



ASIAN-PACIFIC POSTAL UNION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



“ FROM SECRETARY- GENERAL'S DESK



Greetings from the Asian-Pacific Postal Union!

August is an important month for the APPU community as we prepare to gather in Bangkok for the 14th APPU Congress (31 Aug – 4 Sep, 2026). After months of preparation and consultation, we are now approaching an occasion that will bring our members together to review the work of the Union, consider our priorities for the years ahead, and strengthen the cooperation that has always been at the heart of APPU.

The month began on a meaningful note with the opening of the APPU Philatelic Gallery at our headquarters in Bangkok. The Gallery has been created from stamps and philatelic materials contributed by our member countries over the years, and I am very pleased that these valuable collections now have a dedicated place where they can be properly displayed and appreciated.

At a time when communication and postal services are changing rapidly, philately reminds us that transformation does not mean leaving our heritage behind. Stamps have long carried the history, culture, achievements and identity of our countries across borders. The Gallery therefore represents not only our postal traditions, but also the diversity and friendship of the APPU community. I encourage all members to continue contributing new stamps and other philatelic

materials so that the collection can continue to grow and remain a living reflection of our region.

At the Asian-Pacific Postal College, we have also made steady progress with this year's training programme. Before the Congress begins, APPC will have completed ten of the fourteen programmes scheduled for 2026, bringing together postal professionals from across the region for learning, practical exchange and professional development. We look forward to continuing this momentum in the months ahead by conducting the remaining four programmes later in the year - two online and two in-person.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand, Thailand Post, the Universal Postal Union, our member countries, partners, guest speakers and colleagues for their continued support to these activities and to the work of APPU more broadly. The establishment of the Philatelic Gallery, our training programmes and preparations for Congress have all benefited from this strong spirit of cooperation.

As we now turn our attention to the 14th APPU Congress, to be held from 31 August to 4 September, I look forward to welcoming our members, partners and invited guests to Bangkok. Congress provides us with an important opportunity not only to conduct the formal business of the Union, but also to exchange views openly, renew professional relationships and build a shared understanding of the direction we want APPU to take in the coming years.

I wish all delegates a safe journey to Thailand and look forward to meeting you very soon in Bangkok.

Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh
Secretary-General, APPU

ESSENTIAL LOGISTICS REMINDER: UPCOMING 14TH APPU CONGRESS

With the 14th APPU Congress just around the corner, here is a quick summary of essential logistical details to assist with your final travel arrangements:

Action Required

Digital Arrival Card (TDAC): All international visitors must complete the [Thailand Digital Arrival Card \(TDAC\)](#) within 72 hours prior to arrival.

Registration & Venue:

Venue: JW Marriott Hotel, 4 Sukhumvit Road, Soi 2, Bangkok

Registration Opens: 08:00 hrs on Monday, 31 August 2026 at the Sukhumvit Grand Ballroom (Level 3).

Accommodation:

If you haven't booked your stay yet, a limited number of rooms at special Congress rates remain available via [the Marriott Booking Link](#)

Airport Transfers

Please note that airport transfers are not provided by the APPU Bureau. Taxis and airport limousines are available at Suvarnabhumi Airport, or you can use ride-hailing apps like Grab or Bolt.

Meeting Documents:

The agenda and working documents are available on the APPU website (Document Center -> Congress Documents -> 2026 Congress Documents). Contact admin@appu-bureau.org if you need the access password.

For any administrative queries, please reach out to the Secretariat team at admin@appu-bureau.org.

We look forward to
welcoming you
TO BANGKOK!



APPU OPENS PHILATELIC GALLERY AT APPU HEADQUARTERS

On 3 August 2026, the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) officially opened the APPU Philatelic Gallery at its headquarters in Bangkok.

The Gallery was inaugurated by Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, Secretary-General of APPU, in the presence of Ms. Kanlaya Chinatiworn, Chair of the APPU Executive Council, representatives from Thailand Post and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and participants attending the E-Business & Technology (EBT) and International Mail Accounting (IMA) courses, together with the Driving Digital Strategy and UPU Remuneration workshops.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General noted that the Gallery has been established to preserve and showcase the philatelic heritage of APPU member countries. Featuring stamps contributed by members, it highlights the cultural, historical and artistic value of philately while reflecting the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region and the role of stamps in promoting international understanding and postal cooperation.





