



Press release

Standard Chartered promotes business opportunities in Hong Kong-Middle East corridor

13 May 2025, Hong Kong – Standard Chartered hosted a luncheon in Doha, Qatar last Sunday (11 May) to promote business opportunities in the Hong Kong-Middle East corridor as **Mary Huen, CEO, Hong Kong and Greater China & North Asia, Standard Chartered**, was visiting Qatar as part of the business delegation led by John Lee, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) and organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDC”).

The luncheon was joined by Mr Lee, Dr Peter Lam, Chairman of the HKTDC, together with Rola Abu Manneh, CEO, UAE, Middle East and Pakistan of Standard Chartered as well as local government and business leaders and other delegation members to promote exchange of insights and discussions.

During the trip, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Fosun International Limited** in Qatar to jointly explore business opportunities in the Middle East.

Mary Huen said, “Standard Chartered is honoured to have hosted a luncheon in Qatar as part of the important business delegation which gives full play to Hong Kong's unique role as a ‘super-connector’ and a ‘super value-adder’. Being the oldest note-issuing bank in Hong Kong as well as the oldest bank in Qatar, we’re pleased to super-connect the delegation of Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese businesses with market leaders in Qatar to promote closer business ties and strengthen collaborations with the Middle East region. Amidst the increased global economic and geopolitical complexity, the shift of global supply chains and the internationalisation of the RMB are further gaining pace. I look forward to offering our client-centric solutions and breadth of RMB capabilities across the Bank’s cross-border network to support our clients as they explore new market opportunities and navigate through the uncertainties.”

Muhannad Mukahall, CEO, Standard Chartered Qatar, said, “Qatar has consistently demonstrated its capability to host high-level business diplomacy, thanks to its stable political environment, progressive economic policies, and world-class infrastructure. The country’s global connectivity, which grants access to GDP markets valued at US\$8.5 trillion within a 3,000 km radius, demonstrates its unmatched potential as a trade and investment hub. We know that there is increased appetite from our clients in Qatar in the areas of technology, and sustainable and infrastructure financing; our deep knowledge of the market here and our global network means we are best placed to connect our clients with these opportunities in Hong Kong.”

As the first bank in Qatar, Standard Chartered has been embedded in the nation’s economic fabric for decades. It has played a pivotal role in facilitating trade and infrastructure development. The Bank’s global footprint and deep regional expertise makes it uniquely positioned to support clients looking to capitalise on the growing trade, investment, and knowledge exchange between Hong Kong and the wider Middle East. Additionally, Qatar’s role in the Belt and Road Initiative and its efforts to foster a diversified, innovation-led economy further underscore its value as the ideal hub to anchor this fast-growing corridor.

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Photos



Photo 1: Standard Chartered organises a luncheon in Qatar to connect the Hong Kong delegation led by John Lee, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (5th from the left in the front row) and the local market leaders. Participants of the event include Dr Peter Lam, Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (3rd from the right in the front row), Mary Huen, CEO, Hong Kong and Greater China & North Asia, Standard Chartered (1st from the left in the front row), Rola Abu Manneh, CEO, UAE, Middle East and Pakistan, Standard Chartered (2nd from the right in the front row), and Muhannad Mukahall, CEO, Standard Chartered Qatar (1st from the right in the back row).



Photo 2: Standard Chartered signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Fosun International in Qatar.

Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with a presence in 53 of the world's most dynamic markets. 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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