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**FROM SECRETARY-
GENERAL'S DESK**



Greetings from the Asian-Pacific Postal Union!

At the very outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued dedication to strengthening regional cooperation in the postal sector. It is your active engagement that helps us build a more connected, resilient, and forward-looking Asia-Pacific postal community.

In just a few weeks, the 28th Universal Postal Congress will open in Dubai – a landmark moment for the global postal family. APPU is deeply engaged in the preparations, and I warmly invite all member delegations of our region to join our coordination meeting in Dubai just ahead of the Congress, further details of which are being worked out with the organising team. This will be a crucial moment for us to review key agenda items and ensure that Asia-Pacific speaks with a united and informed voice.

I am delighted to share that Fiji Post has agreed to host the inaugural APPU Pacific Postal Conference, tentatively scheduled for 3–5 November 2025 in Nadi. This new platform will provide Pacific Island postal leaders with dedicated space to discuss shared challenges and shape future strategies in a collaborative framework.

Earlier this month, APPU successfully organized a specialized capacity development programme in Colombo for officials of Sri Lanka Post, conducted in close partnership with Sri Lanka Post. Such initiatives highlight our growing emphasis on member-led capacity building and skills enhancement across the region.

On the philately front, the proposal for an Omnibus Stamp Issue to commemorate APPU's 65th anniversary in 2027, endorsed at the 2025 APPU Executive Council Meeting, is gathering momentum. We have invited members to nominate experts to join the Select Committee that will guide the design and coordination of this special regional issue. I encourage your active participation in this creative collaboration. In parallel, the Postal Regulations Expert Team (PRET), chaired by Vietnam, is commencing its work – another step towards strengthening our collective postal policy and regulatory capacity.

Looking ahead, preparations are also underway for the 12th APPU Postal Business Forum, to be held in Bangkok from 1 to 4 December 2025. Invitations have already gone out to postal leaders and industry players from within and beyond our region, and we look forward to your strong participation.

As we prepare for these important milestones, I look forward to meeting many of you in Dubai. Together, we will work to ensure that our region's priorities, perspectives, and commonly agreed positions are clearly reflected in the deliberations and outcomes of the 28th Universal Postal Congress.

Warm regards,



Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh

APPU CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OMNIBUS STAMP SELECT COMMITTEE

The APPU Bureau has invited member countries to nominate experts to join a Select Committee for the proposed Omnibus Stamp Issue commemorating APPU's 65th anniversary in 2027.

Approved during the 2025 Executive Council Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, the initiative aims to celebrate regional unity through a coordinated philatelic release. The Select Committee will guide the preparation and design process, with a final proposal to be presented at the 14th APPU Congress in 2026.

Member countries are encouraged to submit nominations by 31 August 2025.

FIJI TO HOST INAUGURAL APPU PACIFIC POSTAL CONFERENCE IN 2025

Fiji has agreed to host the first edition of the APPU Pacific Postal Conference, tentatively scheduled for 3–5 November 2025 in Nadi. This is an outcome of fruitful discussions between the APPU Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the Board of Post Fiji Pte Limited, held during the 2025 APPU Executive Council Meeting.

The Conference will bring together postal leaders and government officials from across the Pacific region to explore enhanced regional cooperation, postal sector transformation, and sustainable development. A special session will also invite international and private sector partners to support the Pacific's postal development goals. To facilitate participation, APPU – through the India Fund in the UPU – will provide fellowship assistance to two delegates from each small island member country in the Pacific.

APPU sincerely thanks Post Fiji for their strong support and willingness to host this important regional gathering. We encourage all Pacific members to mark their calendars and prepare to participate. Additional details, including the official invitation and registration process, will be shared with members in due course.

APPU AND SRI LANKA POST HOST CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN COLOMBO

From 4 to 7 August, the Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC) conducted a Specialised Capacity Building Programme in Colombo, Sri Lanka, for the staff of Sri Lanka Post. The programme, themed “Leadership, Innovation and Marketing in the Postal Sector”, aimed to strengthen managerial capabilities and inspire innovative approaches in postal operations.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, Secretary-General of APPU, and Mr. Ruwan Sathkumara, Postmaster General of Sri Lanka Post, who delivered the welcome remarks. During the visit, Dr. Singh also met with the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Mr. Santosh Jha, to discuss enhancing cooperation with Sri Lanka Post and the broader postal sector.



