

For Immediate Release

St. James' Settlement and Standard Chartered expand Futuremakers youth employment programme

*Over 500 women are expected to gain internship opportunities
Enhance skills in STEM, arts and sustainability*

HONG KONG, 23 August 2024 – St. James' Settlement and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ('Standard Chartered Hong Kong') have joined hands once again to introduce a new phase of the Futuremakers programme. The three-year Women Futuremakers Employment Programme ('the Programme') is funded by Standard Chartered Foundation with a donation of HK\$13 million and is delivered by St. James' Settlement. It targets young women aged from 16 to 35, aiming to benefit over 500 young women with training that covers employment skills and industry-specific knowledge as well as internship experience and guidance.

Futuremakers commits to supporting youth employment

During the COVID pandemic in 2020, Standard Chartered Hong Kong and St. James' Settlement jointly introduce the Futuremakers' First Job Youth Employment and Subsidy Programme ('Futuremakers' First Job') to help young people seek development opportunities during the challenging times. Standard Chartered Foundation had donated HK\$15 million offering half-rate subsidy to 260 small and medium enterprises to provide graduates with full-time or short-term job opportunities in the past three years. It had also successfully matched over 400 jobs and provided pre-employment and on-the-job training to over 1,300 youth. This demonstrated the objective of Futuremakers which is a global community initiative of Standard Chartered that aims to support development of young people with diverse backgrounds.

Building on the success of the Futuremakers' First Job, the Women Futuremakers Employment Programme aims to provide each participant with approximately 90 hours of employment skills development and industry-specific knowledge training, as well as 160 hours of hands-on internship experience. Participants can choose from tailored tracks focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), arts or sustainability, aligning with their career interests and aspirations. This customised approach equips participants with specialised skills and in-depth understanding of the relevant job markets. Furthermore, the diverse internship and employment placements offered by the Programme empower participants to explore different career paths and enhance their competitiveness in meeting future challenges. Coinciding with the "World Youth Skills Day" earlier, a special training session was organised where employee volunteers from Standard Chartered Hong Kong took the opportunity to share the importance of prudent financial planning as well as fraud prevention, as ways to build their financial management skills.

Cultivating Diverse Career Pathways for Young Women

To better understand the effectiveness of the local Futuremakers project and the employment needs of Hong Kong's youth, St. James' Settlement found that more than half of the thousand past participants have chosen careers in STEM or arts, indicating the younger generation's keen interest in these industries. Furthermore, according to the Census and Statistics Department, women only account for 31% of the workforce in STEM-related industries in Hong Kong as of 2023. The Programme has hence set its objective to empower young women and support them in expanding their career horizons and unleashing their full potential in these industries.

Moon, a first-year Computer Science student of an associate degree programme, was aware that she was only learning about STEM inside the classroom but lacked exposure to its real-life applications. She said: "Through the various trainings and internship of 'Women Futuremakers Employment Programme', I got a better understanding of how various STEM-technologies can be applied at work. I discovered a potential career path as I'm keen to explore jobs related to AI and coding. The multi-faceted employment training also boosted my confidence in tackling future interviews."

The Programme accepts application all year round. For more details, please visit: <https://forms.gle/MjDmYPny9dPSPsFL6>

-End-

Photos with Caption



Women Futuremakers Employment Programme offers female participants with interactive training that covers employment development and industry specific knowledge, empowering them to expand their career horizons in STEM, arts and sustainability.



Standard Chartered Hong Kong's employee volunteers shared the importance of financial management and planning with female participants of the Women Futuremakers Employment Programme.



About Women Futuremakers Employment Programme

The programme is jointly introduced by St. James' Settlement and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited that aims to enhance the future employment skills and career adaptability of young women aged 16 to 35. It includes providing 92 hours of training and 160 hours of internship, and offers them full-time or short-term employment to develop their careers. The programme is centered around the themes of Sustainability, STEM, and Arts, with the objective of broadening their horizons and the possibilities for their career development. It is part of Futuremakers by Standard Chartered, the Bank's global youth economic empowerment initiative to support disadvantaged young people, especially women and people with disabilities, to learn, earn, and grow.

Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with a presence in 53 of the world's most dynamic markets and serving clients in a further 64. Our purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity, and our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges.

The history of Standard Chartered in Hong Kong dates back to 1859. It is currently one of the Hong Kong 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.

For more stories and expert opinions please visit [Insights](#) at [sc.com](https://www.sc.com). Follow Standard Chartered on [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

About St. James' Settlement

Founded by the Rt. Rev. Bishop R.O. Hall of the Anglican Church in 1949, St. James' Settlement began as a club for boys and girls in a temple in Stone Nullah Lane, Wanchai. It was then developed into a six-storey building on Kennedy Road in 1963 to provide diversified services, including children and youth services, elderly services and rehabilitation services. In 1987, the headquarters was opened in Stone Nullah Lane so that the scope of services could be further extended. Our first centre outside Wanchai (named Central and Western District Elderly Community Centre) was established in 1990. Since then, different service centres have been developed and most of them are located along the north coast of Hong Kong Island, from The Belcher's in Western to Hing Wah Estate in Chai Wan. In recent years, in view of the society's ever-changing needs, we have opened service centres in Kowloon and the New Territories. To date, our 96 service points are in operation across Hong Kong, serving more than 3.23 million person-times, and our target beneficiaries include children, teenagers, families, the elderly and people with disabilities.