



Kenyans dominate Standard Chartered Greatest Race on Earth with victories in Men's and Women's Nations Challenges

17 February 2008, Hong Kong – Kenya sealed a clean sweep of the Greatest Race on Earth (GROE) 2007/08 marathon relay series titles in Hong Kong on Sunday morning. Both **Kenya Men B** and **Kenya Women B** teams successfully defended leads in their respective Nations Challenge competitions, after their final leg athletes were the first GROE athletes to cross the line in the Hong Kong Marathon. Cyprian Kiogara Mwobi and Anne Jepkemboi Kosgei completed the famously challenging course in impressive times of 2:18:03 and 2:41:09, giving their teams winning cumulative times of 9:09:16 and 10:49:09.

Kosgei said: "I found the race very tough but I enjoyed it. The people along the way cheered us on so we got all their support right from the start to the finish, which I was very grateful for. I am really happy for my team and my team-mates to have won this great event."

As well as clinching the US\$100,000 first prizes, both teams also win US\$40,000 for winning the Africa regional category, plus a bonus US\$10,000 each as they clinched victory in series record times. The prize money will be shared between the four athletes that make up each team: the first leg athlete who competed in Nairobi; second leg athlete in Singapore; third leg athlete in Mumbai; and the final leg athlete in Hong Kong.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Kenyan men's team has won the Gold Baton trophy, and means they remain unbeaten since GROE began in 2004/05. Kenya Women B become the first winners of the Women's Nations Challenge, which was introduced at the start of the current 2007/08 series.



Kenya further confirmed their dominance of the series, with **Kenya Men A** and **Kenya Women A** teams both finishing second in their Nations Challenge competitions, 14m 59s and 46m 10s respectively behind their compatriots. Kenya Men A were a relatively comfortable 6m 31s ahead of **Zimbabwe Men** in third – who themselves moved up from fourth, overtaking Uganda. However, Kenya Women A were made to sweat when Monica Muthoni Njeru struggled in a time of 3:18:16, leaving them only 1m 56s ahead of **China Women**, who finished third overall.

Regional Challenges

In each of the Men's and Women's Regional Challenges, every team that was leading after the third leg in Mumbai successfully defended their advantages to win US\$40,000. In an exciting finish to the South East Asia **Men's** Regional Challenge, Thailand athlete Boonchoo Jandacha's time of 2:31:35 was almost good enough to dislodge **Vietnam** from first place, but in the end they fell short by just 1m 09s. **India** runner Kennady Chinna Ramu increased their slim two-and-a-half minute lead over Sri Lanka to over six minutes to win the South Asia & Middle East Men's Challenge,.

The winners of the other Men's Regional Challenges are: **Russia** (Europe & Oceania); **Peru** (Americas); **Chinese Taipei** (North East Asia); and **Kenya B** (Africa).

The Women's Regional Challenge winners are: **Finland** (Europe & Oceania); **China** (North East Asia); **Sri Lanka** (South Asia & Middle East); **Thailand** (South East Asia); **USA** (Americas); and **Kenya B** (Africa).

Most Improved Team & Special Achievement Award

The **Argentina Men** team secured the **GROE Most Improved Team** award and prize money of US\$10,000, after final leg athlete Jose Luis Luna's time of 2:28:33 gave his team a cumulative time of 10:19:53, which amounted to a 54m 16s improvement on their 2006/07 series time.



The **GROE Special Achievement Award** was presented jointly to the **Sri Lanka Men's and Women's teams**. This unique award, with accompanying US\$10,000 prize money, recognises teams who have gone through significant personal barriers to complete the series. For much of the last 20 years, Sri Lanka has suffered fighting between the armed forces of the predominantly Sinhalese government and Tamil Tiger rebels who want an independent homeland in the north and east. The Sri Lanka Men's Team are all members of the Armed forces, and two members of the Sri Lanka Women's Team are from the Sri Lankan Navy and the Police force – all are involved in the conflict. Embodying the hope of Sri Lanka for the future, the Men's team consists of both Sinhalese and Tamil runners – both sides of the conflict coming together to run successfully as a team. In their South Asia and Middle East region, Sri Lanka Men's team finished second, whilst the Sri Lanka Women's team came in first.

