

POSTAL NEWS

No. 29/2008

Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI

1. **Postal Workers In Turkey Say No To 65. March 17, 2008.**
2. **La Poste CEO says eyes Germany's PIN Group-report. March 17, 2008.**
3. **Postal service launches recycling program for electronics, ink cartridges. March 18, 2008.**
4. **Sorry, but 20/20 did not endorse this letter. March 16, 2008.**
5. **German post to unload hundreds of offices. March 16, 2008.**
6. **Royal Mail Has Unfair Advantage Say Rivals. March 17, 2008.**
7. **LIOBmedia Launches Custom Website for Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, "Victory Mail" Exhibit. March 16, 2008.**

1. Postal Workers In Turkey Say No To 65

17 March 2008 by Jarviz Mahrinder - © Hellmail.co.uk

Turkish postal workers are fighting a draft law that could see their retirement aged raised from 60 to 65.

The Turkish Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the Confederation of Turkish Labor Unions are to discuss the unresolved items in the draft law this week. The union is calling on the Turkish government to scrap plans to raise the retirement age and to look again at the number of days for pension payment.

Other workers affected include airline workers, state theatre workers, journalists and others.

© Hellmail.co.uk (17 March 2008)

000

2. La Poste CEO says eyes Germany's PIN Group-report

Mon Mar 17, 2008 8:39am EDT

FRANKFURT/PARIS, March 17 (Reuters) - French postal service La Poste is considering taking over insolvent German postal firm PIN Group, Germany's Handelsblatt newspaper quoted executives at the French company as saying.

"It goes without saying that we are looking at it," La Poste Chairman Jean-Paul Bailly was quoted as saying in a preview of the paper's Tuesday edition.

Raymond Redding, head of La Poste's mail division, was quoted as saying: "Parts of PIN are viable and therefore interesting. Takeover possibilities in the mail business are very rare."

La Poste planned to reach a decision by the end of this month, the paper added.

La Poste, which is owned by the French government, did not have any immediate comment on Monday when contacted by Reuters.

PIN ran into financial difficulties after German publisher Axel Springer (SPRGn.DE: Quote, Profile, Research), which owns 64 percent of PIN, gave up on a rescue for the business in December after the German government agreed to a minimum wage for postal workers.

This came ahead of liberalisation of the sector and amid pressure from dominant German mail company Deutsche Post (DPWGn.DE: Quote, Profile, Research).

© Reuters 2008 All rights reserved

000

3. Postal service launches recycling program for electronics, ink cartridges

Tribune staff report

March 18, 2008

The U.S. Postal Service launched a pilot program Monday that encourages customers to mail outmoded electronics and used inkjet cartridges to a recycling center in California.

Customers can pick up free envelopes for the Mail Back program at post offices nationwide, including about 300 in the Chicago area, to mail small electronics -- including digital cameras, MP3 players and BlackBerries -- to the U.S. Postal Service.

The envelopes are pre-labeled to go to the recycling center, which is run by Clover Technologies Group.

000

4. Sorry, but 20/20 did not endorse this letter

(Created: Sunday, March 16, 2008 9:49 AM EDT) | [Text Size](#) | [print](#) | [e-mail](#)

This week a new version of an old scam has come around in the form of a chain letter that promises a return of hundreds of thousands of dollars for an investment of a mere \$199 and your time.

“AS SEEN ON OPRAH & 20/20,” the letter shouts in capital letters. “Proven by various, highly-respected U.S. TV and radio programs as being 100 percent legal, feasible and true,” it goes on to say.

“This is not a pyramid scam... This is people helping people, plain and simple.” The letter then itemizes your expenses, should you decide to hop on to this money-making train, from \$6 that you send to the people on a list in the letter (\$1 to each of six letter participants) to \$78 for postage to mail out 200 similar letters of your own.

Then comes the most important part: A note purportedly from a retired attorney claims that he made more than \$2 million off this scam by sending out an addition 500 letters. For skeptics who don't want to make a whole bunch money and then go to jail because it was illegal to do so by sending out letters asking people to send \$1 to six people on a list, this so-called attorney also explains how one little line in the letter makes it 100 percent legal.

