



press release

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK AND AGRICULTURAL BANK OF CHINA FURTHER SOLIDIFYING STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Task forces are formed to drive joint co-operation

Oct 18th, 2010, Shanghai, China - - Standard Chartered Bank ("Standard Chartered") and Agricultural Bank of China Limited ("ABC") announced today that they have made substantial progress in forging strategic co-operation between the two Banks since inking their Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") in June this year. The MOU aimed for the two banks to leverage on their complementary strengths to better serve the respective clients and augment their business platforms.

The two banks made this announcement after a series of meetings attended by Pan Gongsheng, Executive Director and Vice President of ABC, and Katherine Tsang, Chairperson for Greater China at Standard Chartered, plus 20 global and regional Business Heads from both banks.

The two banks have set up business co-operation task force in a number of key areas with specific goals in mind and some of them would involve joint ventures.

Being the largest network bank in China boasting over 2.6 million corporate customers, ABC's trade volume is among the very largest in China. The geographies of their trade flows match very well with that of the footprint of Standard Chartered. ABC declared in the meeting that they chose Standard Chartered as their preferred partner for trade and cash management. Standard Chartered and ABC are developing full suite of cross border trade cooperation ranging from tailored supply chain solutions for specific clients to full trade services solutions geared towards ABC's customer base.

To support China's "going out" policy and meet the global ambitions of Chinese corporations, the two banks will focus on improving client servicing for ABC's large client base. They would cooperate on developing a comprehensive suite of product capabilities, including financial markets, debt capital markets, equity capital market, M&A, corporate advisory, structured trade finance, project finance and transaction banking globally to better serve the selected clients.

Both banks committed to enhance their collaboration in the SME business through referral programs. They would also explore setting up business ventures to support the increasing needs of the Chinese SMEs both domestically in China as well as overseas.

To better service ABC's high net worth and affluent individual customers when they travel abroad, Standard Chartered would provide them with premium and private banking membership benefits across its footprint. These services could include Chinese language supported ATM access, foreign exchange fee waivers, ATM fee waivers, payment and fund transfers across eligible ATM machines, multi-currency prepaid cards and membership privileges for overseas travelling customers.

ABC currently operates four village banks while Standard Chartered has one. The two banks agreed to co-operate to bring more financial inclusions to the individual farmers and SME companies through a more concerted effort.

One very specific goal of this strategic partnership is mutual learning and betterment of the workforces. A senior executive from each bank was tasked with devising talent exchange and development programs that would include secondment, workshops and classroom training in the coming six months.

Pan Gongsheng, Executive Director and Vice President of ABC commented, "Standard Chartered is a world's well-known bank focused on emerging market while ABC, as one of the Big Four commercial banks in China, is a leading player in domestic market. The two banks have complementary strengths in different markets and businesses. We believe the strategic cooperation between our two institutions will generate strong synergy and bring us a win-win future".

Jaspal Bindra, Executive Director and Asia CEO of Standard Chartered commented, "Our strategic cooperation with ABC, one of the largest banks in China, will play an important role in growing our business globally. With strong commitment from the senior management of both banks, we are delighted to see significant progress made on the next step of implementing our strategic cooperation. We believe the complementary strengths of the two banks will not only foster our mutual business growth but also contribute to the further development of the global financial industry."

Early this year, Standard Chartered formed a strategic partnership with the Agricultural Bank of China and became a cornerstone investor in their initial public offering in Hong Kong, demonstrating its continued commitment in China. The two banks have agreed to embark on formulating a detail co-operation framework to ensure the MOU signed earlier provides a formal committee structure with clear roles and responsibilities and strategic direction.

Note: Details of the afore-mentioned services would depend on regulatory approval and technical feasibility.

~ ENDS ~

For further information please contact:

Jennifer Shay
Head of Corporate Communications
Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited
Tel: (86 21) 38963646
E-mail: Jennifer.shay@sc.com

Zhai Zhiliang
Regional Manager
FIs Division, International Department
Agricultural Bank of China Limited
Tel: (86 10) 85105515
Email: zhaizhiliang@abchina.com

Note to Editors:

Agricultural Bank of China Limited — Together we achieve

Agricultural Bank of China Limited (ABC), established in 1951, is one of the leading financial players in both China's urban and rural markets, and plays an active role globally. Following the core value of "honesty and prudence" and the "customer-centred" business philosophy, ABC offers customers diversified, superior and efficient financial services by leveraging urban and rural presence and extensive electronic network.

By the end of June, 2010, the total asset of the bank stands at RMB 9.6 trillion with more than 20 thousand domestic branch outlets, 3 overseas branches and subsidiaries as well as 6 representative offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, New York, Tokyo, London, Seoul, Sydney and Frankfurt. It has established correspondent banking relationships with more than 1000 banks worldwide.

In 2009, we took the 155th place in the Fortune Global 500 and ranked No. 8 in The Banker's "Top 1000 World Banks" list in terms of profit before tax for the year of 2008. In the year, we were rated A1/Stable by the Moody's.

For more information on Agricultural Bank of China, please log on www.abchina.com

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

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for its 80,000 staff. It 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. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

In China, the Bank set up its first branch in Shanghai in 1858 and has remained in operation throughout the past 150 years. Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited is one of the first foreign banks to locally incorporate in China in April 2007. This demonstrates the Bank's commitment to the China market, and its leading position as a foreign bank in the banking industry.

Standard Chartered has one of the largest foreign bank networks in China – with 17 branches, 42 sub-branches and 1 Village Bank. Approval for the setting up of the Wuhan branch has been granted and preparation is in progress.

In 2009, Standard Chartered China is named by the *Economic Observer* as the "Best Trade Finance Bank in China". It also clinched the *Economic Observer's* "Best Innovation in Cash Management" award, *Global Finance's* "Best SME Lending Bank" and the *China Business News'* "Outstanding Corporate Award of 2008 Corporate Social Responsibility Ranking in China".

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