



Press release

Standard Chartered becomes the first international bank to sign MOU with SGS and Sintali to promote IFC's EDGE green building standard

Standard Chartered's clients across the world to enjoy complimentary advisory services for EDGE certification

10 August 2021, Hong Kong – Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (“SCBHK”) today announced that it is the first international bank in the world to have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) with SGS and Sintali to jointly promote EDGE, the green building certification programme launched by the International Finance Corporation (“IFC”), a member of the World Bank Group. The consortium of Sintali-SGS is a global certification services provider for EDGE (“Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies”). The EDGE green building certification provides a transparent pathway for buildings to achieve carbon neutrality from a minimum of achieving 20% or more savings in energy, water and embodied energy in materials to the highest certification level of “Zero Carbon”.

Under the MoU, Standard Chartered's clients who are eligible for green financing would be able to enjoy complimentary advisory services¹ from the Sintali-SGS EDGE Expert Partner Network for participating in the EDGE certification. Currently, SCBHK is also registering its two landmark office premises in Central, namely the Standard Chartered Bank Building and The Forum, for the EDGE certification, as part of Standard Chartered's global initiative to reach net zero carbon emissions from its operations by 2030, and from its financing by 2050.

Mary Huen, Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, Standard Chartered, said: “At Standard Chartered, we are honoured to be the first international bank to sign the MoU with Sintali-SGS to jointly promote IFC's green building certification programme and to help shape a more sustainable economy. This MoU signed by SCBHK will benefit clients across Standard Chartered's global footprint, demonstrating the important role of Hong Kong as an international green finance hub. By certifying our office premises with EDGE, we hope to take the lead and encourage more

¹ Subject to the terms and conditions

corporates to participate in green building certification and contribute to Hong Kong's transition towards carbon neutrality by 2050."

Vivek Pathak, Director and Global Head for Climate Business at International Finance Corporation, said: "We are glad to have Standard Chartered's help to promote EDGE green building certification among their clients across the globe as we believe greening construction would be a key part in achieving carbon neutrality."

"We are excited to support Standard Chartered in taking a position of leadership within the commercial banking sector in Hong Kong and across the world to advance the net zero carbon transition. Investors have a crucial role to play in deploying capital in the green building sector internationally," said **Harry Fernau, Global Head of Real Estate Solutions, Buildings & Infrastructure at SGS**.

"The green building sector represents a significant opportunity for investment and for decarbonisation, creating an ideal focus area for green financing. By providing solutions for Standard Chartered's clients, we hope to help deploy green buildings at scale across the world," said **Thomas Saunders, Managing Director at Sintali**.

As Hong Kong transitions to a low-carbon economy, SCBHK is dedicated to promoting sustainability in the market. We are actively growing our sustainable finance team and developing innovative sustainable finance solutions for our clients. In June, we provided a green loan to Schroders Capital Real Estate and BentallGreenOak for acquiring a property project in Tsuen Wan, and helped register the project for EDGE, as the first property participating in the certification in Hong Kong.

For more details about EDGE, please visit: edgebuildings.com/certify/

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Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with a presence in 59 of the world's most dynamic markets and serving clients in a further 85. 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.

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About Sintali

Sintali is an independent company that quantifies and verifies the environmental impact of decisions, and helps organisations map out the road to net zero. With deep expertise in the development of green building standards and corporate sustainability, Sintali brings transparency and rigor to the sustainability realm. For more information, visit www.sintali.com

About SGS

As the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company, SGS is recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 89,000 employees, SGS operates a network of more than 2,600 offices and laboratories around the world. SGS's reputation for independence, excellence and innovation has established the company as the market leader in providing services that improve efficiency, reduce risk and deliver competitive advantages for customers. For more information, visit www.sgs.com

About EDGE

An innovation of IFC, EDGE helps property developers to build and brand green in a fast, easy and affordable way. EDGE is supported by free software that encourages solutions to reduce energy, water and the energy used to make building materials by at least 20 percent, which is the standard for EDGE certification. The program has been generously supported by the following donors: Austria, Canada, Denmark, ESMAP, EU, Finland, GEF, Hungary, Japan and Switzerland. For more information, visit www.edgebuildings.com.