

## MANDATORY CASH OFFER

by

### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

for and on behalf of

#### THE CAIRNS PTE. LTD.

(Company Registration No.: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 No.:188700008D)  
(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

other than those already owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Standard Chartered Bank ("**SCB**") refers to the offer document ("**Offer Document**") dated 25 January 2008 in respect of the voluntary conditional cash offer (which was converted to a mandatory conditional cash offer on 3 March 2008) (the "**Offer**") by SCB, for and on behalf of The Cairns Pte. Ltd. ("**Offeror**"), for all the issued ordinary shares ("**Shares**") in the capital of The Straits Trading Company Limited ("**STC**" or the "**Company**"), other than those already owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror ("**Offer Shares**").

Unless otherwise defined, capitalised terms used in this Announcement shall have the same meanings as defined in the Offer Document.

### 2. OFFER DECLARED UNCONDITIONAL

SCB wishes to announce, for and on behalf of the Offeror, that the Offeror has on 4 March 2008 received valid acceptances in respect of such number of Offer Shares which, together with the Shares owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it, either before or during the Offer and pursuant to the Offer or otherwise, such that the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it now hold more than 50 per cent. of the voting rights of the Company, resulting in **the Offer becoming unconditional in all respects.**

**3. CLOSING DATE**

Pursuant to Rule 22.6 of the Code, the Closing Date of the Offer will be extended from 5.30 p.m. on 20 March 2008 to 5.30 p.m. on 3 April 2008 ("**Extended Final Closing Date**").

**The Offeror does not intend to extend the Offer beyond 5.30 p.m. on the Extended Final Closing Date. Acceptances received after 5.30 p.m. on the Extended Final Closing Date will be rejected.**

**4. LEVEL OF ACCEPTANCES**

SCB wishes to announce, for and on behalf of the Offeror, the following:

1. **Acceptances of the Offer.** As at 5.00 p.m. on 4 March 2008, the Offeror has received valid acceptances in respect of the Offer, representing a total number of 141,477,479 Shares or approximately 43.41% of the issued and paid-up share capital of STC as at the date of this Announcement
2. **Shares held before the Offer Announcement Date.** Prior to the Offer Announcement Date, the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it owned or controlled in aggregate 73,204,543 Shares, representing approximately 22.46% of the issued and paid-up share capital of STC.
3. **Shares acquired or agreed to be acquired after the Offer Announcement Date and up to 5.00 p.m. on 4 March 2008 (other than pursuant to valid acceptances of the Offer).** Between the Offer Announcement Date and 5.00 p.m. on 4 March 2008, the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it have acquired or agreed to acquire in aggregate 27,682,300 Shares, representing approximately 8.49% of the issued and paid-up share capital of STC (other than pursuant to valid acceptances of the Offer).

Accordingly, as at 5.00 p.m. on 4 March 2008, the total number of (a) Shares owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Offeror and parties acting in concert with it, and (b) valid acceptances of the Offer, amount to an aggregate of 242,364,322 Shares, representing approximately 74.37% of the issued share capital of STC.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTANCE**

Shareholders who wish to accept the Offer but have not done so should complete, sign and forward their FAT or FAA (as the case may be) and all other relevant documents as soon as possible so as to reach the Offeror not later than 5.30 p.m. on the Extended Final Closing Date. All FATs, FAAs and other relevant documents received after 5.30 p.m. on such date will not be accepted and will be returned by post to the relevant Shareholders at their own risk, in accordance with the terms of the Offer.

Shareholders who are in any doubt about the Offer should consult their stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor or other professional adviser immediately.

Depositors and Shareholders who have not received or who have misplaced the Offer Document and/or the relevant acceptance forms should contact CDP or Tricor Barbinder Share Registration Services, as the case may be, without delay at the following respective addresses:

The Central Depository (Pte) Limited	Tricor Barbinder Share Registration Services
4 Shenton Way #02-01	(a division of Tricor Singapore Pte. Ltd.)
SGX Centre 2	8 Cross Street
Singapore 068807	#11-00 PWC Building
Tel: (65) 6535 7511	Singapore 048424

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 the Shares.

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

## **6. RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

The Directors of the Offeror (including those who may have delegated detailed supervision of this Announcement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and all opinions expressed in this Announcement are fair and accurate and that no material facts have been omitted from this Announcement.

Where any information has been extracted or reproduced from published or otherwise publicly available sources or obtained from the Company, 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.

The Directors of the Offeror jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.

Issued by

**STANDARD CHARTERED BANK**

For and on behalf of

**THE CAIRNS PTE. LTD.**

4 March 2008