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## **SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Trust Reaches More than US\$30 Billion Milestone**

**Hong Kong — March 2, 2009** — State Street Global Advisors (SSgA), an affiliate of State Street Corporation (NYSE: STT) and World Gold Trust Services, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the World Gold Council (WGC), today announced that assets in the SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Trust (Ticket: 2840) have surpassed US\$30 billion, making it the second largest exchanged traded fund (ETF) by assets in the world\*.

“As economic uncertainty climbs, an increasing number of investors are adding more gold to their portfolios,” says Natalie Dempster, Head of Investment, North America, for WGC. “Assets in the trust have increased by more than 60 percent in the last six months. This growth underscores gold’s appeal in these uncertain times and its recognition as a portfolio diversifier among a wide array of financial advisors and investors.”

Launched by World Gold Trust Services and SSgA on the New York Stock Exchange in November 2004, SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Trust was the first US commodity based exchanged-traded security and quickly emerged as one of the fastest growing exchange-traded products. It was subsequently cross-listed in Mexico, Singapore and Japan. On July 31, 2008, SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Trust was cross-listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, becoming the first physical gold backed commodity ETF listed in Hong Kong. The average daily trading volume of SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Trust in Hong Kong has reached US\$2.3 million since its listing, and has become one of the top five ETFs in Hong Kong in terms of trading volume\*.

“In providing convenient, low-cost access to a previously hard-to-reach corner of the



market, SPDR® Gold Trust have helped change the way many investors manage their portfolio amid increasing market volatility,” says James Ross, Senior Managing Director at State Street Global Advisors. State Street Global Advisors is one of the largest ETF providers in the United States and globally.

Sammy Yip, Head of Exchange Traded Funds at State Street Global Advisors Asia Limited, says, “The SPDR® Gold Trust is well received by investors in Hong Kong evidenced by the surging trading volume. It is expected that the trend will continue in 2009 as investors traditionally perceive gold as a “haven” in face of volatile economics environment and equities markets.”

### **About World Gold Trust Services, LLC.**

World Gold Trust Services, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the World Gold Council (WGC) which is a commercially-driven marketing organization that is funded by the world’s leading gold mining companies. A global advocate for gold, the WGC aims to promote the demand for gold in all its forms through marketing activities in major international markets. For further information, visit [www.gold.org](http://www.gold.org)<sup>1</sup>.

### **About State Street Global Advisors**

State Street Global Advisors, the investment management arm of State Street Corporation (NYSE: STT), delivers investment strategies and integrated solutions to clients worldwide across every asset class, investment approach and style. With US\$1.4 trillion in assets under management at December 31, 2008, State Street Global Advisors has investment centers in Boston, Hong Kong, London, Montreal, Munich, Paris, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto and Zurich, and offices in 27 cities worldwide. For more information, visit State Street Global Advisors at [www.ssga.com](http://www.ssga.com)<sup>1</sup>.

\* Source: Bloomberg, February 27, 2009

<sup>1</sup> These websites are not authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission (“SFC”) and they may contain information relating to the investment funds which are not authorised by SFC.

Nothing contained herein constitutes investment advice and should not be relied upon as such. Investment involves risk. The value of SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Shares (the "Shares") of the SPDR<sup>®</sup> Gold Trust ("the Trust") may fall or rise. Investors should be aware that the Trust is different from a typical unit trust offered to the public in Hong Kong. Past performance of the Trust or of the gold market is not necessarily indicative of its future performance. Fluctuations of gold prices may materially adversely affect the value of the Shares, for example, in the event of crises motivating large-scale sales of gold or substantial sales of gold by the official sector. Redemption of Shares can only be executed in substantial size through authorized participants. Listing of Shares on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("SEHK") does not guarantee a liquid market for Shares, and Shares may be delisted from SEHK. The Shares may trade on the SEHK at price which is at, above or below the underlying net asset value per Shares. Investors should read the Trust's prospectus including the risk factors carefully before investing. The Trust's prospectus is available from State Street Global Advisors Asia Limited. Investors should consider whether the Trust is suitable for him/her and may wish to seek advice from a financial advisor before investing in Shares.

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