

# press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Singing to the tune of charity 欢唱“朋友”，迎接新**

*Standard Chartered Bank's Chinese New Year client event raises S\$360,000 to benefit the visually impaired*



**8 February 2013, Singapore** – Senior Consumer Banking Executives and pop star Wakin Chau have collaborated with children from the Lighthouse School for a good cause. At the Standard Chartered Bank’s Consumer Banking Chinese New Year client event on 7 February, Dennis Khoo (Head of Consumer Banking, Singapore), Andrew Chia (Head of Wealth Management and Priority and International Banking for Singapore and SEA), Kavita Bedi (Regional Head of SME Banking, Singapore and SEA), Dominique Boer (MD and Head of Relationship Management, SEA, Standard Chartered Private Bank) and Elaine Heng (Regional Head, Integrated Distribution for Singapore and SEA) gamely performed “Gong Xi Ni” (恭喜你) with an accompanying Chinese ensemble. The children, aged 8 – 16 years, also took to the stage with Hong Kong-born Taiwanese singer and actor, Wakin Chau (周华健), crooning one of his classic hits, “Friends” (朋友). The Lighthouse school is a non-profit organisation that provides special education for children with visual impairment, hearing impairment as well as children with autism.

Donations from clients totalled S\$230,000 at the event. S\$100,000 will go towards setting up an occupational therapy room at the Lighthouse School to improve the sensory-motor development of the children including balance, postural stability, bodily awareness and movement. The remaining donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Standard Chartered Bank and benefit Seeing is Believing, the Bank’s global initiative to tackle avoidable blindness.

Dennis Khoo, Head of Consumer Banking, Standard Chartered Bank said:

“We are delighted to host 900 SME, Private and Priority and International Banking clients at this year’s imperial-themed Lunar New Year event. It is our way of saying thank you to our clients for their support over the years. It is only fitting that we share our joy with the lesser privileged as we usher in the New Year. I enjoyed being part of the charity performance and I’m glad that our efforts will go a long way to help special-needs children in Singapore and benefit

avoidable-blindness projects globally. I would like to thank our clients for their tremendous generosity – for making this possible.”

Koh Poh Kwang, Principal, The Lighthouse School, said:

“Early last year we explored the option of setting up an occupational therapy room for the children, but we did not proceed because we did not have the required sum of money at the time. We are truly grateful for the support of Standard Chartered Bank and its clients, for helping us realise the dream of having a properly equipped occupational therapy room for our students. It will provide a safe and structured approach to physical activity development through allowing children to improve their performance skills.”

Adelyn Koh, 11, a student from the Lighthouse school who performed at the event said:

“The donations that we will be receiving will allow us to learn and grow in our hi-tech world. With occupational therapy, children in my school can learn to be less clumsy, draw, write and concentrate better. We can also learn skills like dressing and using the right utensils to feel ourselves. A big thank you to everyone and Gong Xi Fa Chai!”

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## Note to Editors:

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

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'.

Standard Chartered has a history of more than 150 years in Singapore, opening its first branch here in 1859 and in October 1999 was among the first international banks to receive a Qualifying Full Bank (QFB) licence, 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, auto 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 over 7,000 people in Singapore and has a network of 20 branches, 7 Priority Banking centres and 31 ATMs. Standard Chartered is the only international bank to offer NETS service, giving its customers access to EFTPOS at over 17,000 outlets islandwide. The Bank's global businesses - Consumer and Wholesale Banking - are managed out of Singapore, as is its global Technology & Operations function.

**Seeing is Believing** is a global initiative to help tackle avoidable blindness, and is a collaboration between Standard Chartered and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). IAPB is the leading umbrella organisation for non-governmental organisations working in the field of eye care. Together with the World Health Organisation, it launched the 'Vision 2020 – The Right to Sight', a global campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020. Seeing is Believing is the single largest contributor to the development of Vision 2020 programmes through IAPB.

For more information, please visit: [www.seeingisbelieving.org](http://www.seeingisbelieving.org)