

29 May 2012

HSBC WINS BUSINESS CHARITY AWARD

- *Winner of the Charity Partnership: Financial and Professional*
- *Highly recommended in the Employee Engagement category*
- *Short-listed in the Challenge Team award*

HSBC beat competition from other international banks to win 'Charity Partnership: Financial and Professional' at the prestigious Business Charity Awards held on 15 May in London.

The HSBC Climate Partnership was commended by Peter Gilheany, director of Forster Communications and one of the category judges, as "a truly impressive achievement, built on strategic vision and commitment across the board".

The bank's ground-breaking five-year programme committed US\$100 million to four leading environmental organisations: The Climate Group, Earthwatch Institute, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and Earthwatch. It focused on helping people, forests, freshwater and cities to adapt to a changing climate, and set ambitious targets to effect lasting change at a global and local level, and within HSBC itself.

Sue Alexander, Senior Manager for Environmental Programmes from HSBC said: "We're delighted the programme has been recognised. When we began this partnership we wanted to tackle the issue of climate change whilst engaging HSBC's global workforce. Together, we delivered long term benefits for the environment, such as providing cleaner water for 32 million people and creating over 2,200 HSBC Climate Champions."

Other notable achievements of the partnership include: delivering the world's largest forest research project providing valuable data to policy makers and academics for years to come; helping over 21 million hectares of habitat to adapt to a changing climate; helping 20 of the world's largest cities cut carbon emissions more quickly; and reaching over 50 million people through public campaigns on

energy and water efficiency. In the UK, HSBC employees volunteered 5,257 days through the programme.

HSBC was also highly recommended in the Employee Engagement category for the work carried out in support of the Big Issue Foundation. Since 2011 the Retail Banking and Wealth Management team in Greater London have organised many events, including a day in the life of a Big Issue vendor, 'The Big Night Walk', and a London to Paris Bike Ride - raising more than £70,000.

HSBC employee fund-raising for Marie Curie Cancer Care, where 30 employees climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro last year in June and raised £200,000, was also short-listed for the Challenge Team Award.

Notes to editors:

HSBC Bank plc community investment programmes

In 2011, the bank donated £10.6 million to community projects on education, the environment and other local causes. HSBC employees raised £5.1 million for charities, of which £2.5 million was match funding provided by HSBC through their employee 'pound for pound' scheme. Fifteen thousand HSBC employees have volunteered 80,000 hours of their own time in the community. More information on HSBC's UK and global community efforts can be found in the 2011 Sustainability Report, available at: www.hsbc.com/sustainability/sustainability-report-2011

Business Charity Awards

Now in their third year, the Business Charity Awards celebrate the work companies do with the third sector. Award categories recognise: Charity Partnerships, Business Charity Champions, CSR Teams, Challenge Teams and Outstanding Employees. The awards are sponsored by the Charity Aid Foundation and judged by an independent panel that includes the new Shadow Minister for Civil Society and the Chief Executive of Acevo (the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations).

ENDS

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HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 7,200 offices in over 80 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,637bn at 31 March 2012, the HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.