APPC CONCLUDES EBT AND IMA TRAINING COURSES

The Asian-Pacific Postal College (APPC) successfully concluded its E-Business and Technology (EBT) and International Mail Accounting (IMA) training courses on 14 August 2026, following three weeks of intensive learning, professional exchange and practical engagement.

The programmes brought together postal professionals from Bhutan, India, the Republic of Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand to strengthen their knowledge in two important areas of postal operations. Throughout the courses, participants took part in lectures, case studies, group discussions, practical exercises, technical visits and exchanges, enabling them to relate course learning to operational challenges in their respective postal administrations.

A key feature of the programmes was the inclusion of two special workshops from 3 to 7 August. The EBT participants joined a Driving Digital Strategy (DDS) Workshop, covering digital transformation, strategic priorities, digital marketing and the application of digital technologies in postal operations. The IMA participants attended a UPU Remuneration Workshop, which examined terminal dues, parcel remuneration, IPS.Post procedures, transit charges, the Quality of Service Fund and EMS remuneration arrangements.

The courses were further enriched by contributions from external experts. Dr Zhang Chang delivered an online session on e-commerce strategy in the digital age, while Mr Brody Buhler, CEO of Escher Group, shared perspectives on digital transformation in the postal sector. The IMA programme also benefited from online contributions by experts on the Quality of Service Fund and EMS Pay-for-Performance. APPC extends its particular appreciation to the UPU Postal Technology Centre (PTC) for seconding Mr Kazuo Kamishiro as a guest expert, who provided practical sessions on remuneration procedures in IPS/IPS.Post.

Practical exposure complemented the classroom learning, with technical visits to Siam Commercial Bank PLC, the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) and a Thailand Post mail centre. APPC appreciates the organizations for hosting the participants and sharing their expertise and experience.

As part of the closing activities, participants presented their course work and reflected on how the knowledge and practical experience gained could be applied in their own organizations. The programmes concluded with an open forum and graduation ceremony on 14 August, marking the successful completion of both courses and another step in strengthening professional capacity and cooperation across the Asia-Pacific postal community.





Australia Post

DEPLOYS FIRST-EVER PORTABLE PARCEL HUB ON RAAF BASE



Australia Post has launched its first-ever portable Parcel Hub on the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base

in Darwin, providing postal and parcel services to Defence personnel from 21 nations participating in Exercise Pitch Black, the Air Force's biennial international air combat exercise. Operating for the duration of the exercise, the hub enables access to essential mail services, urgent freight movement, and equipment returns, supporting both Australian and international contingents.

To enhance convenience, Australia Post has also installed free 24/7 Parcel Lockers on the base, allowing personnel to send and receive parcels at any time during the deployment period.

General Manager Network Optimisation Mitch Buxton noted that the initiative reflects Australia Post's commitment to meeting customers "how and where they need" services, while strengthening operational resilience in complex environments. Insights from the deployment will inform future emergency-response capabilities, including natural disasters and major disruptions.

<https://newsroom.auspost.com.au/australia-post-deploys-first-ever-parcel-hub-on-airforce-base>



CHINA: EXPRESS DELIVERY NETWORK INTEGRATES INTO URBAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The State Post Bureau (SPB) of China has highlighted an innovative social response model where express delivery infrastructure is integrated into city emergency rescue systems. Under this initiative, SF Express has connected its logistics operational system with Tencent's "Penguin First Aid" platform and local 120 emergency dispatch hubs.

Powered by real-time positioning and intelligent route planning algorithms, nearby couriers are dispatched within seconds to retrieve Automated



External Defibrillators (AEDs) and deliver them to medical emergency scenes. The workflow enables couriers to act as a mobile rescue force, working alongside on-site volunteers during critical first-aid situations.

As of July 2026, over 1,300 couriers have completed professional first-aid training, and 173 AED devices have been deployed across service points and operational vehicles. The project, currently piloted in cities including Xi'an, Shenzhen, and Dongguan, creates a "5-Minute Social Rescue Circle" that leverages courier mobility to enhance public safety infrastructure.

Source: State Post Bureau (P.R China)



BANGLADESH POST EXPANDS SPEEDPOST SERVICE DURING FRUIT SEASON

Bangladesh Post has reported strong demand for its domestic Speedpost parcel service during this year's fruit season, with major mango-producing regions such as Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Natore, Satkhira and Rangpur recording increased parcel volumes.

