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**HSBC TOPS THE 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 new 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).

Simon Martin, Head of Group Corporate Sustainability, 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% by 2012. This will be achieved through investments in cutting edge green communication technologies such as tele-presence, videoconferencing and WebEx.