

# Postal Service

## I. Current Status of Postal Services Development and Improvement

Since January 1999, MPT has implemented the following measures in order to meet customer demands and improve services.

- Reduction of service conditions for post-payment of postage (January 1999)
  - Expansion of weight limits of the International Express Mail Service (EMS) (February 1999)
  - Introduction of the designated time delivery system for ordinary parcel post "Yu-Pack" (March 1999)
  - Raise of weight limits of ordinary parcel post (March 1999)
  - Expansion in the number of post offices open on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays (March 1999)
  - Expansion of service area for overnight post "Morning 10" quick delivery service to a nationwide scale (Morning 10) (April 1999)
  - Disclosure of the new table of delivery periods (June 1999) and its distribution through "You Net," the postal service website (November 1999)
  - Introduction of the "Hybrid Mail Service" (February 2000)
  - Expansion of service hours for the designated time delivery system and segmentation of the designated time for ordinary parcel post (March 1999)
  - Introduction of the EMS delivery time assurance service (Time Certain) (March 2000)
  - Introduction of i-Mode compatibility for the Tracking & Tracing Service within "You Net" (March 2000)
- MPT will keep trying to develop new postal services and revision of existing services.

## II. Contribution to Development of Global Postal Services

### 1 The First High-Level Postal Meeting among Japan-PRC-ROK

On February 18, 2000, the First High-Level Postal Meeting among Japan-People's Republic of China-Republic of Korea High-Level (Director-General level) was held with the aim of creating a new cooperative framework for further progress in postal services for the new millennium.

At the meeting, a substantial high-level discussion was made on "Continued provision of universal postal service and promotion of postal reform as well as strengthening of

competitiveness" and "Promotion strategies of international mail service and international cooperation," the common issues for postal administrations throughout the world. Information sharing and assimilation of understanding were pursued by means of the discussion.

The three countries confirmed the need to secure a universal postal service and reform postal services. The nations agreed on several issues including further strengthening of cooperative ties, contribution to the promotion of computerization as major member countries of UPU, working as leaders of the progress of postal services in the Asia-Pacific re-

gion and introduction of the EMS Time Certain Service at the earliest date.

The countries also agreed that the meeting will be held annually, and that the next meeting will be hosted by the Republic of Korea.

### 2. High-Level Postal Meeting between Japan and France

On April 7, 2000, the High-Level Postal Meeting between Japan and France (Director-General level) was held for the purpose of strengthening cooperation between Japan and France in the postal services area.

In the meeting, substantial high-level discussions were held on the postal services strategy and international issues. The two nations agreed upon the construction of framework for further collaboration between MPT and La Poste as well as signed and exchanged documents concerning cooperation in the postal services area.

The documents concerning cooperation call for the promotion of concrete cooperation between the two countries on the postal services reform process, while securing a high-standard universal service, the computerization and mechanization of postal services, exchanging information and know-how concerning postal services using the Internet and e-business, etc.

For MPT, this is the first bilateral document on general cooperation in the postal services area to be signed and exchanged.

### 3. Tenth International Research and Study Course on Postal Services

The International Research and Study Course on Postal Services is aimed at young career-track officials of postal administrations in developing countries. The objectives of the course are to have these participants learn the good points of the Japanese postal services system while helping them to improve and develop postal

services in their own countries.

The FY 1999 course, with 12 participants from a dozen countries, was conducted under the theme of "Improvement of postal services and quality control," for six weeks from October 1, 1999, in Tokyo. The participants attended lectures, took part in discussions and paid technical visits to post offices and other facilities.

Some former participants now hold executive positions and are seen playing active roles. The FY 1999 participants are expected to play such roles in the future.

### 4. The Postal Executives' Seminar

The objectives of the Postal Executives' Seminar are to contribute to the improvement of postal services in participating countries by exchanging views over a variety of issues faced by each country's postal services, to deepen mutual understanding and to promote mutual cooperative relations among the participating countries. MPT hosts the Seminar, inviting executives from postal administrations in developing countries.

The FY 1999 seminar, with 12 participants from a dozen nations, was conducted under the theme of "Securing universal services and the revolution of postal services," one of the most urgent issues for the participating countries. The participants attended lectures, joined in discussions and paid technical visits to post offices and other facilities.

### 5. Second Rapid Mail Service Course

This course is aimed at officials engaged in rapid mail service at postal administrations in developing countries. The purpose of the course is to put Japan's experience and expertise to their use upon problem-solving, and to strengthen and improve networks concerning the rapid mail service.

The course this time, with seven

participants from seven countries, lectures, discussions and visits to postal facilities were carried out over a two-week period from October 25, 1999, in Tokyo and in Osaka.

### 6. APPU Exchange Program of Officials

Based on the personnel exchange programs of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU), MPT is exchanging high-ranking officials with five postal administrations in China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam every year.

### 7. Joint marketing promotion activities of international postal services

For the purpose of increasing the number of and the revenues from the international postal services, with the cooperation of the United States Postal Service (USPS), MPT will conduct these joint marketing efforts of international postal services (especially for the International Express Mail Service [EMS]) by sending officers in charge to the United States from September 2000.

By accepting officials in charge from USPS, after the dispatch to the U.S., the international postal services, in particular the International Express Mail Service (EMS), will be conducted in Japan in collaboration with USPS.