Speedpost provides nationwide delivery with online tracking through the Domestic Mail Monitoring System (DMS). The service accepts parcels of up to 30 kg, with a delivery target of 24 hours to Dhaka and 48 hours to other destinations across the country. In addition to seasonal fruits, the service handles a wide range of items including vegetables, apparel, books and e-commerce products.

According to Bangladesh Post, 221.5 tonnes of seasonal fruits, including mangoes, jackfruits, litchis and pineapples, were delivered between 5 May and 30 June 2026. To support the seasonal increase in demand, the operator deployed additional transport capacity, temperature-controlled facilities and enhanced mail processing, while continuing to expand online tracking, customer support and cooperation with e-commerce businesses.



Caption: Picture of Speedpost article loading on postal van at Bhanga Upazila Post Office premise, Bangladesh

Source: Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate of Posts



POS INDONESIA (POSIND) AND RUMAH TANI NUSANTARA INTRODUCE AGRIPOST TO EXPAND AFFORDABLE FOOD ACCESS

Pos Indonesia has partnered with Rumah Tani Nusantara (RTN) to launch AgriPost, a new programme combining digital food-market services with physical outlets offering affordable staple foods. The initiative was soft-launched at KCU Jakarta Flora on 4 August 2026.

AgriPost aims to strengthen Indonesia's national food supply chain by empowering local farmers, stabilising commodity prices, and improving distribution efficiency from production to consumers. Through the collaboration, both organisations are developing an integrated supply chain management system, leveraging Pos Indonesia's logistics infrastructure and post offices as sales points, while RTN absorbs harvests from thousands of partner farmers and provides technological support.

Pos Indonesia plans to expand AgriPost to 300 outlets in Jabodetabek this year, reaching 2,000 outlets nationwide by 2029. Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Food Agency, the programme is expected to deliver a "win-win solution" for both producers and consumers.



Read more: <https://www.posindonesia.co.id/id/articles/detail/beli-bahan-pangan-harga-terjangkau-di-kantorpos>

INDIA POST LAUNCHES NATIONAL MASCOT DESIGN CONTEST



India Post has opened submissions for a nationwide Mascot Design Contest on the MyGov platform, inviting citizens of all ages to contribute to the organisation's refreshed brand identity. The initiative aims to create a symbolic brand ambassador that reflects India Post's core values of trust, reliability, inclusivity, digital empowerment, and last-mile connectivity.

Participants may submit one original mascot design and name, accompanied by a 150–200-word concept note explaining the symbolism and rationale. Entries must be uploaded through the MyGov portal in high-resolution formats and include editable source files when requested. AI-generated designs are discouraged, and plagiarised submissions will be disqualified.

The contest runs from 15 July to 15 August 2026, with India Post offering cash prizes and certificates for the top three entries in both the mascot design and mascot name categories. Winning entries will become the intellectual property of India Post and may be used across promotional campaigns, philatelic products, and public outreach initiative.

READ MORE »

<https://innovateindia.mygov.in/mascot-design-contest-for-india-post/>

PHLPOST[®] RECOGNIZES DEAF EMPLOYEES DURING NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS WEEK

To mark National Disability Rights Week (17–23 July), the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) recognized the contributions of its deaf employees, highlighting its long-standing commitment to inclusive employment.

Based at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) in Pasay City, deaf employees support key postal operations, including mail processing, sorting and dispatch preparation. Their work has contributed to the efficient handling of domestic and international mail.

PHLPost noted that its inclusive employment practices date back more than four decades, when the former Bureau of Posts began recruiting hearing-impaired employees under the leadership of then Postmaster General Roilo Golez. The initiative helped expand employment opportunities for persons with hearing disabilities at a time when workplace inclusion was less widely recognized.

As PHLPost continues to modernize its services, it reaffirmed its commitment to providing an inclusive workplace where employees are supported and recognized based on their skills, performance and contribution to public service.



Source: Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost)



KOREA POST LAUNCHES 'PYEONGCHANG LOVE CARD' LOCAL CURRENCY SERVICE

The Korea Post under the Ministry of Science and ICT has launched the "Post Office Pyeongchang Love Card," connecting Pyeongchang-gun's local currency to a Post Office check card.



