

JANUARY

2026

ASIAN-PACIFIC POSTAL UNION NEWSLETTER



FROM SECRETARY- GENERAL'S DESK



Greetings from the Asian-Pacific Postal Union!

Warm greetings for the New Year. I would like to extend my sincere best wishes to you and your colleagues for a healthy, successful, and fulfilling year ahead.

As I enter my fourth year as Secretary-General since joining the APPU in 2023, I remain deeply appreciative of the trust and cooperation extended by our members. Over these years, I have had the privilege of working closely with the Asia-Pacific postal community and witnessing first-hand how our region continues to strengthen its collaboration, professionalism, and collective voice. This shared journey—built on dialogue, mutual respect, and practical cooperation—has shaped APPU into a trusted regional platform for communication and knowledge exchange.

Strengthening Connections, Sharing Knowledge

Looking ahead, the postal sector continues to navigate a rapidly evolving environment marked by digital acceleration, market pressures, and changing customer expectations. In this context, APPU remains firmly committed to its core role: connecting members, facilitating dialogue, and supporting informed and forward-looking decision-making.

In 2026, our work will continue to focus on strengthening regional exchange through structured forums, targeted training programmes, and collaborative studies. By bringing together ministers, regulators, postal operators, and partners, we aim to provide practical platforms for sharing experience, learning from diverse national practices, and jointly exploring solutions suited to the varied realities of the Asia-Pacific region.

Programmes and Platforms for the Year Ahead

Building on the momentum of recent years, APPU will further enhance its capacity-building efforts through the Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC). Our courses and workshops will place particular emphasis on policy dialogue, regulatory developments, digital transformation, and sustainable sector development—areas that remain central to members at different stages of reform and modernization.

In parallel, APPU's meetings and forums will continue to serve as important spaces for regional coordination. These gatherings are not only opportunities to exchange views, but also to align priorities, deepen mutual understanding, and reinforce the Asia-Pacific perspective within the wider global postal community.

A Significant Year Ahead

The year 2026 will be particularly significant for APPU, as the Bureau prepares to host the APPU Congress in Bangkok. This important event will provide members with a key opportunity to review our collective progress, discuss future directions, and reaffirm our shared commitment to regional cooperation. The Bureau will work closely with members to ensure that the Congress is inclusive and focused on the practical needs and aspirations of the region.

As we look ahead, APPU will continue to support members in articulating regional priorities, strengthening cooperation with international partners, and ensuring that the Asia-Pacific region remains constructive, visible, and well-represented in global postal dialogues.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and cooperation. I look forward to another year of steady progress and meaningful exchange as we work together to advance the postal sector across the Asia-Pacific region.

Warm regards,

Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh
Secretary-General, APPU

NEW YEAR COURTESY VISITS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Happy
New Year 2026

At the beginning of 2026, Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), undertook some New Year courtesy visits to exchange season's greetings and maintain regular exchanges with key partners.

Dr. Singh first met with Mr. Patchara Anuntasilpa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, where views were exchanged on general policy directions relevant to the postal sector.

He also met Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn, Chair of the APPU Executive Council, for a brief exchange on regional matters and upcoming APPU Congress.

The Bureau welcomed the Universal Postal Union Regional Office team, led by Ms. Ariya Thongbai, providing an opportunity to exchange updates on ongoing cooperation.

Dr. Singh also met with Dr. Dhanant Subhadrabandhu, the CEO of Thailand Post, where recent developments and areas of mutual interest were discussed.

These visits form part of APPU's regular engagement with the local stakeholders at the start of the year.

UPCOMING COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

In February, the APPU Bureau will support and host a few events in collaboration with regional and international partners.

In cooperation with the Universal Postal Union, APPU will support the Disaster Risk Management: Global Advanced Expert Training Workshop, scheduled to take place in Bangkok from 3 to 6 February. The workshop is intended for selected experts and managers responsible for disaster risk management and business continuity planning, with a focus on strengthening disaster resilience within postal operations.

In addition, APPU, together with the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (PUASP), will co-organize the Postal Security as a Key Element of Postal Services Interregional Forum, to be held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 February. The forum will provide a platform for Designated Operators from both regions to exchange experiences and discuss practical approaches to enhancing security across the postal network.