Greatest Race on Earth Results (*provisional*) – after Leg 4: Hong Kong Marathon

Men's Nations Challenge – Overall top 3

Position	Hong Kong leg – athlete name	National Team	Time (hrs:min:sec)
1.	Cyprian Kiogara Mwobi	Kenya Men B	09:09:16
2	Peter Kimeli Chemei	Kenya Men A	09:24:15
3.	Phillip Bandawe	Zimbabwe	09:30:46

Women's Nations Challenge – Overall top 3

Position	Hong Kong leg – athlete name	National Team	Time (hrs:min:sec)
1.	Anne Jepkemboi Kosgei	Kenya Women B	10:49:09
2	Monica Muthoni Njeru	Kenya Women A	11:35:19
3.	Feng Xia Yang	China	11:37:15

Men's Nations Challenge – Regions

Position	Hong Kong leg – athlete name	National Team	Time (hrs:min:sec)
Africa			
1.	Cyprian Kiogara Mwobi	Kenya Men B	09:09:16
2	Peter Kimeli Chemei	Kenya Men A	09:24:15
3.	Phillip Bandawe	Zimbabwe	09:30:46
South East Asia			
1.	Van Toan Bui	Vietnam	10:46:43
2.	Boonchoo Jandacha	Thailand	10:47:52
3.	Subardi	Indonesia	11:27:15

North East Asia			
1.	Yi-tsai Tseng	Chinese Taipei	10:25:21
2	Takashi Yamakabe	Japan	11:17:06
3.	Tat Ming Choi	Hong Kong	11:37:02
South Asia & Middle East			
1.	Kennady Chinna Ramu	India	09:53:27
2	Jeevakumaran Sivaperumal	Sri Lanka	09:59:49
3.	Md. Golam Moula	Bangladesh	11:03:05
Europe & Oceania			
1.	Leonid Shvetsov	Russia	09:52:26
2	Peder Troldborg	Denmark	10:33:49
3.	Trent Harlow	Australia	10:59:46
Americas			
1.	Miguel Angel Mallqui Ichavarria	Peru	10:07:16
2	Daniel Panta Dos Prazeres	Brazil	10:19:29
3.	Jose Luis Luna	Argentina	10:19:53

Women's Nations Challenge – Regions

Position	Hong Kong leg – athlete name	Country	Time (hrs:min:sec)
Africa			
1.	Anne Jepkemboi Kosgei	Kenya Women B	10:49:09
2	Monica Muthoni Njeru	Kenya Women A	11:35:19
3.	Phillip Bandawe	Zimbabwe	12:50:17
South East Asia			
1.	Sunisa Sailomyen	Thailand	12:27:58
2	Mery Paijo	Indonesia	13:12:07
North East Asia			
1.	Feng Xia Yang	China	11:37:15
2.	Siu Ping Wong	Hong Kong	12:18:22
3.	Nien-tzu Lin	Chinese Taipei	14:04:27
South Asia & Middle East			
1.	Dona Mallika Chandranthi Wickrama Aratchchige	Sri Lanka	12:57:21
2.	Rina Das	India	13:28:56

Europe & Oceania			
1.	Sanna Kullberg	Finland	11:59:52
2.	Deborah Coslett	Great Britain	12:37:52
3.	June Petrie	Australia	13:46:47
Americas			
1.	Flora Lee	USA	13:11:04
2.	Emma Maldonado	Mexico	13:33:07
3.	Elizabeth Esteves De Souza	Brazil	14:33:58

For a full set of results, please visit www.thegreatestrace.com.

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For further information: Please contact the Race Office on +44 (0) 7787 152 544 or run@thegreatestrace.com.

Find out more at www.thegreatestrace.com for comprehensive media materials such as runner profiles, features, fact file, photo gallery and results.

Notes to Editors:

Standard Chartered presents The Greatest Race on Earth

The Greatest Race on Earth (GROE) is the world's only marathon team relay series, run across four of the most exotic cities on the planet. Created and sponsored by Standard Chartered since 2004, it is now entering its fourth successful series, with prize money of USD 1.08 million on offer to the teams taking part – the largest guaranteed prize pool in world athletics.

Each year GROE transforms the traditionally individual sport of marathon-running into a team event. Some of the world's quickest marathon athletes compete in teams of four, running one marathon each – their eyes firmly set on working together to achieve a faster cumulative time than their rivals and gaining a significant slice of the prize pool.



The 2007/08 series sees the competition concentrate for the first time solely on the Nations Challenge, purely for teams representing their country. With a record number of teams taking part from over 30 countries, GROE has become the closest thing to a World Cup of Marathons. The Nations Challenge is split into a men's and women's competition, with equal prize money for each.