And the line? For this letter to be legal, this legal adviser says, you have to offer something in return for the dollar. “So, when you send a dollar to each of the six people on the list, you must include a slip of paper with the words, ‘Please put my name on your mailing list.’ This is the key to the program.”

So is letter legal and therefore the answer to the prayers of anyone who's trying to make an honest million?

No.

No, it is not an honest way to earn a living because extra line or no line, it's still a chain letter and it's still illegal. And no, Oprah and 20/20 did NOT endorse this letter. In fact, just a few weeks ago, Elizabeth Leamy, a consumer correspondent for ABC News, debunked this letter's lie in a report she did for ABC on Jan. 28.

If you need something more convincing to discourage you from adding your name to the chain, simply visit the U.S. Postal Service's Web site at www.usps.com and read what the Post Office has to say about chain letters.

First and foremost, “They're illegal if they request money or other items of value and promise a substantial return to the participants,” the Postal Service explains.

“Chain letters are a form of gambling and sending them through the mail (or delivering them in person or by computer, but mailing money to participate) violates Title 18, United States Code, Section 1302, the Postal Lottery Statute,” the Postal Service continues.

So there you have it. Chain letters are illegal, attorney or no attorney, and whether any TV station or celebrity endorses them or not. (Maybe there's a reason why this “retired” lawyer is retired, since he doesn't seem to fully understand the law.)

An important note here is that a growing scam in the past few years has been to hijack and use legitimate logos and high-profile names — such as Target, Wal-Mart and Oprah — to fool victims into believing a scam is not a scam.

But even if they weren't illegal, the amount of a money chain letter promises is based on the premise that every single person who receives the letter will do what the letter asks — meaning 200 people have to send it out to 200 others, who in turn send it out to 200 others and so on, with everybody sending out the dollars to the names on the list, until everybody's received their million or so dollars.

Put that way, it's easy to understand why you would be lucky to even break even, should you decide to participate: This pyramid scheme works only if everybody does everything right. And the people on the top, who are late getting into the game? Since the world has a finite number of people you could reach through this system, in order for anyone at the top to make any money, everybody would have to start all over again, and keep it going, sort of like a round-robin.

So don't believe it. This chain letter is both illegal and hopeless. If you get one, the U.S. Postal Service asks that you take it to your local postmaster or nearest postal inspector, and let them take care of it.

TIP OF THE WEEK: According to the Postal Service, chain letters that ask for items of minor value, such as picture postcards or recipes are OK to mail, since they are not things of value within the meaning of the law. However, caveat emptor: I once participated in a dish towel chain mail that sounded fun. I bought some fancy dish towels and mailed them out to the first person on the list, put my name on the bottom of the list and waited for my own pretty presents to arrive.

That was 27 years ago. I am still waiting.

000

5. German post to unload hundreds of offices

2 days ago

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Germany's privatised postal service said Sunday it planned to sell hundreds of its branch offices to other companies but had no plans to cut jobs in the process.

A Deutsche Post spokesman said it was stepping up an ongoing strategic shift by unloading the overwhelming majority of its 850 smaller post offices on local businesses such as supermarkets, bakeries or news agents.

The new owners would then offer the same products and services alongside their own core businesses.

A report in the daily Luebecker Nachrichten said some 700 post offices with about 3,000 employees would be affected as part of a cost-cutting drive.

"We have never laid off any staff in this reorganisation," the spokesman said, adding that most of the branch offices had few employees.

Deutsche Post closed about 400 branch offices in recent years and now works with more than 8,000 partner-run offices.

The Bonn-based company suffered a heavy blow last month with the departure of chairman Klaus Zumwinkel who is under investigation in Germany's biggest-ever tax evasion probe.

Zumwinkel had overseen the privatisation of Deutsche Post, which was formed in 1990 to take over the mail activities of the state-run postal services.

The company went public in 2000 and is now a giant in the logistics sector.