Separately, from 9 to 13 February, the Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC) will conduct a dedicated workshop for officials from Qatar Post under the theme "Service Excellence in the Postal Sector (SEPS)", focusing on service quality and operational improvement.

Further details on these proposed events have been shared through the respective invitation letters.

AMBASSADOR OF THE PHILIPPINES VISITS APPU BUREAU

On 15 January 2026, the APPU Bureau was pleased to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Millicent Cruz Paredes, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Thailand.

On this occasion, the Ambassador presented the UN80 commemorative stamps, titled



"Philippines: 80 Years in the United Nations", issued by PHLPost. The stamps commemorate the Philippines' 80 years of engagement with the United Nations and highlight the country's rich philatelic heritage. They will be displayed in the Philatelic Gallery currently being set up at the APPU Bureau.

The visit also provided an opportunity for a meaningful exchange and constructive discussions on strengthening cooperation and advancing collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region.



ENGAGEMENTS AT THE BUSINESS FORUM 2025 ♦

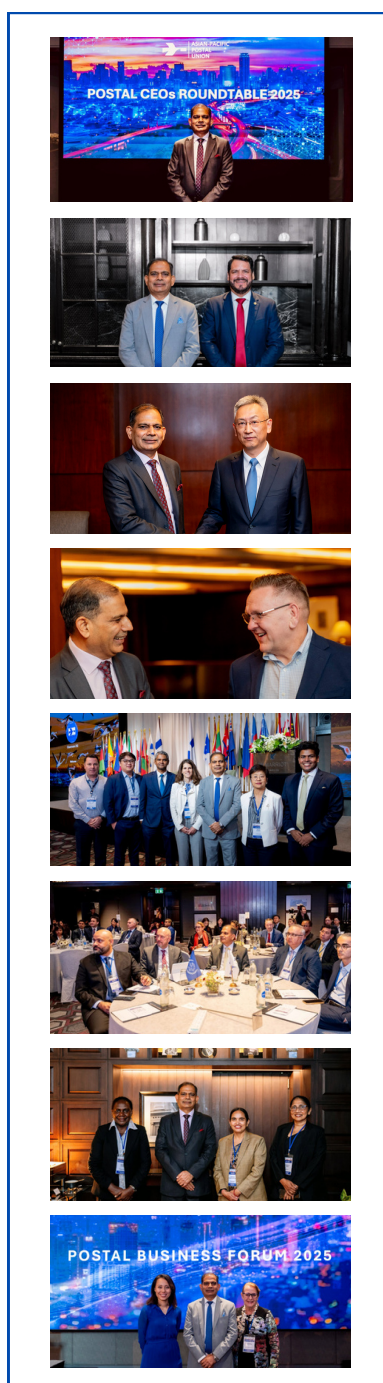
Secretary-General Engages with the Stakeholders at the APPU Postal Business Forum 2025



The 12th APPU Postal Business Forum, held in Bangkok in December 2025, brought together close to 200 delegates from 35 postal administrations and 35 private-sector companies, reflecting the growing diversity and dynamism of the Asia-Pacific postal community. In his opening address, the Secretary-General underscored the continued relevance of the postal sector and the importance of leadership dialogue in navigating a period of profound transition marked by structural shifts in demand, rising customer expectations, and rapid technological change.

Opening both the CEOs Roundtable and the Forum, the Secretary-General highlighted the Asia-Pacific region as a microcosm of the global postal ecosystem—spanning advanced digital markets, fast-growing e-commerce economies, and geographically challenging island nations. He emphasized that this diversity is a strength, offering perspectives that enrich regional and global discussions. Against this backdrop, the Forum provided a platform for candid exchanges on strategy, innovation, partnerships, and the evolving role of postal operators in an increasingly interconnected economy.

Throughout the Forum, the Secretary-General engaged extensively with member delegations, postal leaders, and partners from across the region and beyond. These interactions focused on shared challenges and



practical solutions related to digital transformation, AI integration, last-mile and first-mile innovation, cross-border trade facilitation, financial inclusion, and sustainability. Informal exchanges alongside structured sessions reinforced the Forum's role as a space not only for presentations, but for genuine dialogue and relationship-building among peers.

