

**STANDARD CHARTERED RESTORES ZOO NEGARA LAKE  
USING 40,000 MUDBALLS**

**AMPANG, 6 MARCH 2010** – 40,000 mudballs packed with powerful microorganisms, are being made by Standard Chartered staff in Malaysia to be cast into the Zoo Negara lake. The potent mudballs are able to eliminate destructive pollutants, thus purifying and renewing the lake water for the benefit of aquatic life, birds, insects, other animals and vegetation which depend on the lake for survival.

More than 250 staff volunteers rolled up their sleeves for 9 hours over two days at Zoo Negara Malaysia to produce tennis-sized mudballs made from clay soil and Effective Microorganisms (EM®) solution, a complex culture of naturally occurring, live microorganisms developed in Japan by Dr. Teruo Higa.

Gracing the event was Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources & Environment Malaysia, who said

*“I commend Standard Chartered for its zeal in environmental conservation efforts in Malaysia. I am delighted with the innovative use of Effective Microorganisms, an excellent alternative to chemical-based compounds, to revive the delicate ecosystem of the Zoo Negara lake.”*

The Deputy Minister then witnessed the replica presentation of the permanent gift of a 10-foot high EM® Bioreactor by Standard Chartered to Zoo Negara, with which the latter will be able to produce EM® Activated Solution on its own. Together with other project materials, Standard Chartered has invested more than RM100,000 in the lake restoration project. Volunteering efforts by the staff totalled approximately 400 man-days.

NAHRIM, the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), an agency under the purview of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is a technical partner in the lake restoration project contributing comprehensive water quality analyses throughout the duration of the project.

Dato' Ismail Hutson, President & Chairman, Zoo Negara, said

*“On behalf of the Malaysian Zoological Society and Zoo Negara, I wish to thank Standard Chartered for its generous sponsorship of this project as well as NAHRIM and EM Malaysia for their technical expertise. Through the revitalization of our lake, we will be able to continue to be the landmark zoo in the country.”*

Osman Morad, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia, said

*“Standard Chartered is always looking for causes to do our part in protecting the environment. We are also always cognizant of getting it right internally, before moving out to the community. Happily, we have carried out many successful projects.”*

*“The Zoo Negara lake restoration project is our latest environment project for Malaysia. It is our hope that the whole ecosystem of the lake will become healthier and this will benefit all the fish, birds, animals and plants that depend on it for survival.”*

Last December, Standard Chartered staff had already made 26,000 of the total 40,000 EM® mudballs. Since then, the mudballs had been left to ferment. During the event, the well-fermented 'live' mudballs were cast into the lake to work their magic. The volunteers then turned their attention to making the remaining 14,000 mudballs which will be cast into the lake on 22 March 2010, the United Nations-declared World Water Day.

Special guests at the event included 20 visually impaired persons from the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) who raised funds for MAB with each mudball they make, under Standard Chartered's 'Seeing is Believing' programme.

The event was supported by the two co-founders of the Malaysian Celebrities Go Green (MCG2) club, celebrity host/actor Baki Zainal and singer Azizi Zakaria. MCG2 has been actively involved in creating awareness on the importance of environmental protection by participating in activities across Malaysia which include school talks, competitions, and the cleaning up of beaches and rivers.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Standard Chartered in Malaysia** [www.standardchartered.com.my](http://www.standardchartered.com.my)

Standard Chartered Bank, a member of the Standard Chartered Group was established in Malaysia in 1875 and incorporated as Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad on 29 February 1984. As Malaysia's first bank, Standard Chartered leads the way through product innovation, consistent and strong growth performance and sustainability initiatives. The Bank's two businesses - Wholesale and Consumer Banking – provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services to corporates, institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and individuals through its network of more than 30 branches across Malaysia.

In 2001, Standard Chartered UK established its second global technology & operations centre, **Scope International**, in Malaysia – the first international bank to do so in the country. Scope International provides software development, banking operations, IT support services and customer service capabilities to the Bank in up to 70 countries. It now houses the biggest software development company in the country, International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM) and has a total workforce of more than 3,200 people.

Price Solutions Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank UK is also located in Malaysia. The company promotes and markets Standard Chartered's financial products in Malaysia through a network of direct sales agents.

Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad's Islamic Banking subsidiary was established in November 2008. It offers a full suite of Shariah-compliant products and services to individuals and corporates through its inaugural Saadiq financial centre (branch) located in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur.

Standard Chartered employs more than 5,000 employees in all its Malaysian operations.

**About Zoo Negara Malaysia** [www.zoonegara.org.my](http://www.zoonegara.org.my)

Zoo Negara Malaysia is managed by the Malaysian Zoological Society, a non-governmental organization established to create the first local zoo for Malaysians. Established in 1963, Zoo Negara is now 47 years old and has matured into a well-known zoo all around the world with a total of over 5137 animals from 500 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.

Zoo Negara covers 120 acres of land which is situated only 13km from the city of Kuala Lumpur. Over the years, the zoo has transformed itself to an open concept zoo with over 90% of its animals kept in spacious exhibits with landscape befitting its nature.

Zoo Negara has taken several measures in achieving our vision: 'Towards A World Class Zoo' by 2015, among them is the securing the recognition from the South East Asian Zoos Association or SEAZA, for following the strictest standards and guidelines in animal care and welfare in September 2007. Zoo Negara signed an MOA with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums or WAZA for short. Zoo Negara is the only WAZA member in Malaysia. Closer to home, we are still recognised by the 'Malaysian Book of Records' as being the biggest zoo in the country with the most collection of animals and species,

together with nine other recognitions for the first breeding successors of mammals, reptiles and birds in Malaysia.

**About National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM)**

<http://www.nahrim.gov.my/en/home>

NAHRIM, as the national research center for water and its environment is committed to achieve its Vision to provide excellent water R&D services for ensuring sustainable national development for the benefit of Malaysian citizens and elevation of their quality of life.

Research and development (R&D) led by NAHRIM currently encompasses R&D in river and coastal engineering; water resources management including rainwater and groundwater; impact of climate change on national water resources and development of adaptation measures; and rivers and lakes water quality enhancement and management. Apart from R&D, NAHRIM also carries out niche water related consultancies for both government and private sectors agencies.

**About the Malaysian Celebrities Go Green (MCG2) [www.mcg2.com](http://www.mcg2.com)**

The Malaysian Celebrities Go Green (MCG2) is a movement initiated by 8TV's Celebrity Chat host, Baki Zainal and his fellow celebrity mates like Dina (Malaysian Idol 1), Azizi Zakaria (DiGi CelebriTeen 2) and Soo Wincci (Miss Malaysia-World 08/09) to create awareness about the importance of preserving Mother Nature for tomorrow's generations.