



**Media Release
For Immediate Release**

Largest and Strongest Field of Elite Runners to Compete as SCMS Aims for IAAF Gold Label Status

Singapore, 2 December 2011 – This year’s Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore (SCMS) will feature an impressive contingent of elite athletes, which includes some of the highest ranked marathon runners in the world alongside last year’s race champions. Tweaks have also been made to enhance the race experience for all participants, as the organiser, the Singapore Sports Council (SSC), works towards achieving the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Gold Label certification for the event.

2 “Elite athletes are a unique asset to any race and we are delighted to have in our midst a strong and diverse field of world-class runners who will undoubtedly add to the spectacle of this year’s Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore. Their keen participation is testament to the efforts we have put into creating an attractive elite race, not just in terms of the prize money offered, but also a great race experience,” said Mr Lim Teck Yin, Chief Executive Officer, SSC and Chairman, SCMS 2011 Organising Committee.

Largest and Strongest Field of Elite Athletes to Date

3 The SCMS 2011 will see a total of 26 international elite athletes from five different countries taking part in the Full Marathon race category. Participants from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Russia and Ukraine will start their race alongside 20,000 Full Marathon and *Ekiden* runners under the Christmas lights at Orchard Road.

4 With US\$50,000 as the top prize for the men’s and women’s open categories for the Full Marathon, fierce competition will ensue among these top international athletes, of which 14 of them are IAAF-certified Gold level elite runners.

5 One of the frontrunners to clinch the men’s title this year is Jackson Kipkoech Kotut, who achieved top spots in the Tiberias Marathon (2009) and Barcelona Marathon (2010). Last year’s Barcelona Marathon saw the Kenyan run a personal best of 2:07:30 to secure victory in record-breaking fashion.

6 Providing stiff competition for Kotut will be his counterparts Kenneth Mburu Mungara and Thomson Kibet Cherogony, both of whom stormed into first and second places at the SCMS 2010 respectively. Other contenders for the title include Ben Kipruto Chebet of Kenya and Yared Dagnaw Sharew of Eritrea, both of whom will be competing in the SCMS for the first time.

7 This year's SCMS will also welcome back Kenyan favourite and 2010 winner, Irene Jerotich Koskei, who will be expected to defend her title in the women's open category once again. Twice the winner of the Nairobi Marathon in 2006 and 2009, Koskei has since enjoyed a formidable few seasons with a respectable 2:31:29 in the Daegu Marathon earlier this year.

8 Looking to usurp Koskei's throne will be Russian veteran Silviia Skvortsova, who will be looking to replicate her recent impressive time of 2:27:51 in the Toronto Waterfront Marathon in October this year. Other notable runners in the women's open category include Yuliya Ruban and Kateryna Stetsenko of Ukraine.

Application for the IAAF Gold Label Certification

9 To secure international recognition of the SCMS, efforts have been undertaken by SSC to register the Marathon for an IAAF Gold Label certification. Achieving the Gold Label status would put Singapore's marquee running event alongside the likes of the New York, Beijing, Tokyo, Berlin and London Marathon, and affirm its reputation as one of the greatest races in the world.

10 "Applying for the IAAF Gold Label certification for the Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore underscores our ambition to become Asia's pinnacle race. With this certification, it will definitely help to boost our efforts in continuing to build on the race's strong following locally and in the region," added Mr Lim.

11 Some of the requirements specified by the IAAF for the Gold Label certification, which have been met by the organiser, include: a giant video screen on-site broadcasting the race; an international field of runners with a minimum number of men and women elite runners with specified race finishing times; doping controls; a well-equipped media centre with features such as live feed of the race and results; and full television coverage of the race in at least five different countries and international broadcasters distributing race coverage.

Key Broadcast Profiles

12 In line with the theme for this year's race – 'Run for a Reason', eight participants of the SCMS 2011 will be featured on television, each with their own interesting reasons and motivations for participation. Amongst these participants are last year's race winners – Kenneth Mburu Mungara and Irene Jerotich Koskei, local athletes Ashley Liew and Sumiko Tan, and four runners from various walks of life with inspirational stories to share.