APPU JOINS THAILAND POST IN MARKING 22ND ANNIVERSARY

On 14 August 2025, Thailand Post Co., Ltd. celebrated its 22nd anniversary together with the 142nd anniversary of Thailand's postal service at the Thailand Post Headquarters in Bangkok.

Secretary-General Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh and the APPU team were pleased to participate in the anniversary event, offering warm congratulations to Thailand Post on its remarkable journey.

The APPU Bureau extends its heartfelt best wishes to Thailand Post for continued success, growth, and service excellence in the years ahead.



APPC NEWS

APPC COMPLETES IPS AND MIP COURSES WITH IN-DEPTH LEARNING AND THEMATIC WORKSHOPS



From 21 July to 15 August 2025, the Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC) successfully conducted two intensive training programmes – the International Postal Services (IPS) course and the Marketing & Innovation for Posts (MIP) course – bringing together postal professionals from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond, including two officials from Somalia Post, for a month of knowledge sharing, skills enhancement, and cross-cultural exchange.

The IPS course provided a comprehensive overview of international postal operations, covering UPU regulations and standards, international mail and data flows, postal customs, supply chain management, postal performance measurement, and the use of IPS and IPS.POST systems. A dedicated IPS/IPS.POST workshop, conducted by Mr. Kazuo Kamishiro from the UPU Postal Technology Centre, deepened participants' practical understanding of UPU IT tools, big data analysis and operational procedures practice with IPS/IPS.POST system.

The MIP course focused on strengthening business acumen and innovation capabilities in the postal sector. Topics ranged from marketing strategy formulation, branding, and customer-based selling to key account management and leadership in driving change.

Participants from both courses also took part in two joint events:

- Sustainable Development in the Postal Sector Workshop, led by Mr. Sandeep KP, which explored integrating environmental and social goals into postal strategies.
- Asian International Stamp Exhibition 2025 visit organized at the Grand Postal Building in Bangkok, offering insights into philately as a channel for cultural promotion and postal branding.

Practical exercises, guest lectures, benchmarking visits to postal facilities, and collaborative project work enriched both courses. Cultural activities and field visits fostered camaraderie, creating valuable professional networks that extend beyond the classroom.

BEST PRACTICE



ENHANCING OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE: IRAN POST'S AI-POWERED ROBOTIC SORTING INITIATIVE

Iran Post had received the Innovation in the Postal Sector Award at the APPU Postal Business Forum 2024 for its pioneering use of AI-powered robotic sorting technology, setting a new benchmark for automation in the region's postal sector.

Highlights

- 100% accuracy achieved in sorting over 2 million items within 7 months.
- Sorting speed reaches 30,000 items per day across 64 destinations.
- Lower energy consumption than traditional mechanized systems.
- Supports diverse mail types, including envelopes and parcels up to 7kg.
- Zero downtime since launch – no technical failures or disruptions.
- Staff requirement reduced from 30 to 7 per shift, with reallocation to other departments.
- Inclusive workplace benefits: supports employees with lower physical ability.
- Decreased missorting and delivery delays, especially during peak traffic days.

Launched in March 2023, Iran Post's AI-powered robotic sorting system was developed to enhance sorting efficiency, speed, and precision in its major distribution hubs. At the Tehran Sorting and Exchange Center, 55 robots operate within a compact 200-square-meter space, intelligently sorting up to 3,000 postal items per hour. A second deployment with 25 robots is underway in Kermanshah province.

The robots offer a flexible and scalable alternative to traditional conveyor systems, adapting easily to irregular layouts or spatial obstacles such as support columns. Their compact footprint makes them ideal for maximizing output in limited operational areas.

The primary objectives of the project were to:

- Increase the speed and precision of mail sorting;
- Enhance operational productivity and reduce reliance on manual labor;
- Improve service quality and delivery performance;
- Introduce smarter infrastructure aligned with Industry 4.0 principles.

