

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025

ASIA PACIFIC POST COOPERATIVE UPDATE

(Document prepared by the APPU/UPU Reform Working Group)

1. Subject Informing the EC on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The background to the issue facing the Asia Pacific Post Cooperative - The steps taken since the 2024 Executive Council meeting 	References/ Paragraphs § 1.1-1.4 § 2.1-2.4
2. Decision expected The EC is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - note the information provided - agree the next steps 	§ 1.1-2.4 § 3.1

1 Background

1.1 The issues impacting the Asia Pacific Post Cooperative (APP) have been extensively explored by the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Executive Council (EC). In brief, the issues can be summarised as:

- (i) The EC decided in 1998 to create the APP through a process that occurred outside the strict framework of the APPU treaties. This resulted in the creation of a body ultimately owned jointly by all EC members but which was not a formal organ under the APPU's treaties.
- (ii) This does not mean the creation of the APP was illegal or that the APP does not exist. However, the effect of this decision-making process means that the APP currently does not have any legal personality and therefore cannot hold funds in its own name, sign contracts, employ staff, or do many other things in the normal course of its activities.
- (iii) These issues have been largely out of sight from APPU member countries as a result of the generosity of Singapore Post to host the APP, employ its staff, and carry much of the liability for its activities. In December 2022, Singapore Post indicated it was unable to continue this arrangement following an internal review that identified associated operational issues.

1.2 Further detail can be found in EC 2023 Doc 13.7.

- 1.3 At the 2023 EC meeting, the membership agreed that the preferred path forward is to amend the General Regulations of the APPU to permit the creation of user-funded subsidiary bodies. Once this amendment is in place, the EC can then retake its 1998 decision to create the APP inside the treaty framework. This would facilitate the APP being established as a legal entity, resolving the issues identified above, particularly its ability to legally employ staff and meet its obligations towards them. The APPU/UPU Reform Working Group (RWG) has progressed this body of work through the Review of Governing Documentation and Archiving Project.
- 1.4 At the 2024 EC meeting, the membership agreed the Policy Position Paper on user-funded subsidiary bodies. This position and work will continue to be developed by the RWG and progressed through the Treaty amendments to the APPU Acts being developed by the RWG. Further information on the proposed timing for these changes is noted in EC 2025 Doc 13.3.
- 1.5 To continue to progress the APP's role as a prospective user-funded subsidiary body, in 2024, the EC further decided to ask:
 - (i) the Chair of the APP CMB to advise the Secretary General and the Chair of the Executive Council on the preferred location of the APP Cooperative no later than 3 months prior to the 2025 Executive Council meeting,
 - (ii) the APPU/UPU Reform Working Group to continue working with the Chair of the APP CMB to develop the 'Basic Framework', and
 - (iii) the Secretary General to continue working with the Chair of the APP CMB and the APP Managing Director on operational transition arrangements as required, with the Chair of the APP CMB to report annually to the Executive Council on such activities.

2 Recent activities

- 2.1 Since the 2024 EC meeting, the APP has continued to engage with APP members to consider the next steps and preferred approach as a prospective user-funded subsidiary body.
- 2.2 The Chair of the APP CMB and APP Managing Director have advised that their current preferred location of the APP Cooperative would be Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2.3 The APPU/UPU Reform Working Group further considered the redrafted 'Basic Framework' provided by the Chair of the APP Cooperative Management Board in Meeting 13 (June 2025) and by correspondence.

3 Next steps

- 3.1 To continue to develop a solution for the APP alongside the proposed Treaty amendments being undertaken by the RWG, it is recommended that the EC **asks**:
 - (i) the APPU/UPU Reform Working Group note the importance of continuing to work towards adoption of updated APPU Treaties in 2027 or 2028, in recognition of the seriousness of the legal matters impacting the APP,

- (ii) the Chair of the APP CMB and the APP Managing Director to continue discussions with APP members on its coordination and functions, and
- (iii) the Secretary General to continue working with the Chair of the APP CMB and the APP Managing Director on operational transition arrangements as required, with the Chair of the APP CMB to report annually to the Executive Council on such activities.