13 These short featurettes will be shown regularly from now till race day on StarHub's complimentary sports channel SuperSports Arena (Starhub TV Channel 201). In addition, these runners will be interviewed during the 'live' broadcast of the race from 4.30am to 10.00am on the same channel. There will be a same day telecast of the race from 7.00pm to 12.30am. Race coverage will also be shown 'live' on SingaporeSports.tv from 4.30am to 10.00am.

Supporters' Activities

14 As part of SSC's continuous efforts to engage the non-running community in Singapore's marquee running event, a slew of fun activities have also been planned for spectators and supporters. The public can expect to be entertained with 'live' band performances, jugglers and roving percussion drum squads. A free shuttle service for supporters will also bring them to the best viewing spots along the route.

15 The SCMS 2011 will see 65,000 runners participating in a variety of race categories which include the Full Marathon, Half Marathon, 10km and 5km Fun Run. Featuring three different routes, runners will take in the full spectrum of iconic landmarks in Singapore including Orchard Road, Chinatown, Universal Studios Singapore, Sentosa, Singapore Flyer and the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay.

- End -

Enclosures

- Annex A: List of Elite Athletes
- Annex B: Profiles of Top Elite Athletes
- Annex C: List of Key Broadcast Profiles

About the Singapore Sports Council

Formed in 1973, the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) is tasked with developing a holistic sports culture for the nation. The SSC creates opportunities for people to excel in sports; opportunities for people to be engaged in sports as, coaches, officials, volunteers or fans; and opportunities for people to do business in sports as sponsors and investors. The SSC has changed the way Singaporeans view and participate in sports. Through sports, we now have an enhanced national identity thanks to our sports participation programmes; greater national pride as a result of high performance results at international and regional games; and more diversified economic stability through our vibrant sports industry initiatives.

To find out more, visit our websites www.ssc.gov.sg and SingaporeSports.sg

Follow SSC on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/Lets_PlaySG and Facebook at: www.facebook.com/letsplaysg

For a range of photographs, search for "Singapore Sports Council" on www.flickr.com

Under a new initiative called Vision 2030, SSC and the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports are engaging people from all walks of life, the business community and the public sector to explore and develop proposals on how sport can best serve Singapore's future needs. Vision 2030 will look at how sport can be used as strategy to develop individuals, our communities, our economy and our

nation. Members of the public who wish to share ideas, experience and information are invited to post on the official website www.Vision2030.sg

About Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore

Standard Chartered in Singapore is part of an international banking group with an extensive network of over 1,700 branches and outlets in more than 70 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

It 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. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

Standard Chartered has a history of more than 150 years in Singapore, opening its first branch here in 1859 and in October 1999 was among the first international banks to receive a Qualifying Full Bank (QFB) licence, an endorsement of the Group's long-standing commitment to its businesses in the country.

It serves both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corporate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, securities services, foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance.

The Bank employs over 7,000 people in Singapore and has a network of 19 branches, 30 ATMs, and 7 Priority Banking centres. Standard Chartered is the only international bank to offer NETS service, giving its customers access to EFTPOS at over 17,000 outlets islandwide. The Bank's global businesses - Consumer and Wholesale Banking - are managed out of Singapore, as is its global Technology & Operations function.

