

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE APPU EC**

*(Paper prepared by India)*

India has chaired the Executive Council from 2014-2016, beginning with a constituent meeting convened in 2013. Following the 11<sup>th</sup> APPU Congress, held in New Delhi, India in 2013, there have been three APPU EC meetings: 2014 (Colombo), 2015 (Islamabad) and 2016 (Langkawi). The Executive Council meetings helped take the common agenda adopted by the member countries forward with a focus on the priority issues concerning the management of the Union, the Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC), physical postal services in the wake of the market changes, postal financial services, digitisation and e-services and the sustainable development and balanced growth in the postal sector in the region.

The EC in Colombo, Sri Lanka was held from 15-29 September 2014. 26 out of 32 members were present. The Finance Committee noted the the approval of Governing Board of the Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC) on the revised pay-scale for seven employment categories of APPU Bureau staffs. During the General Assembly of APP, it was decided that the surplus balance for 2013 of US\$ 22,633 be allocated to funding of new activities of the APP in 2015. It was unanimously decided to form a committee under the chairmanship of Malaysia to look into ways and means to make the working of the APPU Bureau more relevant for members in line with the changing postal customer's needs and the postal business environment. The respective working groups formed to focus on the priority areas for the effective functioning of the posts in the region examined and explored the emerging realities in their domains for the common benefit of member countries.

The EC in Islamabad, Pakistan was held from 24-28 March 2015. 17 out of 32 members were present. Finance Committee approved the increase of contribution share per unit from US\$ 1,850 in 2015 to US\$ 1,950 for 2016. The APPC GB Meeting noted the financial position of APPC given the inflation and rising cost. It was suggested by India that APPC might come up with a proposal to increase cash contribution. The General Assembly also approved the proposed business plan for 2015 which is in line with the strategic plan set out for years 2015 to 2020. Malaysia as the chair proposed for continuing the work of the review of APPU EC and its various bodies. Various forward looking ideas and options were shared by the working groups including innovations in e-Services like cross- border online shopping, Postal Registered Electronic Mail (PREM) etc.

The EC in Langkawi, Malaysia was held on 16-21 May 2016. 23 out of 32 members attended the meeting. Finance Committee approved (i) the increase in budgeted expenditure as a result of the engagement of a consultant to further develop the APPU Reform proposal (requiring additional funding of US\$ 20,000), and the scheduled pay scale increase and CPI adjustments for staff costs; and (ii) the proposed increase in the contribution share per unit to US\$ 2,150. The APP General Assembly agreed to reorganize the APP Office, with the creation of a new role of the Office Managing Director. The GA also agreed to a proposal to reorganize the APP office which was a necessary and consequential requirement from the need for future funding and increased budget. The outcomes of the work of the Postal Strategy and Integration Group (PSIG) were reviewed and discussed, particularly the Integrated Product Plan (IPP). It was underlined that a proper impact study of the Integrated Product Plan and a well informed decision making process

considering all pros and cons was essential as the proposed changes would have an all pervasive implication. It was decided that the final and complete proposals on the reform will be presented to the Congress for approval to ensure APPU stays relevant, vibrant, transparent, objective, market oriented and somewhat commercially driven.

The Chair of the EC expresses appreciation to Malaysia as Vice-Chair for taking up the Chairmanship at the APPU Special Meeting in March 2017, and to the APPU Bureau for its support. The Chairs of various Working Groups and Committees have ensured the continuity and focus of key aspects of the Council's work viz., Australia (Finance), China (e-Service), New Zealand (Letters and Parcels), India (Postal Financial Services), and Pakistan (Sustainable Development). Appreciation is extended to these countries as well.

India thanks all members for their support and understanding, and extends best wishes to Iran for its term as EC Chair.