Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

2010 New Series Hong Kong Banknotes

Design and Security Features

A Cherished Design Evolves with the Modern World

Standard Chartered’s new banknote designs are the latest refinement of an original design theme first unveiled in the 1980’s. Based around the theme of supernatural animals from Chinese mythology, the new banknotes continue to symbolize the unique energy and culture that make Hong Kong one of the world’s most vibrant and memorable cities.

The current series of banknotes takes this well-loved design theme to the next level – breathing new life into the mythical guardians of Standard Chartered’s banknotes, while arming them with a variety of sophisticated new security features and anti-counterfeiting measures.

For the first time, the new series of banknotes also includes tactile identification features – as well as denominations in Braille – for the visually impaired.

2010 Banknote Series Theme: “Heritage and Technology”

Making a bold new design statement, the reverse side of Standard Chartered’s latest banknote series pays tribute to the heritage of Chinese inventions. According to designer Henry Steiner, the design of the new notes has blended the themes of heritage and technology, which play homage to the ancient Chinese inventions that foreshadowed the development of modern security tools and applications.

$1000: Dragon
The majestic Dragon, symbolizing intelligence and nobility, is the most appropriate creature to be represented on the golden HK$1000 note. The reverse side of the note features a Tang Dynasty coin with its modern day equivalent, an RFID smart chip – celebrating the development of currency and security over time.

$500: Phoenix
Symbolizing intelligence, vitality and nobility; the elegant Phoenix is second only to the Dragon amongst Chinese mythological creatures. The reverse design combines a traditional face reading chart with facial scan technology, recognising the roots behind modern biometrics.
$100: Chi Lin
The Chi Lin (Chinese unicorn) symbolizes intelligence and cleverness. It often appears with the phoenix in times of prosperity. The reverse side features a Sung dynasty script seal juxtaposed against a modern circuit board, highlighting the similarities in their intricate designs.

$50: Tortoise
The tortoise symbolizes longevity, wisdom and happiness; and its shell is said to be the vault of the heavens. The reverse design depicts an ancient combination lock that was opened by arranging words into a specific phrase – the technology of which paved the way for the modern bank vault.

$20: Carp
The carp is the emblem of wealth and abundance. The reverse of the note features a Chinese abacus, an early calculator, and its contemporary descendant: the binary system, which forms the basis of modern computer science.

New Security Features

Dynamic Colour-changing Pattern

The denomination numeral in the upper right hand corner incorporates a new colour-changing feature, which dynamically rolls a horizontal bar across the numeral as the note is tilted.

Improved See-through Feature

The circle and crescent designs of the new see-through feature represent the sun and the moon, which together form the Chinese word for “bright” (明). When held up to the light, the designs (as well as the colour) should match perfectly to form a complete oval shape. The see-through feature also incorporates fluorescent ink, which glows in two colours under ultraviolet light.
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Design and Security Features

(Cont’d)

Colour-changing Windowed Metallic Thread

A strip which changes colour from green to magenta has been woven into the paper of the note. When examining it closely, microtext to build the large alphabets “H” and “K” can be seen.

Common Watermark

The watermark for all banknotes has been standardized by the HKMA and is identical on all notes issued by the three Note Issuing Banks.

Existing Security Features

Iridescent Pattern

The iridescent pattern reveals an icon appropriate to the animal on the front panel when the banknote is tilted under bright light.

Concealed Denomination

The denomination is visible on the front panel of the banknote when tilted under light.

Embossed Feel

Special intaglio printing gives an embossed feel to the note, particularly on the images of the supernatural creatures featured in the banknote design.

Serial Numbers

Serial Numbers in progressively enlarging fonts are printed horizontally and vertically on the front panel. The vertical serial number is fluorescent red under ultraviolet light.
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