Annex A

List of Elite Athletes

Men

Name	DOB	Country	Personal Best	Recent Timing	Average Timing	IAAF Ranking
Yared Dagnaw Sharew	15/11/1982	Eritrea	2:08:13	2:10:41	2:11:04	Gold
Gebreselassie Tsegay Reda	26/9/1984	Ethiopia	2:09:44	2:13:39	2:11:30	Gold
Ben Kipruto Chebet	22/2/1982	Kenya	2:09:26	2:09:26	2:11:54	Gold
Benjamin Maiyo	6/10/1978	Kenya	2:09:58	2:13:25	2:15:30	Gold
Charles Kibiwott	8/8/1974	Kenya	2:09:10	2:17:24	2:13:02	Gold
Daniel Kosgei	19/6/1986	Kenya	2:08:45	2:15:01	2:11:54	Gold
Jackson Kipkoech Kotut	12/2/1988	Kenya	2:07:30	2:11:16	2:08:57	Gold
Jackson Koech	26/12/1978	Kenya	2:09:42	2:10:35	2:10:14	Gold
Kenneth Mburu Mungara	7/9/1973	Kenya	2:07:36	2:07:36	2:08:03	Gold
William Kiplagat	21/6/1972	Kenya	2:07:50	2:13:21	2:10:21	Gold
John Kelai	29/12/1976	Kenya	2:11:05	2:13:25	2:11:53	Silver
Peter Muriuki Nderitu	1/1/1983	Kenya	2:10:52	2:10:52	2:12:15	Silver
Stanley Leleito	15/6/1984	Kenya	2:10:17	2:11:37	2:13:01	Silver
Thomson Kibet Cherogony	12/11/1978	Kenya	2:10:52	2:11:37	2:12:15	Silver
Vincent Krop	1/1/1983	Kenya	2:11:51	2:14:07	2:15:25	Silver
Francis Muendo Maundu	1/1/1977	Kenya	2:12:09	2:13:40	2:12:47	Bronze
Jonathan Kipkosgei Cheruiyot	1/1/1983	Kenya	2:13:04	2:13:06	2:15:33	Bronze

Women

Name	DOB	Country	Personal Best	Recent Timing	Average Timing	IAAF Ranking
Irene Jerotich Koskei	8/9/1974	Kenya	2:28:57	2:31:29	2:33:03	Gold
Silviia Skvortsova	16/11/1974	Russia	2:26:24	2:27:51	2:30:26	Gold
Kateryna Stetsenko	22/1/1982	Ukraine	2:27:51	2:27:51	2:31:10	Gold
Yuliya Ruban	6/10/1983	Ukraine	2:27:10	2:27:10	2:33:59	Gold
Halima Hassen Beriso	10/11/1992	Ethiopia	2:32:42	2:32:42	2:32:42	Bronze
Roman Gebregessese	26/9/1984	Ethiopia	2:32:28	2:36:21	2:36:12	Bronze
Jacqueline Nytepi	1/1/1984	Kenya	2:34:16	2:40:01	2:37:32	Bronze
Magdalene Mukunzi (HM)	22/10/1983	Kenya	1:10:05 (HM)	1:11:54 (HM)	1:11:10 (HM)	Bronze
Lyubov Denisova	6/10/1971	Russia	-	-	-	Bronze

Annex B

Profiles of Top Elite Athletes

Kenneth Mburu Mungara

Gender: Male
Country: Kenya
Birth Date: 7 September 1973

Personal Records:

Full Marathon: 2:07:36

Kenneth Mburu Mungara is a Kenyan long distance runner who specialises in the Marathon. Mungara was the champion of the Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore 2010 with a time of 2:14:06, his first time competing in the Republic. Mungara also broke his personal record the next year at the 2011 Prague Marathon with a time of 2:07:36. Mungara then moved on to clinch the champion's title in the Toronto Waterfront Marathon, making it his fourth consecutive year in winning that title from 2008 to 2011.

Career Highlights:

2008 Tiberias Marathon, Second (2:10:37)
2008 Prague Marathon, Champion (2:11:06)
2008 Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Champion (2:11:01)
2009 Mumbai Marathon, Champion (2:11:51) - Course Record
2009 Prague Marathon, Third (2:10:29)
2009 Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Champion (2:08:32) – Course & Canadian Record
2010 Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Champion (2:07:58) – Course & Canadian Record
2010 Singapore Marathon, Champion (2:14:32)
2011 Prague Marathon, Champion (2:07:36)
2011 Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Champion (2:09:51)

Jackson Kipkoech Kotut

Gender: Male
Country: Kenya
Birth Date: 12 February 1988

Personal Records:

Half Marathon: 1:02:37
25km: 1:14:08
30km: 1:29:04
Full Marathon: 2:07:30

Jackson Kipkoech Kotut is a Kenyan athlete who specializes in marathon and other long distance races. He smashed the course record in the 2009 Tiberias Marathon with a time of 2:08:07. A year later, Kotut improved his personal Marathon best by almost a minute at the Barcelona Marathon, smashing the course record with a time of 2:07:30. This will be his first time competing in Singapore at the Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore 2011.