In his closing remarks, the Secretary-General noted that the Forum stood out not only for the depth and breadth of its discussions, but also for the spirit of openness and collaboration that defined it. He observed postal operators engaging constructively with technology providers, logistics companies, fintech firms, and start-ups—not as vendors, but as long-term partners in transformation. A clear message emerged from the four days of discussions: postal transformation is no longer a theoretical ambition, but a process already underway, requiring continued cooperation, innovation, and collective effort.

In closing, the Secretary-General thanked Mr. Marjan Osvald, Deputy Director General of the UPU, the UPU team, Dr. Franklin Castro, Secretary General of PUASP, as well as postal administrations, CEOs, speakers, partners, sponsors, and the APPU team. He reaffirmed APPU's mission to strengthen regional cooperation, support digital transformation, promote sustainable development, and foster partnerships that enable members to evolve with confidence.

KEYNOTE INSIGHTS FROM THE BUSINESS FORUM

As part of Session 1 of the CEOs Forum, titled “Reimagining the Future – Innovation & Digital Evolution”, held during the APPU Postal Business Forum in December, 2025, keynote speakers from China Post and India Post shared their perspectives on postal transformation, infrastructure development, and the role of digital technologies in responding to evolving challenges across the region.

CHINA POST: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN OPERATIONS



In his keynote address, Mr. Qu Yunhai, Vice President of China Post,

outlined China Post's integrated business structure, built around four core pillars: universal postal services, express and logistics, financial services, and rural e-commerce. He noted that these segments are increasingly interconnected through the integration of physical, financial, and information flows, forming the foundation of China Post's digital transformation.

Mr. Qu highlighted four interrelated shifts shaping the Asia-Pacific postal sector: new engines, as digital technologies redefine growth drivers; new demand, driven by diversified customer needs and expanding cross-border e-commerce; new players, with private couriers intensifying competition; and new constraints, arising from energy, environmental, and climate-related pressures. Against this backdrop, he emphasized that Posts' core strengths—global network coverage, extensive household reach, and cross-industry service capabilities—remain essential to sustaining development and supporting transformation.

To respond, China Post is advancing coordinated initiatives across its business lines. These include promoting the digital transformation of universal

service through integrated online-offline models, and accelerating digital intelligence-driven reform in express logistics through the application of AI, automation, unmanned equipment, and smart facilities to enhance end-to-end efficiency. Technology-driven improvements in financial services were also highlighted, supporting inclusive and green finance, alongside tech-enabled support for rural revitalization through strengthened county-township-village networks. Looking ahead, China Post will continue advancing its “3-in-1” reform and expanding AI applications to support intelligent operations and customer services. Mr. Qu concluded by stressing the importance of strengthening international cooperation in science and technology through joint research, experience sharing, and collaboration on emerging technologies.

INDIA POST: INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION AND DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE



In his keynote address, Mr. Harpreet Singh, Member (Operations) of India Post,

focused on India Post's ongoing efforts to modernize infrastructure while gradually introducing digital solutions across the postal value chain, in line with national development priorities and public service responsibilities.

He outlined a nationwide logistics infrastructure

programme designed to enhance capacity across first-mile, mid-mile, and last-mile operations. The approach emphasizes phased modernization, balancing automation with employment considerations and service obligations. Key initiatives include the expansion of online booking services at the first mile, pilot applications of automation and robotics in processing facilities, and the selective use of drones to support deliveries in remote and difficult-to-access areas. These measures were presented as practical responses to India's geographic scale, population diversity, and varying levels of regional development.

A central focus of the presentation was the development of a national digital address system, positioned as a digital public infrastructure rather than a commercial service. The system is designed to address long-standing challenges related to address complexity, linguistic diversity, informal settlements, and rapidly changing urban and rural landscapes. Built on principles of standardization, interoperability, security, and user consent, the digital address combines precise geospatial identification with descriptive address information. Mr. Singh explained that it is being developed under a federated governance model to safeguard privacy while encouraging broad ecosystem participation. Early applications have already been tested in areas such as emergency response, public service delivery, address verification, healthcare, and financial services. Upcoming nationwide initiatives, including the national census, are expected to further accelerate address digitalization and expand its practical use across sectors.



LAUNCHES TWO INTERNATIONAL CARGO AND MAIL ROUTES

China Post launched two international cargo and mail routes on December 9, connecting Guangzhou with Liège in Belgium and Chongqing with Yangon in Myanmar. It is the first time the operator has opened two routes on the same day.

