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ENGLAND CRICKETER ALASTAIR COOK SETS THE PACE FOR THE STANDARD CHARTERED GREAT CITY RACE

England cricket star, Alastair Cook, opened the activities for this year's Standard Chartered Great City Race, which takes place on 16th July, when racing against Richard Holmes, Standard Chartered's CEO Europe, in a unique treadmill challenge in Paternoster Square today.

Cook set a scorching pace of 3 minutes 7 seconds for the 1km race, holding off the challenge of Holmes who finished in a highly creditable time of 3 minutes 20 seconds despite carrying a minor hamstring injury. This year's Standard Chartered Great City Race is on course for another maximum capacity field of 6,500 runners who will race the 5km course on the closed off streets of the City, in London's premier corporate team running challenge.

Cook said, "As a professional cricketer fitness and team work are integral to my job and it's great to be here in the heart of the City working with a project which encourages workers to get out from behind their desks, and get fit and active in a fun team environment."

Holmes added, "Alastair knows only too well the importance of team work and we're delighted to have him here today to help launch the race, which promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Unfortunately Alastair is unlikely to be able to join us on the race evening on 16th July as he is expected to be facing the Aussies in the opening day of the Ashes, which we wish him the very best of luck for."

This year, the race is partnering with Seeing is Believing (SiB) a charitable collaboration between Standard Chartered and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to help eradicate avoidable blindness.

SiB will benefit from £5 of every entry fee being donated directly to SiB. Runners are also being encouraged to run for the project and are being given the added incentive with Standard Chartered pledging to match pound for pound all funds raised through the race. To find out more about SiB or donate money please visit www.cityrace.co.uk/fundraising.



There are over 45 million blind people across the world and yet 80% of blindness is preventable or curable. The need to tackle this is acute – a child goes blind every minute and, tragically, 60% of children die within a year of going blind.

More than 90% of the world's blind live in low and middle-income countries. With over half the world's population now urban, the challenge of delivering eye-care services to swelling informal urban areas has grown considerably. Funds raised will go to the development of sustainable eye-care services in 20 less-advantaged urban areas in the developing world. These will provide poor and marginalised populations access to cataract surgery, preventative treatment, screening, and specialised medical interventions.

Teams from all City business sectors will be participating and with just a few hundred places remaining, City workers are advised to sign up as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Companies can go directly to the official race website at www.cityrace.co.uk to enter their teams.

- Ends -

For hi-resolution photography and further information please contact:

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Notes to editors:

About Standard Chartered:

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both London and Hong Kong stock exchanges, ranks among the top 25 companies in the FTSE-100 by market capitalisation. The London-headquartered Group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets, leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its income and profits have more than doubled over the last five years primarily as a result of organic growth and supplemented by acquisitions.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank for its customers across its markets. The Group derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, generated from its Wholesale and Consumer Banking businesses. The Group has over 1600 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The extraordinary growth of its markets and businesses creates exciting and challenging international career opportunities.

Leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders, the Group 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. It employs more than 70,000 people, nearly half of whom are women. The Group's employees are of 125 nationalities, of which about 70 are represented in the senior management.

For more information, please visit: www.standardchartered.com



Seeing is Believing (SiB)

Seeing is Believing is delighted to be the beneficiary of the 2009 Standard Chartered Great City Race, receiving £5 from each £25 entry fee.

Seeing is Believing (SiB) 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) (registered charity, No. 1100559). IAPB is the leading umbrella organisation for NGOs working in the field of eye care. Together with the World Health



Organisation, it launched 'Vision 2020: The Right to Sight', a global campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020.

To date, Seeing is Believing has raised over US\$ 17 million for blindness initiatives and plans to invest a further US\$ 20 million by 2014. Seeing is Believing is the single largest contributor to the development of Vision 2020 programmes through IAPB.

As part of the Seeing is Believing programme, Standard Chartered pledges to match all donations until the target of US\$ 20 million is reached. This will double the impact of all funds raised.

Please visit www.seeingisbelieving.org.uk



The 2007 Standard Chartered Great City Race was the recipient of the Corporate Sponsorship Award at the 2008 Hollis Sponsorship Awards