

press release

Standard Chartered sees investors pumping in US\$40m into gold investments in June

Customers look toward gold, a 'flight to safety' tool as an alternative investment in the current economy

1 July 2008, Singapore – Standard Chartered today launched its first Gold-linked Premium Currency Investment solution for investors who want to benefit from rising gold prices and feel that the USD will weaken in the near future.

Since its soft launch in early June, investors have already pumped in \$40million worth of USD. The Bank believes that the Gold-linked Premium Currency Investment can help customers who hold USD in their portfolios to mitigate the effect of a depreciating USD. This is achieved through higher yields than a traditional deposit offered by this product and potential gains from gold price movements.

To invest in the Standard Chartered Bank Gold-linked Premium Currency Investment customers decide on a placement tenor between two to four weeks and an agreed conversion rate applied between gold and USD and get a guaranteed interest rate on the principal amount. At maturity, customers will either get back the principal and interest in USD or the principal amount in its equivalent in gold, dependant on whether there is any conversion to gold.

Research has shown that Gold has risen over 30% in the last year and the Bank is bullish about the medium term prospects due to the weaker US dollar and continued inflationary pressures.

Janice Poon, General Manager, Wealth Management, Standard Chartered Bank, Singapore said:

“Inflation is currently a major concern especially in Asia and the current high oil price of over US\$130 a barrel is not helping to ease inflationary pressures. The US dollar has also fallen about 10% from a year ago against the Singapore dollar. As such, Gold is a good alternative store of value to the US dollar and also a sound inflation hedge.”

- End -

For media enquiries, please contact:

Jean Khong
Corporate Affairs, Singapore
Standard Chartered Bank
HP: +65 9273 0171
Email: Khong.Jean-Lye-Yee@sg.standardchartered.com

Note to Editors:

Standard Chartered in Singapore is part of an international banking group with an extensive network of over 1,700 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in more than 70 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

Standard Chartered has a history of nearly 150 years in Singapore, opening its first branch here in 1859. In October 1999, it was among the first international banks to receive a Qualifying Full Bank (QFB) license, an endorsement of the Group’s long-standing commitment to its businesses in the country.

It serves both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corporate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, securities services, foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance.

The Bank employs about 4,700 people in Singapore and has a network of 18 branches and 30 ATMs. Standard Chartered is the only international bank to offer NETS service, giving customers access to EFTPOS at over 17,000 outlets islandwide.

Standard Chartered's global Consumer Banking and Wholesale Banking businesses are managed out of Singapore, as is its global Technology & Operations function and the Standard Chartered Private Bank.