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OCBC BANK PARTNERS NTUC TO BE SINGAPORE'S FIRST BANK TO OFFER IN-HOUSE CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Family-friendly move brings OCBC closer to its goal of becoming an employer of choice

Singapore, 25 September 2006 – OCBC Bank announced today that its employees will be able to drop their children off at a childcare centre located right within its Chulia Street premises, from 3 January 2007 onwards. Partnering with the NTUC Childcare Group, *The Little Skool-House at-OCBC-Centre* is OCBC Bank's latest human resources initiative to make its workplace more family-friendly. This makes OCBC Bank the first bank in Singapore to introduce this programme, bringing the Bank closer to its goal of becoming an employer of choice.

Occupying more than 6,000 square feet on the second floor of OCBC Centre, *The Little Skool-House at-OCBC-Centre* will be managed by The Little Skool-House, a subsidiary of the NTUC Childcare Group.

"Introducing work-life programmes will encourage family life and diversity within the Bank and it is definitely in line with our goal of being the kind of employer that people love to work for. We are implementing programmes that will provide every employee with the equal opportunity to grow and develop their careers with the Bank, and at the same time, help them lead a fulfilling family life," said Ms Cynthia Tan, Head of Group Human Resources, OCBC Bank.

"As a pro-family employer, we fully understand that childcare responsibility is one of the key concerns of working parents. Nothing beats knowing that your children are well cared for in a safe environment. Finding reliable childcare services also has a positive impact on working mothers' decision to return to work after maternity leave.

"Parents can pop in to see their children during lunch. Employees who find themselves suddenly stranded without childcare can make use of the emergency day-care service provided by the centre. Knowing that their children are in the capable hands of professional care-givers right within OCBC Centre will allow our employees to concentrate on work, without worrying about their children's well-being," added Ms Tan.

Ms Adeline Sum, CEO of NTUC Childcare Group, said, "The founding purpose of the NTUC Childcare Group is to support working families in the development and care of their children. So we are very privileged and happy to collaborate with OCBC to serve the needs of the bank's employees. This collaboration also forms part of the overall successful partnership between OCBC and the NTUC Group, where the NTUC-OCBC Credit and Debit Cards is one example."

The Little Skool-House at-OCBC-Centre is expected to take in up to 97 children, which includes 12 infants, from two to 17 months, and 85 children from 18 months to six years old. OCBC Bank employees will enjoy preferential rates. This childcare centre will offer a creative curriculum that seeks not only to develop strong language and literacy skills but also an appreciation of the environment and their cultural heritage, through field trips in and around the Raffles Place area.

OCBC Bank employees can register their children beginning 25 September 2006.

This in-house childcare service is one of the many work-life balance programmes that are already in place in OCBC Bank. Some of the programmes include *Flexible Work Arrangements*, which enables employees to plan their office hours with family schedules in mind; the OCBC *Flex-Plan* which can be extended to provide medical and insurance coverage for immediate family members, as well as *Regular Lunch-time Programmes* on parenting, eldercare and healthcare issues.

In line with OCBC Bank's philosophy that work and personal life are complementary and not competing priorities, the Bank will continue to introduce work-life balance programmes that are relevant to employees' needs and evolving lifestyle.

About OCBC Bank

Singapore's longest established local bank, OCBC Bank, currently has assets of S\$136 billion and a network of over 310 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong SAR, Brunei, Japan, Australia, UK and USA. This network includes more than 200 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by OCBC Bank's subsidiary, PT Bank NISP. OCBC Bank and its banking subsidiaries offer a wide range of specialist financial services, from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to global treasury and stockbroking services to meet the needs of its customers across communities.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the largest insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia, in terms of assets and market share, and its asset management subsidiary, Lion Capital Management, is one of the largest asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

About The Little Skool-House

Established in 1994, The Little Skool-House provides premium childcare and pre-school services to support to working parents and workplaces in their efforts to help their employees to effectively manage their work and personal responsibilities and commitments.

It currently operates two self-owned centres, located in Orchid Country Club and Singapore General Hospital. It also operates three franchise centres in Jakarta and another in Surabaya.

At The Little Skool-House, each child is viewed as unique individuals and capable of learning anything given the right environment. As such, children at The Little Skool-House are guided by highly competent staff who hold either degree or diploma qualification. Learning is a continuous process, extending from the school to the home. Thus, a mutually supportive relationship between the school and the family is considered crucial in its provision for quality care and education for young children.

The core curriculum of The Little Skool-House integrates learning of concepts and skills that both early childhood educators and parents view as important to the development and life-long preparation for young children. This encompasses the development of language, numeracy, social skills, physical skills, problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and the ability to appreciate aesthetics and the arts.

The Little Skool-House curriculum, though driven by its Core Curriculum, will integrate a Specialised Curriculum which differentiates itself from other pre-school centres. A key feature of this curriculum is its flexibility in allowing teachers to adapt the learning experiences to capitalise on the unique resources available at each centre to meet the children's needs and their parents' expectations.

The Little Skool-House remains committed in its support of each individual child's intellectual, social, emotional, physical and moral development and seeks to actively involve parents in their children's learning and achievement.