The Guangzhou–Liège service uses a Boeing 777F freighter and supports growing demand for cross-border e-commerce and electronic products from the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area.

The Chongqing–Yangon route, operated with a B737-800 all-cargo aircraft, is currently the only dedicated cargo link between the two cities. With a weekly capacity of 120 tonnes, it will facilitate the movement of goods such as new energy vehicles, textiles, and e-commerce parcels.

Both routes expand China Post's air network and improve connectivity between China, Europe, and Southeast Asia.



» READ MORE

<http://english.chinapost.com.cn/html1/report/2601/878-1.htm>



កម្ពុជា
CAMBODIA
POST

STAFF COMPLETE IATA DANGEROUS GOODS TRAINING

Eighteen operational staff members from Cambodia Post have successfully completed the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations for Designated Postal Operators course.



The course was delivered in partnership with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), with the support of the United States. It aimed to strengthen operational compliance and safety awareness in the handling and transport of dangerous goods within the postal network.

The training supports alignment with global Universal Postal Union–IATA safety standards, enhances staff capability in managing dangerous goods, and contributes to improved safety across the international postal supply chain.

<https://www.facebook.com/universalpostalunion/posts/pfbid0bdjyYsrHxs3P37RWFrQitjmEj6fVskAtT5v9b4f3x1WoZbs9GQRvK1PiDD1f71q1I>



MS. VANDITA KAUL, SECRETARY, INDIA POST, HONOURED AT BUSINESS TODAY MPW 2025

Ms. Vandita Kaul, Secretary, Department of Posts, Government of India, was honoured at the Business Today Most Powerful Women in Business (MPW) Awards 2025, held on 12 December 2025 in Mumbai. Organized by Business Today, one of India's leading business media platforms, the MPW Awards celebrate women leaders shaping industries and public policy.

The recognition highlights Ms. Kaul's transformative leadership and her role in advancing technology-led reforms that are positioning India Post as a future-ready institution. As India's largest logistics network and a key provider of banking, insurance, and citizen-centric services, India Post continues to expand its impact in digital inclusion and financial access.

Her achievement reflects the organization's progress and serves as an inspiration across the public sector.

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/department-of-posts-india_indiapost-vanditakaulmpw2025-powerfulwomenawards2025-activity-7405505172178845696--J5b/

JP JAPAN POST

PLANS TO INTEGRATE OVER 500 COLLECTION AND DELIVERY CENTERS



<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/business/companies/20260103-301853/>

Japan Post Co. is considering consolidating more than 500 of its roughly 3,000 collection and delivery centers nationwide by fiscal 2028, according to The Japan News.

The move responds to a sharp decline in mail volumes, which have fallen from 26.3 billion items in fiscal 2001 to an estimated 11.7 billion in fiscal 2025. Smaller regional centers would be merged into larger nearby post offices to improve efficiency while maintaining delivery times.

Japan Post plans to retain around 24,000 post counters and reduce personnel costs mainly by limiting new hiring. In urban areas, redevelopment of well-located properties—such as the Kyoto Central Post Office site—is also under consideration. The reorganization will additionally strengthen safety management following past compliance issues.

PHLPOST JOINS

INTER-AGENCY EFFORT TO COMBAT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) has taken part in a multi-agency initiative aimed at preventing the use of last-mile delivery services for illegal wildlife trafficking.

The initiative was discussed during a workshop facilitated by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, bringing together PHLPost, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Customs, along with private express and messenger delivery service operators. Participants exchanged views on the development of the country's first policy framework to regulate the transport of wildlife through last-mile delivery networks.

During the workshop, PHLPost shared its approaches to strengthening detection and prevention measures, including screening procedures, content verification, and documentation checks. The importance of closer inter-agency coordination was also highlighted, with discussions on improving information exchange to support timely enforcement actions.

Through this engagement, PHLPost reaffirmed its role not only as the country's designated postal operator, but also as a responsible partner in promoting safe, compliant, and accountable postal and delivery services nationwide.



FROM

PHLPOST
Philippine Postal Corporation


THAILAND POST AND LAO POST STRENGTHEN COOPERATION TO BOOST CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Thailand Post and Lao Post have announced a strengthened partnership aimed at accelerating cross-border trade and supporting the fast-growing e-commerce ecosystem between the two countries. The initiative comes as bilateral trade reaches 24 billion baht, an 8.8% increase driven by rising online shopping demand in Laos and improved logistics connectivity along the China–Laos high-speed railway.