Competitors will face some of the most challenging environments in the world - including the high altitude of Nairobi, the humidity in Singapore, the heat of Mumbai and the uphill terrain in Hong Kong.

- The 'highest race,' at over 1,600m, in Nairobi – 28 October 2007
- The 'island race' around Singapore – 2 December 2007
- The 'historic race' through Mumbai – 20 January 2008
- The 'harbour race' across Hong Kong – 17 February 2008

Partnership, teamwork, trust and courage, all of which are Standard Chartered core values, will be key factors in determining the winners.

The Race Prize Categories	
The Nations Challenge	Prize pool of USD 520,000 each for both the men's and women's competitions – fastest men's and women's team win a first prize of USD 100,000 each. Teams are also divided into 6 regions – Africa, South East Asia, North East Asia, Americas, Europe & Oceania, and South Asia & Middle East – with prizes for teams who finish in the top three in each region.
Performance Awards	Bonus pool of USD 40,000 has been set aside for special achievement awards. These are awarded to national teams that have made a significant improvement on their previous GROE times, and teams that have demonstrated commitment, endeavour and determination in competing in The Greatest Race on Earth.

The Greatest Race on Earth: Race For a Living Planet – The Environment Challenge

The Environment Challenge is a new element of GROE introduced for the 2007/08 series. It encourages people to select and undertake up to eight environmental pledges suggested on www.thegreatestrace.com, and then nominate the GROE nation they wish their pledge(s) to support. Standard Chartered, working in partnership with WWF, will donate USD 1 million to support vital environmental conservation projects that will benefit the three nations that generate the most environmental pledges per capita. The nation that attracts the highest number of environmental pledges per capita will receive USD 500,000; the second highest will receive USD 350,000; and the third highest receives USD 150,000. The results will be announced following the final GROE Marathon in Hong Kong on Monday 18 February 2008.



Once the top three countries have been identified at the completion of GROE on 17 February 2008, Standard Chartered will work with WWF, its Environment Challenge partner, to identify a shortlist of projects that require funding in those countries. Either a project within the winning country at the time of the award, or a project that has a resonance or direct affect on that country will be considered and selected by Standard Chartered.

The Pledges

Standard Chartered has introduced the Environment Challenge as a key component of its global sustainability strategy and approach to the environment. By adding the Environment Challenge to the Greatest Race on Earth, Standard Chartered are asking employees, customers and the public to consider the simple steps they can make to help reduce the long term effects of **air pollution and climate change**, deforestation as well as **land and freshwater degradation**.

These aspects, along with a separate Education (Learn More) theme, make up the four key themes of the campaign. Each theme will have two pledges associated with it, for people to select and commit to. They are:

Water

- I won't leave the tap running while I am brushing my teeth
- I will spend one less minute in the shower each day

Education

- I will measure my carbon footprint by using the online Carbon Calculator
- I will visit the "My Environment" tour to learn more about the actions I take

Land and Forestry

- I will reuse or refuse a plastic bag at least 3 times a week
- If I have to print, I will print 2 pages to a sheet or print double sided

Air Pollution and Climate Change

- I will alter my room temperature by one degree depending on the season
- I will turn off the lights when I leave the room

The Standard Chartered Carbon Calculator

Developed by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management, along with website design company Factonomy, the Carbon Calculator can be used to quantify the CO₂ emissions from the user's household and travel activities.

Hosted on www.thegreatestrace.com, this unique and powerful carbon calculator is able to quantify the carbon footprint (CO₂ emissions) of households across the more than 50 countries that make up the Standard Chartered network. The sophistication of the calculator makes it one of the first of its kind, giving people the chance to identify their 'personal carbon footprint' using measures relevant to their country.



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 by being the right partner for its stakeholders and leading by example. The group now employs over 60,000 people, representing some 100 nationalities, in more than 1,400 branches located in over 50 countries. The bank generates more than 90 per cent of its profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with balanced income derived from both Wholesale and Consumer Banking.

Standard Chartered 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

WWF

- Established in 1961, WWF operates in more than 100 countries working to conserve the natural world by building a future in which humans live in harmony with nature
- WWF works with people, business and governments to:
 - conserve biodiversity and address threats to the environment
 - ensure that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
 - promote the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

WWF is now known simply by its initials and the panda logo.