

# POSTAL NEWS

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## **1. Ministry official held over postal scam**

The Yomiuri Shimbun

OSAKA--Prosecutors on Tuesday arrested a Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry official in connection with a case in which an organization claiming to support disabled people abused a postal discount system on suspicion that the official fabricated official documents to make the organization eligible for the discount.

Arrested by the Osaka District Public Prosecutors Office was Tsutomu Kamimura, 39, who is a subsection chief at the ministry's Department of Health and Welfare for Persons with Disabilities.

The prosecutors also arrested Tadashi Kono, a 68-year-old former member of Rin-no-kai, the self-described organization for the disabled, on the same charges.

Both Kamimura and Kono have admitted the allegations, sources said.

Rin-no-kai, a predecessor of Tokyo-based Hakusan-kai, which allegedly abused the postal discount system for organizations for the disabled, submitted to Japan Post Service Co. a fabricated ministry-issued document certifying the organization as a group for the disabled. The prosecutors suspect Kamimura was involved in making the false certificate as well, the sources said.

It already has been learned that the postal discount system, which discounts postage for periodicals issued by organizations for the disabled, was used to send commercial direct mail with the involvement of workers of major firms and Japan Post officials.

According to investigative sources, Kamimura, who was assigned to work at counters accepting applications for certificates issued to organizations for the disabled, allegedly conspired with Kono and others, including Kunio Kurasawa, 73, a former Rin-no-kai chairman under arrest over the scam, in late April 2004 and fabricated a document showing ongoing approval for the organization's status as a group for the

disabled. He also allegedly created another document claiming the appropriate document would be issued soon.

The false approval document bore Kamimura's signature as the drafter, the sources said.

Rin-no-kai allegedly submitted the approval document to a nonprofit organization that helps small groups issue periodicals using the postal discount system.

The NPO has provided the false approval document to the prosecutors.

Rin-no-kai reportedly asked the ministry to issue a certificate around February 2004, and was told to consult the NPO.

However, the NPO suspected that Rin-no-kai might be a commercial group and demanded a letter confirming that the organization worked on behalf of disabled people.

Kono is believed to have asked Kamimura to issue an approval document, according to the sources.

(May. 27, 2009)

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## **2. AddressDoctor Provides a Free Online Postal Code Lookup Tool**

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For someone wishing to find the zip code of an address in Tokyo or to verify a Canadian address, AddressDoctor provides the ultimate solution: a free online Postal Code Lookup tool. The tool not only completes missing postal codes and address elements, it also corrects misspelled addresses from more than 240 countries. Accurate addresses improve deliverability of mail and therefore help avoid unnecessary costs for additional postage and shipping. In order to make this popular service available to even more users worldwide, it is now available in Arabic, Hindi and Russian – a total of 13 languages altogether.

“Online requests peak every year before Easter and Christmas, when our customers are sending out letters to friends and family nationally and internationally“, explains Sven Schreiber, managing director at AddressDoctor. However, the service is not just used by individuals. Approximately half of AddressDoctor’s customers use the Postal Code Lookup for professional reasons. Many exporting companies, for example, validate addresses before shipment. “In such cases, incomplete or inaccurate addresses can cause high costs, a delay in delivery and unhappy customers. Fortunately, this can be easily avoided by verifying the address before shipment“, says Schreiber.

### **3. Chinese vice premier urges postal firms to boost rural logistic services**

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QINGDAO, May 26 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang Tuesday urged the country's postal firms to promote their logistics services in rural areas to better serve farmers' needs.

Zhang made the comment at a two-day conference held here to promote the experiences of Shandong Province's postal firms in providing logistics services for farmers.

Postal firms in east China's Shandong began to offer such logistics services as delivering farm produce in 2003, and has so far developed chain-store and door-to-door delivery services for farmers.

Zhang called on the country's postal firms to follow Shandong's example so as to accelerate rural services.

China's postal sector has an extensive presence, especially in the countryside. Post offices have 59,000 offices nationwide, more than 70 percent, or 42,000, in rural areas.

Liu Andong, manager of the China Postal Group, said the company's rural logistic services had maintained growth of more than 45 percent for four consecutive years.

The company has established more than 240,000 logistic service outlets for farmers in 1,740 counties of 29 provinces, covering 86percent of the country's counties and a third of villages, said Liu.

Zhang also said more investment should be made to improve infrastructure and upgrade services, and urged postal firms to separate delivery and logistic services from traditional mail services.

Editor: Lu Hui

#### **4. Law change helps letter box makers defy crisis**

Tuesday, 26 May 2009 13:50 IB

A postal service decision to end to-the-door postal service for flats comes at an opportune time for letter box makers

Changes to postal regulations have the letter box industry defying both the economic downturn and decreasing volumes of mail.

The changes, passed in 2005, will eliminate the current delivery-to-the-door service in apartment buildings at the end of the year.

The requirement that buildings install letter boxes for all flats on the ground floor has generated a 50 percent increase in sales for ME-FA, the country's largest letter box maker.

According to industry experts, once the initial boom subsides the change will increase the size of the market for letter box systems in the long-term by 10 percent.

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