Users can top up their cards via mobile apps, websites, or directly at local post office counters—ensuring easy access for digitally marginalized groups. The card can be spent like cash at local merchants, with automatic fallback to linked bank accounts if local currency balances run low.

With Pyeongchang joining, Korea Post now provides local currency check card services across 44 local governments, leveraging its nationwide financial infrastructure to boost small business sales and drive regional economic recovery.

[READ MORE >>](https://www.koreapost.go.kr/)
<https://www.koreapost.go.kr/>


VIETNAM POST'S CAO BẰNG PROVINCIAL POST OFFICE SUPPORTS PROVINCIAL LAND-DATA ENHANCEMENT CAMPAIGN

Vietnam Post, through its Cao Bằng Provincial Post Office, has mobilised personnel and resources to support the province's campaign to enrich, clean, and complete land-data records. The initiative follows Official Letter No. 4881/SNNMT-QLĐĐ issued on 4 August 2026 by the provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment, requesting coordinated assistance across localities.

From 5 August to 30 September 2026, Cao Bằng Post has deployed staff to designated working points to work with local authorities, land-registration offices, and related units in reviewing, cross-checking, updating, and standardising land-information datasets.

This coordinated effort demonstrates Vietnam Post's commitment to supporting provincial administrative tasks and contributing to improved data quality and public-service delivery.



<https://vnpost.vn/vi/hoat-dong-nganh/buu-dien-tinh-cao-bang-huy-dong-tong-luc-tham-gia-cao-diem-lam-giau-lam-sach-du-lieu-dat-dai>

THAILAND POST ANNOUNCES MAJOR TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

Thailand Post has announced a major organisational transformation under its new corporate strategy, "RelationSHIFT," signalling a shift from traditional postal operations toward a lifestyle-driven logistics and digital-infrastructure role. Executives emphasised Thailand Post's growing contribution to inclusive economic development, supported by continued revenue growth in 2025 and the first half of 2026.

Deputy Digital Economy and Society Minister Nan Boonthida Somchai highlighted Thailand Post's potential to serve as part of Thailand's emerging digital public infrastructure, leveraging more than 50,000 service points to expand access to digital markets and government services for citizens, SMEs, farmers, and community enterprises.



The strategy is anchored in four pillars—POSTsible Productivity, POSTsible People, POSTsible Planet, and POSTsible Positive Impact

—designed to enhance efficiency, expand service access, promote sustainability, and generate measurable social value.

Thailand Post's subsidiary, THP Distribution (THPD)—recently renamed THP Logistic—is expected to play a central role in operationalising RelationSHIFT. As a key logistics arm handling middle-mile transport, bulky-parcel delivery, and nationwide distribution, THP's capabilities align closely with the strategy's focus on network optimisation, data-driven operations, and value-based growth. Its integration into the broader framework supports Thailand Post's aim to strengthen nationwide connectivity and co-create new service models with partners.

[READ MORE >>](https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/3296149/thailand-post-unveils-transformation-strategy)

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/3296149/thailand-post-unveils-transformation-strategy>

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM APPU PARTNERS

CONVERSATION WITH



AT THE APPU POSTAL BUSINESS FORUM 2025

Interviewee: Mr. Prash Ranjan | Head of Product, Onigroup



APPU:

First, could you please introduce your company, your products, and the overall solutions you provide to postal operators?

Mr. Prash Ranjan

Sure. My name is Prash Ranjan, and I'm the Head of Product at Onigroup. **Onigroup** is a technology consulting and development company, and we primarily focus on the logistics industry.

We are also a Google Premier Partner, with specialisations across Google Maps, Cloud, Workspace, and Analytics.

In terms of solutions for the logistics and postal industry, our main focus is on the last-mile delivery stage. This covers everything from address capture and validation, route optimisation and planning, driver navigation and feedback, through to analytics and business insights that can be drawn from delivery processes.

APPU:

As e-commerce grows, Posts are under pressure to modernise last-mile delivery and customer access points. Which part of the postal value chain do you see as the most promising entry point for impactful innovation?

Mr. Prash Ranjan

I would say the most impactful part is data governance. That means being able to capture data in a meaningful way, analyse it, store it properly, and—most importantly—learn from it.

This ties into a concept we call delivery repeatability, which is about using data collected from past deliveries to improve future deliveries and increase efficiency and success rates.