Under the new collaboration framework, the two postal operators have outlined five strategic solutions designed to enhance logistics efficiency, support SMEs, and deepen regional integration:



• Strengthening security and customs processes

The partners will adopt sealed mailbag systems for air and ground routes, expand EMS services across Thai–Lao Friendship Bridges, and introduce electronic data interchange (EDI) to streamline customs clearance.

• Expanding cross-border e-commerce services

ePacket and cash-on-delivery (COD) services will be extended along the Thailand–Laos–China corridor, enabling small merchants to ship goods more easily and reliably.

• Enhancing digital financial capabilities

Both sides will develop e-wallet and electronic payment channels, while renewing exclusive cooperation with Western Union to support secure international money transfers.

• Promoting cultural ties through philately

Joint stamp issues and marketing initiatives will highlight the shared heritage and friendship between Thailand and Laos.

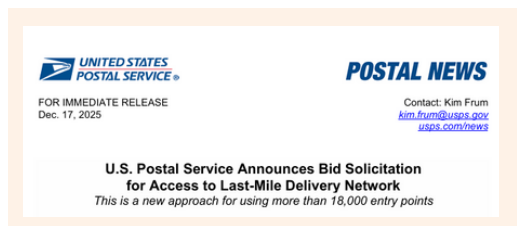
• Investing in human capital

Staff development, onsite training, and knowledge-exchange programmes will be expanded to raise service standards across both organisations.

This enhanced cooperation is expected to strengthen the Thailand–Laos–China economic corridor, reduce logistics costs for SMEs, and support Thailand Post's ambition to become a "Trusted ASEAN Brand".

READ MORE

https://www.nationthailand.com/blogs/business/trade/40058666?utm_source=copilot.com



UNITED STATES TO OPEN ITS LAST-MILE DELIVERY NETWORK TO MORE SHIPPERS

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has announced a major strategic shift that could reshape the country's parcel logistics landscape. Beginning in early 2026, USPS is launching a formal bid solicitation process allowing a wider range of shippers—both large and small—to access its extensive last-mile delivery network, which includes more than 18,000 Destination Delivery Units (DDUs) nationwide.

Traditionally, direct DDU entry has been limited to a small number of major customers. By expanding access, USPS aims to create a more competitive and flexible marketplace where shippers can propose volume, pricing, and tender-time combinations tailored to their operational needs. Successful bidders will be able to leverage USPS's existing daily delivery reach to over 170 million addresses, enabling same-day or next-day delivery options across the country.

USPS leadership highlights that last-mile delivery is often the most expensive segment of logistics. By opening its network, the Postal Service seeks to help businesses reduce costs while generating new revenue to support its long-term financial sustainability. This initiative follows significant modernization investments and reflects USPS's ambition to play a larger role in the nation's growing e-commerce ecosystem.

» READ MORE

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2025/1217-usps-announces-bid-solicitation-for-access-to-last-mile-delivery-network.htm>



postnord

POSTNORD DENMARK SELLS ICONIC RED MAILBOXES TO SUPPORT CHARITY

PostNord Denmark has launched a special initiative to mark the end of nationwide letter delivery at the close of 2025. As traditional mail volumes in Denmark have fallen by nearly 90% over the past 25 years, the postal operator is retiring more than 1,200 of its well-known red mailboxes and turning the transition into an opportunity for public engagement and charitable support.

Beginning 15 December 2025, 1,000 mailboxes have been made available through the Danish charity organisation Danmarks Indsamling. They are offered in two categories:

- Used, with few traces of use – DKK 2,000
- Used, with several visible signs of use – DKK 1,500

An additional 200 mailboxes will be auctioned in January 2026 to raise further funds. PostNord emphasises that all proceeds will support charitable projects, reflecting its commitment to social responsibility while adapting to major operational changes.

» READ MORE

https://www.postnord.dk/postnord-i-danmark/presse-og-medier/nyheder/2025/nu-kan-du-fa-en-af-de-ikoniske-rode-postkasser---og-stotte-en-god-sag/?utm_source=copilot.com



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