

POSTAL NEWS

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OCTOBER 2, 2009

1. Japanese Regulator Eases Position on Loans

Government Will Help Banks Hurt by Plan to Delay Repayments

BY ALISON TUDOR

TOKYO -- Japan's new bank regulator is softening its stance on a proposed moratorium on loan repayments by small business and individuals, in the latest sign that the country's new leadership is adjusting its rhetoric to the reality of government.

Soon after Japan's new government was formed last month, the banking and postal-services minister, Shizuka Kamei, called for a three-year grace period on debt repayments to help small businesses and individuals cope with tough economic conditions.

Bankers in Tokyo complain that Mr. Kamei is violating one of the fundamental principles of their industry: Borrowers must repay loans at the agreed ...

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2. TNT sees little impact from postal law changes

Posted by Bin Du | 29 September 2009, 8:25 pm

China's new postal law, which comes into effect from Oct 1, will have a negligible impact on TNT's mail and express delivery business in China, a company spokesman said, adding that the express delivery service supplier will continue its commitment to investing and growing in the country.

The company has launched a new dedicated B747-400 extended range freight service between Hong Kong and Liege in Belgium, TNT's European air hub.

TNT said the non-stop cargo flights, three times a week from Hong Kong and probably four times a week in the foreseeable future, will enable the company to offer faster transit times, greater control and visibility over shipments to Asia, the Pearl River Delta region in South China, and Europe.

"I don't think the new postal law will influence much of our business in China, as our business primarily focuses on international mail and express delivery service," said Michael Drake, regional managing director for TNT North Asia.

China's new postal law gives exclusivity to State-owned post offices for intra-city express delivery of items under 50 g and intercity delivery of items under 100 g, which means that private mail services may lose 80 percent of the express delivery market.

"The new freighter service will definitely improve TNT's business network in China," said Drake.

According to Drake, the east and south of China are the nation's two key regions that have the most freight that relies on express delivery by air. The new service supplements a similar service between Shanghai and Liege, which was launched in early 2007, while further enhancing the connectivity between TNT's leading express networks in the two regions.

"With its geographical and economic proximity to the Pearl River Delta, Hong Kong is a natural choice as a hub for serving customers in the south of China. It will add to TNT's other Asian international hubs: Singapore, Shanghai and Beijing," he said. "And with our integrated air and road delivery capabilities in China and Europe, we are well-placed to capitalize on the strong trading links between the two regions," he said.

"International express delivery is recovering amid the challenging economic situation globally. The investment in the new freighter service is well justified."

Drake said TNT would continue to invest in China but has not set any investment plan. The acquisition of Hoau in 2007 has also helped TNT.

"In fact, we are already seeing encouraging results from our investments in Asia. TNT is the leader in Sino-Europe express services in China and we are excited about creating a leadership position in the Chinese domestic road arena through our wholly-owned subsidiary TNT-Hoau," added James McCormac, regional managing director of TNT Asia Pacific.

According to McCormac, the initial flights on the Hong Kong-Liege service will fly at full capacity. – China.org.cn

3. How Capitalism is Attacking Postal Workers

Featuring Guest Speaker: Ken Lerch
President, National Association of Letter Carriers
Branch 3825 in Rockville, Maryland

Friday, Oct 2 at 7:00 pm
Justice Center
617 Florida Avenue NW
Metro to Shaw-Howard University

The universal people's United States Postal Service is under attack. The USPS wants to abolish as many as 50,000 letter carrier jobs and more than 100,000 postal jobs.

The USPS provides hundreds of millions of working people with a crucial, affordable and accessible public service. It also provides hundreds of thousands of workers with gainful employment. Yet, the USPS is facing increasing encroachments by a combination of privatization, reductions in employment, and union busting, among many others.

By standing together and building a community-labor alliance to defend jobs in the post office and elsewhere, we can win! Get involved in this important struggle.

To discuss these and other issues, the Party for Socialism and Liberation will hold a forum featuring guest speaker, Ken Lerch, President of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 3825 in Rockville, Maryland.

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4. Japan to Freeze Sale of Postal Services' Resorts, Nikkei Says

By Fergus Maguire

Sept. 28 (Bloomberg) -- Japan's government will freeze the sale of resort facilities operated by the nation's postal service, reversing the policy of the previous government, Nikkei English News said, without citing anyone.

The government plans to add a provision stopping the sale of Japan Post's resort and wedding facilities to a bill preventing the sale of shares in the state-owned postal service, the report said. The legislation will be introduced to parliament next month, the Nikkei said.

Last Updated: September 27, 2009 18:41 EDT

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5. Russia to help Abkhazia with postal, telecommunications services

© REUTERS/ Mikhail Voskresensky

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Abkhazia today

MOSCOW, September 28 (RIA Novosti) - Abkhazia and Russia have signed a memorandum that will see the former Georgian republic establish its own independent telecommunication and postal services, the Abkhaz Apsnypress news agency said on Monday.

The memorandum was signed by Naum Marder, Russia's deputy communications minister, and Christian Bzhania, from Abkhazia's information and communications department. Russia is to provide Abkhazia with telephone codes for landline and mobile phones.

"Handing over a territorial code means that in the near future [Abkhazian] all types of providers will move to replace Georgian telephone codes with Abkhazian," Christian Bzhania was quoted by Apsnypress as saying.

Russia will also provide assistance in organizing a postal service, radio control system and the setting up a training center for communications specialists.

Russia recognized the independence of the former Georgian republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia last August after a five-day war with Georgia over the latter, which was attacked by Tbilisi in an attempt to bring it back under central control.

Under mutual assistance treaties signed last November, Russia pledged to help South Ossetia and Abkhazia protect their borders, and the signatories granted each other the right to set up military bases in their respective territories.

Russia President said earlier in September that Russia will continue to give its full support to the former Georgian republic of South Ossetia.

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Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

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