

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 March 2008

Standard Chartered Lowers Best Lending Rate and Savings Rates

Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (the “Bank”) announces that its Best Lending Rate will be reduced from 6 percent per annum to 5.50 percent per annum. The changes will take effect from tomorrow, 20 March 2008.

The Bank will also adjust its rates for HKD savings accounts with effect from 20 March 2008. Details are as follows:

Account balance (HKD)	Interest rate (p.a.)
500,000 and above	0.25%
150,000 – below 500,000	0.05%
Below 150,000	0.05%

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Note to Editor:

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

The history of Standard Chartered in Hong Kong dates back to 1859. It is currently one of the SAR’s three note-issuing banks. Standard Chartered incorporated its Hong Kong business on 1 July 2004, and now operates as a licensed bank in Hong Kong under the name of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is consistently ranked in the top 25 among FTSE-100 companies by market capitalisation.

The London-headquartered group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets with an extensive global network of over 1,600 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in over 70 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas. 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.

As one of the world's most international banks, Standard Chartered employs over 70,000 people, representing over 115 nationalities, worldwide. This diversity lies at the heart of the Bank's values and supports the Bank's growth as the world increasingly becomes one market.

For more information on Standard Chartered, please log on to www.standardchartered.com