000

6. Royal Mail Has Unfair Advantage Say Rivals

17 March 2008 by Steve Lawson - © Hellmail.co.uk

Royal Mail is coming under further pressure as rivals urge Postcomm, the UK postal regulator, to recommend the scrapping of the VAT exemption currently attached to Britain's biggest postal operator.

TNT Post says that the present VAT 'advantage' is weighted wholly in Royal Mail's favour although for the moment, Royal Mail is still responsible for providing the Universal Service - a burden not placed on rivals.

DX Mail Services also echo what they say is an unfair advantage. Chief executive James Greenbury said: "It (Royal Mail) has a number of advantages over all of the competition which have to be levelled out. They don't have to charge VAT and we do. It takes out 40% of the market."

DX is perhaps the only rival that doesn't rely on Royal Mail for final delivery and operates a document and package service to designated points across the UK. TNT has run pilot schemes in some UK cities, but Royal Mail still remains the dominant player in the final mile service because it already has the infrastructure in place. Rivals looking to compete directly with Royal Mail would need to invest heavily to provide a complete end-to-end service and it is unclear if and when this might happen, but in the shorter term rivals say that the VAT status needs a complete rethink and should reflect a more competitive market.

Any change in the VAT rates applicable to postal services has to be passed by government but with a Postcomm questionnaire on the future of regulatory framework and further discussion by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform due this Summer, it seems likely that any ideas to liven up the postal market will be seriously considered.

Whilst the concept of Postal Liberalisation inside the EU was never aimed at the domestic market, progress in the UK has been slow in the business sector and has seen a sharp drop in terms of the frequency and availability of services to the domestic mail market. Some efforts have been made to introduce a target scheme to protect the Universal Service but competition has forced Royal Mail to cut anything deemed as 'frills' - within the guidelines of the Postal Services Act, and through pressure by Postcomm to get a grip on its operating costs. It has also restructured its operating hours to meet EU legislation and to make it more efficient.

Pat McFadden MP, on behalf of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, said that effective choice would be partly through access agreements with Royal Mail but that true end-to-end services need to be available too.

For Royal Mail, Postcomm, and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, it could be a challenging year to say the least, made more difficult by the fact that Royal Mail's biggest shareholder is the government itself.

© Hellmail.co.uk - Postal Industry News

000

7. LIOBmedia Launches Custom Website for Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, "Victory Mail" Exhibit

Washington, DC, March 16, 2008 --(PR.com)-- The new website showcases the museum's collection of World War II V-Mail correspondence. "V" for "Victory," a popular WWII symbol, was the inspiration for the name of this new-fangled correspondence style. The website features a flash timeline of V-Mail, an interactive flipbook that will take users through the process of how microfilm letters are created and comprehensive information about the practice of V-Mail during World War II.

"I've heard nothing but excellent complements on the website from staff and have already heard from a man in Pennsylvania who has used the site for more reference research," says Lynn Heidelbaugh, Assistant Curator for the National Postal Museum, "He is planning on bringing his grandfather, a V-Mail operator vet, to the museum soon!"

LIOBmedia has incorporated a simple yet sophisticated look to the website. The website has been built using easy navigation, uniformity and accessibility to all users.

“One of the main features of the new website is the V-Mail Service in Action Flipbook,” says Lillie Fujinaga, Creative Director, “We have incorporated a Flash based interactive flip book that is set up through an XML file. By integrating the flip book technology, it makes the content an interesting and fulfilling read.”

The temporary exhibit will be displayed at the National Postal Museum starting March 6, 2008. For more information, visit <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/VictoryMail/index.html>

About the Smithsonian National Postal Museum

The National Postal Museum is devoted to presenting the colorful and engaging history of the nation’s mail service and showcasing the largest and most comprehensive collection of stamps and philatelic material in the world.

About LIOBmedia

Founded in 1995, LIOBmedia is a communications and information technology solutions firm offering a broad range of strategic and tactical marketing and internal communications services by leveraging cutting edge technologies. LIOBmedia is a boutique agency with the flexibility and cost efficiency of a freelancer but the capacity and network of a full service agency. Their mission to their clients is to align their communications to their organizational objectives. For more information visit LIOBmedia’s website: www.liobmedia.com.

000

Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.