

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Snail mail much alive and growing here

Writer: APINYA WIPATAYOTIN

Published: 18/08/2009 at 12:00 AM

Newspaper section: NewsSnail mail, for centuries the main form of communication between people separated by distance, refuses to go the way of the dodo. Letters are not fading out in the high-speed communications era as many people think.

Thailand Post statistics show the number of letters being posted annually has risen from 1.05 billion in 2005 to 1.13 in 2006 and further to 1.3 billion in 2008.

Most are business and direct-sales letters. Very few are personal letters, said Wiboon Sereechaiport, assistant vice president of Thailand Post's corporate and marketing communications department.

"The number of letters has increased over the past four years, but most of them are business letters," Mr Wiboon said.

"People send personal letters and postcards mainly on special occasions such as New Year's Day, Father's Day and Mother's Day. During normal times, they turn to high-tech services."

Personal letters sent in recent years amount to only 5% of overall mail, while business letters, including debt notices and advertising brochures, cover 95%.

This reflects the fact that writing personal letters is no longer the key means of communication, Mr Wiboon said.

The sharp drop in the number of personal letters is not affecting the postal service's revenue as it gains considerable income from business letters, he said.

Mail and the document postal service are the key sources of income for the state agency, bringing in 75% of its revenue, followed by logistics services.

Thailand Post also earns a lot of money delivering unaddressed marketing mail, a popular method of business-to-consumer communication. The number of marketing

and promotional letters jumped from 2 million in 2005 to 6.8 million last year, Mr Wiboon said.

"The letter is still alive," he said. "We also see a positive trend in postcard writing among the young generation, who love sending postcards to themselves and friends."

"Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is one postcard lover. She writes postcards to herself while visiting other places."

The number of postcards has risen from 63.5 million in 2005 to 99.2 million last year.

Vichit U-on, director of Sripatum University's consumer behaviour research centre, which recently released the results of a survey of 3,000 people on the use of letters, said less than 2% sent personal letters these days.

"Although fewer people write personal letters these days, more than 64% of the people interviewed agreed that writing letters was a crucial means of communication," he said.

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2. Best of the Web: Postal Service woes

Sunday, August 23, 2009 E-mail storyComments (0) Print storyAdvertisement
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Steamboat Springs — I don't use the USPS for any bill payments anymore. I do it all through my bank and automatic debits (such as YVEA, car insurance, mortgage, etc.). It saves me \$100 a year for postage, at least, and nothing ever gets lost.

These guys are into saving money rather than increasing business to increase revenue. Eventually, they will eliminate themselves, and UPS and FedEx will take it over. Can't happen soon enough.

— aicherny

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3. FedEx, UPS going postal on each other

Story By: John Romero
Source: KOAA

Published Sat Aug 22, 2009, 08:29 PM MDT
Updated Sun Aug 23, 2009, 05:23 AM MDT

Things are heating up in the shipping industry as giants FedEx and UPS square off over labor laws.

FedEx is accusing UPS of getting a competitive advantage through a measure in Congress that would put FedEx drivers under the National Labor Relations Act. “What it does is it creates a competitive disadvantage for FedEx.” explains FedEx Director of Corporate Communications Maury Lane, “If it’s allowed to pass without any hearings or public input we may lose jobs here in Colorado.”

UPS says in reality things are the other way around. They say FedEx is going postal because their drivers are the only ones in the country not covered under the NRLA. “It is the only transportation company in America whose drivers are treated differently than the drivers at all the other transportation companies.” says Norman Black of UPS, “FedEx is objecting to the fact that the Congress of the United States is proposing to create a level playing field.”

The National Labor Relations Act enables workers to form a labor union if they choose to. “It’ll affect FedEx because it will allow local labor disputes to stop the operations of our Airline operations which is how we deliver our FedEx express package every day.” says Lane. UPS says since FedEx is the only shipping company not under this act, they get special treatment. They accuse FedEx of using their status to pull away clients with the promise that FedEx employees will never strike. UPS tells us they only want a level playing field. “The point is very simple. Drivers for one company should be treated the same as drivers at another company.” says Black.

FedEx says if their drivers are covered under the NRLA, it could have bad consequences. “It may drive prices up. You may have less reliability. You have less competition. You have less innovation.” says Lane. FedEx literature says UPS is asking for a bailout. Something UPS flat out denies. “FedEx is completely mislabeling what’s going on here in an effort to just attract attention. UPS has never asked for a bailout in its 102 year history.” says Black

Both UPS and FedEx have set up websites giving their points of view. You can [CLICK HERE](#) for UPS’ site, or you can [CLICK HERE](#) for the FedEx site.

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