Career Highlights:

2008 Tiberias Marathon, Third (2:10:57)
2009 Tiberias Marathon, Champion (2:08:07) – Course Record
2009 Rotterdam Marathon, Fifth (2:08:54)
2010 Barcelona Marathon, Champion (2:07:30) – Course Record

Irene Jerotich Koskei

Gender: Female
Country: Kenya
Birth Date: 9 August 1974

Personal Records:

Half Marathon: 1:11:17
Full Marathon: 2:28:57

Irene Jerotich Koskei is no stranger to the Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore. Having competed last year, Koskei was crowned the women's champion with a time of 2:35:22 after being the first Kenyan woman to win in the Commonwealth Games marathon in the same year. Her first victory over the distance came at the Nairobi Marathon in 2006 and she won the race again in 2010 with a course record and personal best time of 2:28:47.

Career Highlights:

2008 Nairobi Marathon, Second (2:37:08)
2009 Tiberias Marathon, Champion (2:39:07)
2009 Nairobi Marathon, Champion (2:28:57) – Course record
2010 New Delhi Commonwealth Games Marathon, Champion (2:34:32)
2010 Singapore Marathon, Champion (2:35:22)

Silviia Skvortsova

Gender: Female
Country: Russia
Birth Date: 16 November 1974

Personal Records:

Half Marathon: 1:09:17
Marathon: 2:26:24

Less than two months from her 35th birthday, Silviia Skvortsova had the marathon time of her life charging to a 2:26:24 second place finish at the Berlin Marathon 2009. With more than 10 years of marathon running experience under her belt, the 37 year old veteran will be a force to reckon with as her most recent marathon in Toronto saw her post a timing of 2:27:51 with a third place finish.

Career Highlights:

2007 Las Vegas Marathon, Champion (2:29:01)
2009 Berlin Marathon, Second (2:26:24)
2011 Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Third (2:27:51)

Annex C

List of Key Broadcast Profiles

Elite Athletes

1. Kenneth Mburu Mungara (Kenya)
2. Irene Jerotich Koskei (Kenya)

Local Athletes

3. Ashley Liew (25 years old / Student)
 - Fastest time for the Full Marathon: 2 hr 41 min 55s
 - First runner-up for SCMS2010
 - Loves to run competitively and the freedom that comes with it
 - Used to weigh a massive 80kg before he took up running competitively
 - Appreciates the support of his girlfriend who cheered him on for more than 10 hours in the hot sun during one of his races
4. Sumiko Tan (26 years old / Physical Education Teacher)
 - Fastest time for the Full Marathon: 3 hr 22 min
 - Running in memory of a pair of twin sisters whom she knew back then, when three of them were part of a team of long-distance runners in school
 - Was nearly second last year till she collapsed a short distance before the finish line

Other Runners

5. Mary Tan (44 years old / Financial Consultant)
 - Recovering breast cancer patient
 - Decided to run the Half Marathon after receiving her diagnosis
 - Inspires the people around her with her positive attitude
6. Kate Farrell (30 years old / Pre-school Teacher)
 - Participating in a Half Marathon for the first time
 - Ran and continued training despite having five feet of varicose veins removed
 - Has a twin sister based in Australia who she always shares advice with
7. Jolene Tan (27 years old / Financial Consultant)
 - Started running only this year with encouragement from partner
 - Suffers from mild gastritis and panic attack

8. Tham Jia Hui (12 years old / Student)

- Participating in the Kids Dash for the second time
- Loves to run with cousins and uncle has signed all of them up this year
- Enjoys the competition and coming in first