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HSBC TOPS 2009 CARBON DISCLOSURE PROJECT

HSBC has been rated number one in the financial sector and third overall in the 2009 Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). The CDP promotes awareness of business implications of climate change by encouraging the world's leading companies to disclose information about their greenhouse gas emissions.

HSBC's leading position demonstrates the company's approach to:

- Taking effective action to manage risks and capitalise on opportunities arising from climate change;
- Implementing carbon reduction activities that deliver demonstrable results; and
- Forward planning around expected regulation.

HSBC Holdings plc appears in the CDP's *Global 500 Report*, which this year received the highest response rate ever from corporations (409 responses, representing 82 per cent of the Global 500, up from 77 per cent last year), and a doubling of response rates in the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China).

Teresa Au, Head of Corporate Sustainability Asia Pacific Region, said: "HSBC's position in the Carbon Disclosure Project highlights our growing understanding of the risks and opportunities presented by climate change. We are pleased to be recognised as the leader in the financial sector and will continue to implement effective carbon reduction initiatives throughout HSBC."

This year, HSBC announced an ambitious target to reduce carbon dioxide from business travel by 20 per cent by 2012. This will be achieved through investments in cutting-edge, green communication technologies such as tele-presence, videoconferencing and WebEx.

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HSBC tops the 2009 Carbon Disclosure Project/2

Media enquiries:

Jeanette Kwok + 852 2822 1373

jeanettelykwok@hsbc.com.hk

Notes to editors:

Photo captions

Photo 1: Teresa Au, Head of Corporate Sustainability Asia Pacific Region, said HSBC's leading position in the Carbon Disclosure Project highlights its growing understanding of the risks and opportunities presented by climate change.

1. Carbon Disclosure Project

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) was launched in 2000 to collect and distribute high quality information that motivates investors, corporations and governments to take action to prevent climate change. The CDP represents over 470 global institutional investors, with more than US\$55 trillion in assets under management. As an independent non-for-profit organisation, CDP collects key climate change data from 2,500 major corporations around the world.

The full Carbon Disclosure Project 2009 Global 500 Report can be downloaded from www.cdproject.net

2. The HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 8,500 offices in 86 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,422 billion at 30 June 2009, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'. For more information, please visit www.hsbc.com.

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