By investing in robotic solutions, Iran Post is transforming its operations while also enabling faster, more reliable services for customers. The system's success has not only elevated internal efficiency but also created capacity for sustainable, scalable growth – a model that reflects the future of postal logistics in the digital age.



CHINA AND INDONESIA SIGN MOU TO DEEPEN POSTAL COOPERATION



Source:

State Post Bureau of the P.R.C.

On July 30, 2025, the State Post Bureau of the People's Republic of China (SPB) and the Ministry of Communications and Digital Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (MCDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Beijing to strengthen cooperation in the postal sector.

During the meeting, Mr. Zhao Chongjiu, Director General of SPB, and Mr. Edwin Hidayat Abdullah, Director General of the Digital Ecosystem, MCDA exchanged views on enhancing bilateral exchanges, promoting policy dialogue, and supporting enterprise-level collaboration in cross-border delivery services.

Mr. Zhao highlighted the vast development potential of the postal and express delivery markets in both countries and expressed China's willingness to deepen cooperation and governance experience-sharing.

Mr. Abdullah commended China's achievements in postal development and digitalization. He expressed Indonesia's commitment to implementing the MOU and expanding bilateral dialogue in response to the rapid growth of cross-border e-commerce.

The two sides also discussed closer coordination on major international postal matters under the UPU framework.



PHLPOST

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



Maximo Sta. Maria III Appointed Acting Postmaster General of PHLPost

The President of the Philippines has appointed Maximo Sta. Maria III as Acting Postmaster General and CEO of PHLPost. A veteran in postal management, Sta. Maria previously led the Manila Central Post Office to ISO 9001:2015 certification and played a key role in national postal reforms. He holds degrees from AIM and De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde. Sta. Maria emphasized innovation and technology adoption to ensure PHLPost remains relevant and responsive. “We must rise to the challenges and serve Filipinos at home and abroad,” he stated. His appointment was officiated by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin.

PHLPost Mobilizes Relief Logistics in Typhoon-Affected Areas

PHLPost deployed 10-wheeler trucks to deliver over 3,000 food packs from DSWD warehouses in Manila to Guiguinto, Bulacan, following heavy monsoon rains.

Postmaster General Maximo Sta. Maria III joined the operation and confirmed readiness to dispatch more vehicles upon request from the Office of Civil Defense and DSWD. Sta. Maria emphasized the role of postal logistics in disaster relief, directing Area Directors to report damages from Typhoon Dante. Despite localized work suspensions, essential postal operations continue to serve affected communities.

PHLPost Issues Stamps for FIVB Men's Volleyball Championship

PHLPost has released commemorative stamps for the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship, to be held from September 12 to 28 at the Mall of Asia Arena and Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The stamps were unveiled at the “Set na Natin 'To!” launch at the Mall of Asia Music Hall, led by PHLPost officials and the Philippine National Volleyball Federation. PHLPost highlighted the stamps as symbols of national pride and the Filipino sporting spirit, continuing its tradition of honoring sports icons through philately.



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INDIA RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND THE MALDIVES

India recently marked two significant diplomatic milestones through joint commemorative stamp releases with the Philippines and the Maldives.

On 5 August 2025, Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, and President of the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., unveiled a special stamp celebrating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. The design features the national flowers – the Lotus of India and the Sampaguita of the Philippines – symbolizing deep cultural ties, mutual respect, and enduring friendship.



Earlier, on 25 July 2025 in the Maldives, His Excellency Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi and His Excellency President of the Maldives Dr. Mohamed Muizzu jointly released a set of stamps to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations. The stamps depict two traditional vessels – the Indian Uru, a handcrafted wooden dhow from Beypore, Kerala, and the Maldivian Vadhu Dhoni, a classic fishing boat – representing the shared maritime heritage and longstanding connections across the Indian Ocean.

