

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Preventing Blindness from Diabetes** *Standard Chartered funds early detection equipment in three Malaysian states*

**Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday, 18 February 2009** – 1.4 million Malaysians, aged 30 and above, are currently suffering from diabetes. Diabetics are 25 times more at risk to become blind.

Given the hard statistics at hand, the Standard Chartered Trust Fund presented RM255,000 to the Malaysian Medical Association Ophthalmological Society (MMAOS) for the purchase of three medical cameras which allows for early detection and timely treatment of diabetes-related blindness.

Working alongside the MMAOS, the Standard Chartered Trust Fund identified three Malaysian communities with priority need for the cameras. Selection was made based on the size of the population in the area, accessibility and availability of equipment. The 3 non-mydratic fundus cameras will be presented to Hospital Tawau in Sabah, Hospital Sri Aman in Sarawak and the Klinik Kesihatan Kuantan in Pahang.

Julian Wynter, Chairman, Standard Chartered Trust Fund said,

“Combating preventable blindness is one of the priority sustainability agendas of the Standard Chartered Bank. Since 2003, the Bank has contributed RM745,000 to help Malaysians avoid blindness and even restore sight through our ‘Seeing is Believing’ projects.”

“Around the world, where Standard Chartered runs ‘Seeing is Believing’ projects, staff find it hard to adequately express the joy on a patient’s face when his bandages

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are removed and he is able to see again. It is this unquantifiable reward that impels us to do what we can.”

Diabetic Retinopathy, which causes hemorrhage and aneurysms in retinas, is the second greatest cause of blindness in the country. The non-mydratiac fundus cameras have the capability to detect the early onset and later stages of Diabetic Retinopathy and are highly effective in screening large populations at the rate of 3 minutes per patient.

Prof. Dr. Che Muhaya Haji Mohamad, Chairperson, MMAOS, said,

“MMAOS is delighted to accept the sponsorship of the 3 non-mydratiac fundus cameras from the Standard Chartered Trust Fund, on behalf of Hospital Tawau, Hospital Sri Aman and Klinik Kesihatan Kuantan.”

“We thank Standard Chartered for its strong commitment and support for not only this project but for various other projects over the years for the blind in Malaysia.”

The collaboration with MMAOS is a local project towards Standard Chartered's global initiative to eradicate avoidable blindness named “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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## **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 named Scope International 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.