

## **REPORT OF THE ASIAN-PACIFIC POSTAL COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD**

The 48<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC) Governing Board Meeting was held on 25 June 2018. It was attended by all 12 members, namely Australia, China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Ajarin Pattanapanchai, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand, Chairman of the Governing Board. Mr. Lin Hongliang, and Ms. Penchan Manawanitkul represented the APPU Bureau. Representatives from Iran, Vanuatu, Deutsche Post, La Poste, Swiss Post, APP and RTCAP attended the Meeting as observers.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Ajarin emphasised the digital disruptive trends affecting postal industry nowadays which were necessitating a series of reforms in the postal sector. In this context, the College will be instrumental in supporting such reforms through excellent training and learning programmes.

### ***APPC GB Doc 1 - 8***

1. The meeting noted the Report on developments and changes in personnel-related matters as reported by the Secretary General, particularly on the following points:
  - Two Lecturers namely: Mr. Anucha Soonglertsongpha, from Thailand Post, will complete his term in August 2019; while Mr. Amitabh Singh, from India Post, will complete his term in December 2018. The College has announced for new lecturer in June 2018 and expect the new lecturer to commence his/ her service by early 2019.
2. The meeting took note of the following key APPC's activities for the year 2017:
  - a. The College organized 15 courses and 7 programmes and special workshops.
  - b. The College expressed appreciation to the 8 generous donors and members whose contributions continue to maintain the training activities, namely Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, UPU, La Poste France, Deutsche Post and Swiss Post.
  - c. Grants are for partial/ full supports of 57 fellowship participants, or 209 course-weeks.
  - d. Actual attendance 230 seats, compared to 182 allocated, an increase of 26%.
  - e. Total funds for 2018 of THB 9.06 million are expected to be allocated to support 62 fellowship participants, or 268 course-weeks.
    - The impressive results were primarily due to special support from UPU, visiting lecturers, outreach programmes to APPU as well as non-APPU member countries and the continual success of the APPU Postal Business Forum.
    - The College engaged Consultants, Guest Lecturers, Speakers and other resources to share technical knowledge, best practices and experience to inspire participants with practical business vision at the regular courses, workshops, seminar and business forum.
3. According to the audited financial statements for the year ended 2017, the College's income was lower than expenditure of Baht 948,550, due to loss on exchange rate. This

was stemmed from accounting loss due to strong appreciation in Thai Baht. However, before loss on exchange, income over expenditure, or surplus, was Baht 1,113,671.

4. The Board agreed with the Bureau proposal to change the auditor to N2S Solution who tendered the lowest fees and its satisfactory performance as the Bureau's former auditor.
5. India raised an issue over the lean structure of the APPC i.e. only 2 full-time lecturers. India further stated that APPC would play a key role in strengthening human capital in the region, and that having part-time assignment for the regional ORE project further makes it necessary to have more lecturers so that all responsibilities can be delivered effectively. Secretary General explained that due to budget constraint, the APPC had to work with only two full-time lecturers for now.
6. Secretary General expressed some concern on commitment from GB members in sending TNA, nominating participants as promised in TNA and decreasing number of self-funded participants.
7. The Board raised questions and concerns on the adjustment of tuition fee and subsistence allowance and that the percentage increase might be too high for some members. The initial proposal was for tuition fee from US\$ 670 to US\$ 800; and for subsistence allowance from US\$110 to US\$ 140.
8. Issues were also raised with regards to the source of consumer price index (CPI) used for calculating the salary increment. The Board then requested the Bureau to revisit and cite the source of data.

#### ***APPU EC Doc 9 Annex 2***

9. In order to resolve the matter, the Bureau and concerned members have requested the Chair, Thailand to reconvene the GB meeting on ***Wednesday 27 June***.
10. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Kajit Sukhum, Assistant Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand. At the meeting, the Board agreed for the adjustment of tuition fee from US\$ 670 to US\$ 750; and subsistence allowance from US\$110 to US\$125 per week.
11. The Bureau has further explained on the CPI that they will use the CPI from Bank of Thailand (BOT) source for 2019 budgeting, which is 1.5%. The Board then requested that this 1.5% CPI shall be used to factor in the calculation of salary increment as well. The revised budget appears as ***APPC GB Doc 7 Annex 4 Rev 2***.
12. The Board recommends EC consider the Board's resolution as follows:
  - **Approve** the 2017 auditor's financial report;
  - **Approve** the appointment of N2S Company as the Bureau's auditor for 2019;
  - **Endorse**, in principle, the Business Plan of the APPC (2019 – 2021).
  - **Approve** the adjustment of tuition fee and subsistence allowance, proposed by the Bureau; and
  - **Approve** the 2019 APPC's budget.

13. The meeting expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Royal Thai Government for the cash contribution amounting to Baht 2,000,000 to the College for another year in 2018; and to Thailand Post for the generosity in waiving of rental fee of the Bureau Office and College facilities since the inception of the College.

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