Having the right data governance model in place is really the first step towards moving into an AI-based strategy. We often see organisations trying to jump straight into AI, but without proper data governance, that becomes a futile attempt.

APPU:

Do you have experience working with postal operators?

Mr. Prash Ranjan

Yes. We work with logistics companies and also with some postal operators in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, we work with some of the largest global logistics companies, including DHL and Aramex, on a global scale.

Our work supports them in achieving delivery targets—things like delivery in full and on time, improving repeat deliveries to the same address, and reducing failed delivery rates. All of this is backed by the use of Google-powered data and analytics.

APPU:

Postal services are a relatively traditional industry and can be very different from fast-moving technology companies. What insights did you gain during the Forum about the needs of postal operators in the Asia-Pacific region?

Mr. Prash Ranjan

There are quite a few insights. There is a big difference between working with legacy postal organisations—many of which have existed for over a hundred years—and working with more tech-focused or startup-style logistics companies that can change very quickly.

One key factor is the influence of government policy on postal organisations. Posts often have mandates to keep post offices open in certain locations or to deliver to very remote areas, even when it's not profitable. These are constraints that third-party logistics companies don't usually face.

That's something to be mindful of, and it's also an area where technology can help—such as understanding better ways to serve remote areas or optimise the placement of post offices.

Another major difference is budget. Global logistics companies typically have much larger technology budgets, while postal organisations are often limited by government funding structures. At the same time, Posts are already spending a lot just to keep daily operations running, and a significant portion of that cost is impacted by poor data quality.

So the key is identifying quick wins—areas where relatively small investments can generate meaningful returns. Those savings can then be reinvested in a phased way to gradually introduce more technology, reduce costs, and ease operational pressure on postal organisations.

UPU ADVANCES PRACTICAL AI GOVERNANCE FOR THE GLOBAL POSTAL SECTOR

The UPU has outlined a comprehensive approach to strengthening safe, inclusive and interoperable artificial intelligence governance across the global postal network. The proposal was presented at the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance and the AI for Good Global Summit, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

During the events, the UPU emphasised the postal sector's role as a trusted component of digital public infrastructure and demonstrated how AI governance principles can be translated into operational practice across nearly all countries. UPU Director for Policy, Regulation and Markets Siva Somasundram highlighted the sector's suitability as a starting point for implementing practical governance frameworks, noting that systemic AI risks—such as fragmented oversight, unauditable platforms, and autonomous agents—already affect daily postal operations and cross-border supply chains.

The UPU is convening stakeholders to develop a voluntary, risk-weighted governance framework, focusing on interoperable cross-border safeguards and built-in accountability for high-impact decisions such as customs processing and shipment routing. The framework will include a common baseline and capacity-building support to ensure equitable adoption among member countries.

This coordinated effort positions the UPU to lead global work on AI governance within logistics, ensuring postal networks remain secure, transparent and inclusive for all users.

<https://www.upu.int/en/news/2026/july/upu-advances-practical-ai-governance-for-the-postal-sector>

UPU HIGHLIGHTS THE ROLE OF TRUSTED POSTAL NETWORKS IN ADVANCING INCLUSIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The UPU underscored the importance of trusted postal networks in driving inclusive digital transformation during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2026, held in Geneva from 6–10 July. Across multiple sessions and high-level dialogues, the UPU demonstrated how post offices serve as essential public-access institutions that help bridge the digital divide by connecting people, governments, and businesses through reliable infrastructure.

A key message emerged during a joint UPU–UNDESA session on inclusive e-government: digital transformation must extend beyond online platforms to reach the 2.2 billion people who remain offline and many more who lack meaningful connectivity. Speakers emphasised that multi-channel service delivery, combining digital tools with local trusted infrastructure, is increasingly recognised as best practice for inclusive public services.

With more than 650,000 post offices worldwide, postal operators already support e-government, digital financial services, and e-commerce, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Country examples from Egypt and Kenya illustrated how post offices are integrated into national digital-service platforms to expand access for citizens.

UPU leadership further highlighted how postal networks contribute to both digital and green transitions, translating global policy into practical local action. The WSIS+20 outcome document recognises Posts as anchor institutions for digital inclusion, reinforcing the UPU's commitment to ensuring that no community is left behind.

<https://www.upu.int/en/news/2026/july/upu-highlights-trusted-postal-networks-as-drivers-of-inclusive-digital-transformation-at-wsis-forum>



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