Full article

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-philippines-launch-stamps-on-75th-anniversary-of-establishment-of-diplomatic-ties-101754452688634.html>

https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/release-of-commemorative-stamps-on-the-occasion-of-the-60th-anniversary-of-establishment-of-india-maldives-diplomatic-relations/?comment=disable

THAILAND POST STRENGTHENS CROSS-BORDER SERVICES AND RECORDS STRONG GROWTH



Thailand Post is targeting continued growth in parcel shipments to China, following a 3% increase in 2024. The state agency aims to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries through both B2B and B2C delivery services.

According to CEO Dhanant Subhadrabandhu, Thailand Post is exploring multimodal transport options, combining road and rail, while leveraging its domestic network as a hub for goods entering Thailand for global delivery via air and land. Popular exports to China include documents, toys, cotton garments, supplements, and amulets.

“Postal routes have long played a vital role in connecting Thailand and China – not just economically, but across communities,”

Mr. Dhanant said. To reduce shipping costs, the company plans to enhance land transport from China, offering end-to-end customs clearance at both origin and destination.

To further promote bilateral ties, Thailand Post co-hosted the Asian International Stamp Exhibition 2025: Letters of Friendship – From Bangkok to Beijing, held on 8–12 August at the Grand Postal Building in Bangkok.

In the first half of 2025, the company recorded a 630 million baht operating profit – up from 180 million last year – driven by rising logistics volume and cost-effective operations, despite emerging challenges in the third quarter.

Full article <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/3079377/thailand-post-to-focus-on-shipments-to-china>

ICAO AND UPU ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON AIRMAIL SECURITY

In response to the increasingly complex global security environment, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) have jointly reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the security of air cargo and mail.

Recent incidents involving improvised incendiary and explosive devices have heightened the urgency for a coordinated, layered, and risk-based approach to safeguarding airmail. ICAO's Annex 17 and UPU's S58/S59 standards form the backbone of international efforts to mitigate threats, alongside advanced screening technologies, targeted personnel training, and increased data visibility in the supply chain.

The statement emphasizes that aviation and postal security require sustainable, cross-sector collaboration. Regulators, postal operators, intelligence agencies, and industry partners are encouraged to maintain robust information sharing and oversight practices to address evolving threats effectively.

ICAO and UPU also pledge to deepen cooperation through capacity-building programs, technical support, and the continued alignment of their respective frameworks. Their united efforts aim to ensure that air cargo and mail can move safely and efficiently across borders, protecting global connectivity and trade.

Read the full statement
<https://www.upu.int/en/press-release/2025/icaoupu-joint-statement-on-strengthening-the-security-of-airmail>

VIETNAM'S POSTAL AND DELIVERY SECTOR REPORTS DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH IN H1 2025

Vietnam's postal and delivery sector recorded significant growth in the first half of 2025, according to data released by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- Total revenue reached 38.3 trillion VND (approximately 1.46 billion USD), marking a 12.8% increase compared to the same period in 2024.
- Postal volume rose to 1.8 billion items, up 16% year-on-year.
- Sector contribution to the state budget amounted to 2.95 trillion VND, a 14.3% increase.
- Total profit stood at 950 billion VND, reflecting 20% growth over the previous year.
- The sector currently comprises 745 organizations and enterprises.
- Despite these gains, profit margins remain around 3%, due to intensifying competition and price pressures.

The continued expansion of Vietnam's e-commerce market, estimated to reach 33 billion USD by 2025, is a major factor driving demand. The postal and delivery market is projected to grow to 10 billion USD by 2030, with an annual growth rate of 20–30% (The Investor).

In response, domestic operators are shifting strategies:

- Viettel Post has set a 2025 revenue target of 21.028 trillion VND (up 1%) and a post-tax profit target of 405 billion VND (up 6%).
- VNPost Express is adjusting its business model and increasing promotional activities.
- Vietnam Post is transitioning into a service technology company, focusing on pricing and operational efficiency.
- Vietnam Post is also developing its Bách hóa bưu điện (Postal Supermarket) chain, with a goal to become one of Vietnam's top three retail systems by 2030.

Several companies are investing in technology to improve delivery speed and reduce costs, in anticipation of competition shifting from pricing to service performance.

Full article <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/postal-and-delivery-services-high-revenue-slim-profits-post323162.vnp>