

Fact Sheet – Special Stamps Issuing Programme for 2015

Hongkong Post's Special Stamp Issuing Programme for 2015 (the 2015 Programme) boasts a colourful diversity of themes and designs in a kaleidoscope of stamps.

The “Scientists in Ancient China” and the “Children Stamps – Chinese and Foreign Folklore” series take you back to ancient China and the Western world, while the colourful designs of the “Astronomical Phenomena” series and “World Heritage in China Series No. 4: Honghe Hani Rice Terraces” show you the mystery of the universe and a land where man and nature live in harmony. The Lunar New Year Animal Stamps series are popular among philatelists and the general public. A new set of four stamps depicting the ram and the last three Lunar New Year animals (Dragon/Snake/Horse) will be released. Applying silver hot foil stamping, lithography and embossed printing techniques, these stamps add to the excitement of the Lunar New Year. The “Hong Kong 2015 – 31st Asian International Stamp Exhibition” is a significant event for philatelists around the world. Stamp Sheetlet Series No. 1 on this stamp theme was issued in September 2014. Series No. 2 and 3 will be released in November 2015 to respectively mark the grand opening and the closing day of the event. The “Sports in Hong Kong” series feature the top six choices returned from an online “My Favourite Sports” voting exercise, i.e. cycling, table tennis, football, athletics, badminton and swimming. The “Government Vessels” and “The Court of Final Appeal” stamps allow a glimpse of the work of some of the government departments in Hong Kong. The “World Post Day” stamps, to be issued on October 9 2015 remind us all of the personal touch of letter mail in the digital age. The new series of Heartwarming Stamps in heart shape make perfect messages of love and joy in everyday life.

The 2015 stamp issues will make a prized collection for philatelists, they are also ideal gifts for family members, friends and business associates.

Further information about the special stamp issues and related products can be obtained from any post office and the Hongkong Post website at www.hongkongpost.hk, 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.

Appendix I

Date of Issue	Description
24 Jan 2015	<p>1. Year of the Ram</p> <p>"Year of the Ram" is the fourth Lunar New Year special stamp issue of the fourth series by Hongkong Post. This set presents a Ram zodiac motif with four traditional handicraft items: a pastel celadon ware, glazed ceramic ware, a multi-coloured clay sculpture and a jade carving. The stamp sheetlet and the silk stamp sheetlet add to the festivity of the Chinese New Year.</p>
24 Jan 2015	<p>1a. Gold and Silver Stamp Sheetlet on Lunar New Year Animals – Horse/Ram</p> <p>While the Year of the Horse comes to an end and the Year of the Ram draws near, this stamp sheetlet with a 22K gold-plated Ram stamp and a silver hot-foiled Horse stamp, makes a perfect gift or an addition to one's collection. The stamp sheetlet comes with a certificate of authenticity.</p>
24 Jan 2015	<p>1b. Silver Hot Foil Lunar New Year Animal Stamps–Dragon/Snake/Horse/Ram</p> <p>This set of four Silver Hot Foil Lunar New Year Animal stamps is the first set of the latest Lunar New Year special stamp series. By applying silver hot foil stamping, lithography and embossing for the Dragon, Snake, Horse and Ram stamps issued in 2012 to 2015, the uniqueness of each animal is shown in the best light.</p>
12 Feb 2015	<p>2. Heartwarming</p> <p>The sixth issue of Heartwarming stamps features a new layout and a heart-shaped design, charmingly underlining the theme of "Heartwarming". With Valentine's Day coming up, these stamps are ideal presents to convey your affection to your beloved!</p>
17 Mar 2015	<p>3. Astronomical Phenomena</p> <p>Gazing at the sky was the only way to observe the universe in the old days. Today, technology has helped us unveil the secrets of the space. This set of stamps illustrates seven fascinating astronomical phenomena, including solar eclipse, meteor shower, comet, Saturn's ring tilt variation, sunspot, moon-planet conjunction and lunar eclipse, introducing us to the fascinating world of astronomy.</p>

23 Apr 2015	<p>4. Sports in Hong Kong</p> <p>Exercise is an excellent way to stay fit and relax after a busy day. The top six choices returned from the online "My Favourite Sports" Internet Voting organised by Hongkong Post - cycling, table tennis, football, athletics, badminton and swimming - are depicted in this stamp issue.</p>
21 May 2015	<p>5. Government Vessels</p> <p>The vessel fleets in various departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government perform a diversity of duties ranging from regular patrol to inspection and quarantine, water quality control, fire control and more. You will learn more about these vessels and their functions from the 6 stamps in the "Government Vessels" series.</p>
18 Jun 2015	<p>6. World Heritage in China Series No. 4: Honghe Hani Rice Terraces</p> <p>The fourth stamp sheetlet of the World Heritage in China series features the Honghe Hani Rice Terraces. Situated in Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yuanyang County, Yunnan, China, the terraces have over 1,300 years of history and continue to yield today. The massive and impressive landscape of as many as 3,700 terraces creates a spectacular view that has earned the title of the "Great Carving of Land". The colourful and picturesque effect formed by different weather phenomena and water plantations are depicted in this stamp sheetlet.</p>
16 Jul 2015	<p>7. Children Stamps – Chinese and Foreign Folklore</p> <p>Traditional folklore is a national treasure, with many stories containing valuable lessons for future generations. This new series of Children Stamps guides you through a world of famous folklore from China (The Old Man Moves the Mountain), Greece (The Tortoise and the Hare), the United States (The Little Engine That Could), Denmark (The Wild Swans), the United Kingdom (The Three Little Pigs) and Italy (The Parable of the Pipeline), all represented by fun-filled illustrations.</p>
2nd half of 2015 (TBC)	<p>8. The Court of Final Appeal</p> <p>The Court of Final Appeal is the highest appellate court in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It hears appeals on civil and criminal matters from the High Court (the Court of Appeal and the Court of First Instance). The Court of Final Appeal is planned for relocation in the latter half of 2015 from its present location at No. 1 Battery Path to No. 8 Jackson Road, the former Supreme Court. The elegant architecture of the new home of the Court of Final Appeal, including the statue of Themis, the Goddess of Justice and the symbol of justice - is depicted in this stamp sheetlet.</p>

9 Oct 2015	<p>9. World Post Day</p> <p>This set of stamps celebrates World Post Day on October 9. The World Post Day aims to raise awareness of the postal service, which relates not only to our daily lives but also the economic development of a community.</p>
20 Nov 2015 and 23 Nov 2015	<p>10 & 11. Hong Kong 2015 – 31st Asian International Stamp Exhibition Stamp Sheetlet Series No. 2 and No. 3</p> <p>This set of stamp sheetlets commemorates a major event among philatelists in the world - the 31st Asian International Stamp Exhibition to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 20 to 23 November 2015. The Stamp Sheetlet series No. 1 was issued on September 18, 2014. Series No. 2 and 3 are for issue on November 20 and 23, 2015 respectively, to mark the grand opening and the closing day of the event respectively.</p>
8 Dec 2015	<p>12. Scientists in Ancient China</p> <p>Scientists and inventors from China attained impressive achievements and made notable contribution to the world of science. This set of stamps features four ancient Chinese scientists, viz. Zhang Heng, Zu Chongzhi, Guo Shoujing and Li Shizhen who made substantial contribution to science, mathematics and astronomy, as well as Chinese medicine and herbal studies.</p>

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