

## VOLUNTARY CONDITIONAL CASH OFFER

by

### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

for and on behalf of

#### THE CAIRNS PTE. LTD.

Company Registration number: 200502854M  
(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

to acquire all the issued and paid-up ordinary shares in the capital of

#### THE STRAITS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

Company Registration number: 188700008D  
(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

other than those already owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by  
The Cairns Pte. Ltd.

### 1. Despatch of Offer Document

Standard Chartered Bank ("**SCB**") wishes to announce, for and on behalf of The Cairns Pte. Ltd. (the "**Offeror**"), that the offer document dated 25 January 2008 (the "**Offer Document**"), which contains details of the voluntary conditional cash offer (the "**Offer**") by the Offeror for The Straits Trading Company Limited (the "**Company**") announced on 6 January 2008, together with the accompanying Form of Acceptance and Authorisation ("**FAA**") and Form of Acceptance and Transfer ("**FAT**"), has been despatched yesterday to depositors ("**Depositors**") whose securities accounts with The Central Depository (Pte) Limited ("**CDP**") are credited with ordinary shares in the capital of the Company ("**Shares**") and to the holders of Shares ("**Shareholders**") whose names appear in the Register of Members of the Company.

### 2. Request for Offer Document

Depositors and Shareholders who do not receive the Offer Document and the relevant acceptance forms within a week from the date hereof should contact CDP or Tricor Barbinder Share Registration Services (a division of Tricor Singapore Pte. Ltd.) ("**Tricor Barbinder**"), as the case may be, without delay at the following respective addresses:

The Central Depository (Pte) Limited  
4 Shenton Way #02-01  
SGX Centre 2  
Singapore 068807  
Tel: (65) 6535 7511

Tricor Barbinder Share Registration Services  
8 Cross Street  
#11-00 PWC Building  
Singapore 048424  
Tel: (65) 6236 3333

Copies of the FAA may be obtained by Depositors from CDP upon production of satisfactory evidence that their securities accounts with CDP are or will be credited with Shares.

Copies of the FAT may be obtained by Shareholders from Tricor Barbinder upon production of satisfactory evidence of title to Shares.

3. **Closing Date**

**The Offer will remain open for acceptance until 5.30 p.m. on 22 February 2008, or such later date(s) as may be announced from time to time by or on behalf of the Offeror ("Closing Date").**

Full details of the procedures for acceptance of the Offer are set out in Appendix V of the Offer Document, and in the FAA and the FAT.

4. **Overseas Shareholders**

The availability of the Offer to Shareholders whose addresses are outside Singapore as shown on the Register of Members of the Company or, as the case may be, in the records of CDP (each, an "**Overseas Shareholder**") may be affected by the laws of the relevant overseas jurisdictions. It is currently not intended that the Offer will be made in or into, and the Offer is not capable of acceptance in or from any jurisdiction in or from which the making of the Offer is prohibited or affected by the laws of that jurisdiction. Accordingly, any Overseas Shareholder should inform himself about and observe any applicable legal requirements. Where there are potential restrictions on sending the Offer Document and the relevant form(s) of acceptance to any overseas jurisdiction, the Offeror and SCB each reserves the right not to send the Offer Document and relevant form(s) of acceptance to such overseas jurisdictions. For the avoidance of doubt, the Offer is made to all Shareholders, including those to whom the Offer Document, the FAA and the FAT have not been, or may not be, sent.

Overseas Shareholders may, nonetheless, obtain copies of the Offer Document, the FAA, the FAT and any related documents, during normal business hours and up to the Closing Date, from Tricor Barbinder at its office located at 8 Cross Street #11-00 PWC Building Singapore 048424. Alternatively, an Overseas Shareholder may write in to Tricor Barbinder at its office above to request for the Offer Document, the FAA, the FAT and any related documents to be sent to an address in Singapore by ordinary post at the Overseas Shareholder's own risk, up to three (3) Market Days prior to the Closing Date.

It is the responsibility of any Overseas Shareholder who wishes to accept the Offer to satisfy himself as to the full observance of the laws of the relevant jurisdiction in that connection, including the obtaining of any governmental or other consent which may be required, and compliance with all necessary formalities or legal requirements and the payment of any taxes, imposts, duties or other requisite payments due in such jurisdiction. Such Overseas Shareholder shall be liable for any such taxes, imposts, duties or other requisite payments payable and the Offeror and SCB and any person acting on their behalf shall be fully indemnified and held harmless by such Overseas Shareholder for any such taxes, imposts, duties or other requisite payments as the Offeror and/or SCB and/or any person acting on their behalf may be required to pay. **Any Overseas Shareholder who is in any doubt about his position should consult his professional adviser in the relevant jurisdiction.**

Overseas Shareholders are advised to read the section titled "Overseas Shareholders" in the Offer Document.

5. **Responsibility Statement**

The directors of the Offeror (including those who may have delegated supervision of this Announcement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and all opinions expressed in this Announcement are fair or accurate and that no material facts have been omitted from this Announcement, and they jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.

Where any information has been extracted or reproduced from published or otherwise publicly available sources, the sole responsibility of the directors of the Offeror has been to ensure through reasonable enquires that such information is accurately extracted from such sources or, as the case may be, reflected or reproduced in this Announcement.

Issued by  
**Standard Chartered Bank**

For and on behalf of  
**The Cairns Pte. Ltd.**

27 January 2008  
Singapore