

Fact Sheet – Special Stamps Issuing Programme for 2013

Hongkong Post's Special Stamp Issuing Programme for 2013 (the 2013 Programme) boasts a colourful diversity of stamp themes and designs to put on parade the multiple facets of Hong Kong.

Stamp issues on "Hong Kong Buses", "Revitalisation of Historic Buildings in Hong Kong" trace the footsteps of time, while "Cruise Terminal at Kai Tak" and "Innovation and Technology" reflect the city's latest developments. The issue on "Chinese and Western Wedding Customs" celebrate Hong Kong's each East-meets-West customs and local artistic talents are showcased in the "Inclusive Arts" issue. "Our Legislative Council" introduces the key functions of our law-making institution.

As collectors' favourites, the "Year of the Snake" and "The Old Town of Lijiang", representing the second stamp issue for the latest "Lunar New Year Animal Series" and the "World Heritage in China Series" respectively, are long-awaited treasures. For our young aspiring philatelists, "My Pet and I" holds special appeal. The commemorative issue of "The 150th Anniversary of the International Committee of the Red Cross" recalls the history and contributions of this international humanitarian organisation.

With stamp themes introducing Hong Kong's unique cityscape and way of life, the 2013 special stamps form a prized collection for philatelists, and make an ideal gift for family, friends and business associates.

Further information about the special stamp issues and related products can be obtained now from any post office and from the Hongkong Post website at www.hongkongpost.com, or by calling the Hongkong Post Philatelic Bureau hotline at 2785 5711. More details on each individual special stamp issue will be available prior to the release date.

Date of Issue	Description
26 Jan 2013	<p>1. Year of the Snake</p> <p>“Year of the Snake” is the second special stamp issue of the fourth Lunar New Year Animal Series. In this issue, the beauty of the snake is given expressions in paper cutting, Chinese painting, seal carving, jade carving, woodblock printing and Chinese calligraphy. Adding to the festive ambience of the Lunar New Year is a silk stamp sheetlet showing the snake in vibrant colours.</p>
26 Jan 2013	<p>1a. Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Dragon/Snake</p> <p>The dragon and the snake are paired up in this glittering issue to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Perfect for gift and collection, the first-ever, 22K gold - plated lace metal is affixed on the snake stamp while the dragon stamp is hot-foiled with silver.</p>
28 Feb 2013	<p>2. The 150th Anniversary of the International Committee of the Red Cross</p> <p>For a century and a half, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been protecting the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles, including protection in war, assistance for conflict victims, prevention action and cooperation with national societies.</p>
28 Mar 2013	<p>3. Children Stamps – My Pet and I</p> <p>Keeping a pet not only brings joy to the family, but also nurtures in children a caring heart. This set of children stamps features six adorable pets, including cat, dog, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit and tortoise. This display of the close bonds between children and pets will warm your heart.</p>

7 May 2013	<p>4. Revitalisation of Historic Buildings in Hong Kong</p> <p>Hong Kong has a rich architectural heritage that presents a mix of East and West. Development Bureau's Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme) aims to preserve local buildings with historic value and turn them into new cultural landmarks. This stamp issue features the six buildings in Batch I of the Scheme: YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel, Tourism and Chinese Cultural Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum, Jao Tsung-I Academy, Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine - Lui Seng Chun, Tai O Heritage Hotel and SCAD Hong Kong.</p>
June 2013 (TBC)	<p>5. Cruise Terminal at Kai Tak</p> <p>Built on the site of the former Kai Tak Airport runway, the cruise terminal at Kai Tak is expected to open in mid-2013. It will have two berths for the largest cruise vessels in the world. Welcoming guests from all over the world with top-class hospitality, the city's latest landmark will help to cement Hong Kong's reputation as a tourist's paradise.</p>
23 Jul 2013	<p>6. Chinese and Western Wedding Customs</p> <p>Wedding ceremonies in all cultures are guided by distinctive conventions. In Hong Kong where East meets West, westernised wedding customs are mingled with Chinese wedding traditions. This set of stamps juxtaposes these customs that are practised in Hong Kong today.</p>
22 Aug 2013	<p>7. World Heritage in China Series No. 2: The Old Town of Lijiang</p> <p>The Old Town of Lijiang is featured in the World Heritage in China Series No. 2. Also known as "Dayan Town", Lijiang is surrounded by the snow-capped mountains on the Yunnan Plateau. This well-preserved old town features beautiful traditional Chinese architecture and the traditional culture of the Naxi people. With the Yulong ("Jade Dragon") Snow Mountain in the background, this picturesque sheetlet showcases the unique beauty of this timeless jewel.</p>

24 Sep 2013	<p>8. Hong Kong Buses</p> <p>Buses have been serving Hong Kong since the 1920s. During the past century, local buses have gone through a few generations while their standard of service has continued to rise. Presenting classic Hong Kong buses in a retro style, this stamp issue takes us through the time tunnel and must not be missed by philatelists and bus fans!</p>
15 Oct 2013	<p>9. Inclusive Arts</p> <p>Art is without borders. Persons with disabilities are entitled to the same rights and opportunities to enjoy artistic appreciation and expression. This set of stamps features the artistic creations of local disabled artists in promotion of inclusive art and a community in harmony. The artistic talents of these artists as well as their passion for life are given full expression in these art pieces in vibrant colours.</p>
19 Nov 2013	<p>10. Innovation and Technology</p> <p>Innovation and technology are the driving force of today's global economy. Six branches of innovative technology that are particularly relevant to Hong Kong, including biotechnology, traditional Chinese medicine, green technology, information and communication technology, nano technology and advanced materials as well as radio frequency identification, are presented in this inspiring stamp issue.</p>
5 Dec 2013	<p>11. Our Legislative Council</p> <p>The Basic Law has granted law-making powers to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This stamp issue features the main functions of our Legislative Council, which are to enact, amend or repeal laws; to examine and approve budgets, taxation and public expenditure and to raise questions on the work of the government.</p>

Note: All images are for reference only. The actual issue date of the special stamp issue, its range of products and the stamp designs are subject to change and will be announced closer to release.