

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025

Release of an Omnibus Stamp

Proposal by the APPU Bureau

1. Subject Release of the Omnibus stamp in conjunction with the 65 th anniversary of the APPU	References/ Paragraphs § 1 to 10
2. Decisions expected The EC is invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take note of the document - approve the next steps as proposed 	§ 1 to 10, Annex 1 § 10

Introduction:

1. Philately plays a key role in preserving history, showcasing national identity, and promoting regional cooperation. One of the mandates of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union is to promote philately as a cultural, educational, and economic tool among its member countries.
2. This was reinforced with the approval of the Key Focus Areas and Work Proposals for the Bangkok Cycle of the APPU, as approved by the APPU Executive Council (EC) in 2024, specifically:
WP 4.6.1: Taking proactive actions to promote philately, raising awareness, and organizing initiatives that encourage the collection and appreciation of postage stamps.
3. In line with this mandate, the APPU Bureau proposes to initiate a coordinated Omnibus Stamp Issue among its member countries — a symbolic and collaborative effort that reflects the unity and diversity of the Asia-Pacific region. This initiative aims not only to generate more interest in philately but also to commemorate a significant milestone: the 65th anniversary of the establishment of APPU in the year 2027.

What is an Omnibus stamp?

4. An Omnibus Stamp Issue refers to a set of postage stamps issued by multiple countries using a common theme and often a harmonized design. While each participating postal administration releases the stamp under its own name and denomination, the shared design elements and synchronized release date reflect a joint celebration or commemoration.

5. Omnibus issues are widely appreciated by collectors, generate greater visibility, and demonstrate international cooperation in a tangible, publicly visible form. Copies of such releases are placed in Annex 1.

Examples from other regions:

6. There are numerous examples of Omnibus stamp issues from other regions. Some of them are:
 - British Commonwealth: Numerous omnibus issues, such as the 1949 Universal Postal Union 75th Anniversary stamps, featured common designs across more than 70 countries.
 - Europa Postage Stamps: Annual joint issue of stamps with common design or themes by postal administrations of the CEPT/ PostEurop.
 - West African Postal Administrations have issued stamps with common themes such as regional integration, heritage, and economic development.
7. These initiatives have helped reinforce regional solidarity, attract philatelic interest, and celebrate common milestones.

Current Proposal:

8. The APPU Bureau proposes a regional Omnibus Stamp Issue among interested member countries of the region with the following core features:
 - (i) **Theme:** A common theme, to be finalized collectively, reflecting shared values, achievements, or aspirations (e.g., Diversity in the Region, Flora, Fauna, Postal Heritage, etc).
 - (ii) **Design:** A harmonized design framework, allowing for national customization while retaining regional coherence.
 - (iii) **Release:** A coordinated release schedule by all participating countries.
 - (iv) **Support:** Support from the APPU Bureau in coordination, promotion, and philatelic outreach.

Proposed Timeline:

9. The proposed timeline of activities is as follows:
 - (i) APPU EC 2025: In-principle approval of the proposal.
 - (ii) Between APPU EC 2025 and APPU Congress 2026: A Select Committee (comprising interested member countries and philatelic experts) will be formed to:
 - Finalize the theme.
 - Coordinate design development.
 - Prepare promotional material and implementation guidelines.
 - (iii) APPU Congress 2026: Formal approval of the theme, design, and release schedule.
 - (iv) 1 April 2027: Simultaneous release of the omnibus stamps across participating member countries in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of APPU.

Next Steps

10. Taking note of the details listed above, the following are the proposed steps for consideration at the 2025 Executive Council meeting:

- (i) The Executive Council may consider granting in-principle approval for the initiative.
- (ii) Member countries will be invited to express interest in participating in the omnibus issue.
- (iii) The APPU Bureau will constitute a Select Committee to oversee theme selection, design planning, and coordination activities.
- (iv) The final proposal, with theme and design options, will be tabled for adoption at the 14th APPU Congress in 2026.
- (v) A regionally synchronized stamp release to take place in 2027, symbolizing the unity of the region and celebrating APPU's 65-year legacy.