financial Talents**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 19 December 2008** - Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad has initiated its inaugural essay writing competition in line with its effort to create a steady pool of top talents in the financial sector.

Aptly entitled Standard Chartered Bank MOU Essay Challenge 2008/2009, the competition will run from now until the end of February next year with the theme "*Islamic Banking and its relevance to my personal finances*". Its wholly-owned Islamic Banking subsidiary Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad is patroning the effort by sponsoring the awards for the winners.

The competition is organised in collaboration with the University of Malaya, University of Mara Technology and University of Science Malaysia as part of a series of activities planned for the partnerships.

In early 2008, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Malaysia's three first tiered local institutions, namely University of Malaya (UM), University of Mara Technology (UiTM) and University of Science Malaysia (USM) as is part of the Standard Chartered Bank Raw Talent Management Initiatives to attract more talents to the Bank amid the more competitive banking environment brought about by the growing trade liberalization worldwide.

The Essay Challenge 2008/2009 is another effort to further talent development. In a nutshell, the challenge is looking for papers and qualitative researches with problem-solving and innovative qualities, with originality in thinking, writing and synthesis. Further this challenge is to help graduates develop the art of persuasion, as well as

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the ability to project professionalism, and eventually the ability to lead, while at the same time understand the concept and tools available to manage their finances at an early stage by Islamic means.

“Standard Chartered Bank is constantly identifying future top notch graduates for the right job opportunities in the Bank and to sustain its talent pool by developing several world-class talent management initiatives,” says Mr Julian Wynter, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad.

He adds “It is very important to have a broader positive impact on the societies in which we live and work as we engage as a partner with governments and communities in addressing these wider challenges. “

All essays must be submitted by 28 February 2009. Each entry must reflect the participant's own research, writing and original thinking. Maximum length is 3,000 words while minimum length is 2,000 words.

The best overall essay will receive RM2,000 worth of Saadiq savings account. The best essay in each university will receive a RM1,500 Saadiq savings account. The best overall orator, meanwhile, will win RM1,500 of Saadiq savings account.

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## **Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East**

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 who 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](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 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 a global shared service centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to provide software development, banking operations and IT support services to the Bank in up to 70 countries – the first international bank to do so in Malaysia. It now houses the biggest software development company in the country, International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM). Standard Chartered's two other global shared service centres are in Chennai, India and Tianjin, China.

Another wholly-owned subsidiary of the Group, Price Solutions Sdn. Bhd is also located in Malaysia. The company promotes and markets Standard Chartered's financial products in Malaysia through a network of direct sales agents.

Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad, its Islamic Banking subsidiary was established in November 2008. It offers a comprehensive range of Shariah-compliant products and services to individuals and corporates through its first Saadiq financial centre (branch) located in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur.

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