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Standard Bank Keeping Local Professionals Informed

Standard Bank has launched its latest quarterly Investment Review and Outlook. Designed to keep clients up to date with the bank's investment strategy, the first edition of 2010 covers the key questions raised at the Bank's annual Investment Breakfast Briefing which took place recently and was attended by over 120 Jersey based trustees, lawyers, accountants and investment advisers.

The hot topics covered at the briefing are echoed in the Investment Review and Outlook and range from whether the economic recovery is sustainable to looking at the key investment drivers for the future.

Haydn Taylor, Managing Director of Banking and Investment Services at Standard Bank commented: "By holding regular investment briefings and publishing our quarterly reviews, our teams are given a platform to present their views on the outlook for the global economy and their investment strategy going forward. We were delighted with the outstanding response to the recent investment briefing and the extremely positive feedback. The high attendance confirmed that key members of Jersey's business community welcome the chance to hear our team's views on the economic trends that affect them and their clients, particularly at a time of such huge disparity in opinion over the direction and health of the global economy."

Within the Investment Review and Outlook, Tony Wood, Head of Investment Strategy at Standard Bank, identifies 2009 as a year dominated by huge doses of monetary stimulation where the higher risk asset groups generally rose in tandem, with limited variance between the good and the bad. In his commentary Mr Wood also predicts that the next 12 months will be more about differentiation, where specific stock selection issues and the importance of sector themes within an active asset allocation policy will increase.

In terms of asset allocation, Mr Wood comments: “We are taking a broadly neutral stance on equities with overweight geographic exposures to the Far East and Emerging Markets and overweight sector exposures to Technology, Energy and Utilities. In Fixed Interest, we remain overweight Corporate and Emerging Sovereign debt and underweight G7 Government debt. Finally, we remain positively disposed to real assets such as UK Commercial Property and Commodities, particularly agriculture and gold.”

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For more information, and to arrange interviews, please call Deanne Le Gresley on 01534 735253, or email deanne@directinput.je

NOTES TO EDITOR

The speakers at the 2009 Investment Breakfast Briefing were Standard Bank’s Tony Wood, Head of Investment Strategy, David Gorman, Director of Equity Strategy, Herman Wessels, Managing Director Treasury & Product and Sylvain Choquette, Director of Treasury & Product.

Standard Bank is a leading African banking group focused on emerging markets globally. It has been a mainstay of South Africa's financial system for over 145 years, and now spans 17 countries across the African continent. Its international expansion has taken it to 16 countries outside Africa including Brazil, Russia and China. The bank’s headquarters are in Johannesburg and it is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Key facts and figures

- Standard Bank Group has assets of approximately US\$162 billion (December 2008)
- Market Capitalisation of approximately US\$14 billion (December 2008)
- Present in 33 countries around the world
- Employs more than 50,000 people worldwide (including Liberty)
- In Jersey Standard Bank employs 273 staff of which some 35 are connected to the Asset Management & Stockbroking business

For further information please see www.standardbank.com/wealth
