

For Immediate Release

A Palette of Singapore's Multicultural Colours on New Festival Stamps

Date of Issue: 29 February 2008



Singapore, 28 February 2008 – Singapore's rich and vibrant multicultural heritage is best reflected in the many colourful festivals celebrated throughout the year. In SingPost's new set of festival stamps to be released on 29 Feb 08, the main festivals of Singapore's four major races – Chinese New Year, Christmas, Deepavali and Hari Raya Aidilfitri – are depicted together with their other festivals, namely Easter, Hari Raya Haji, Mid-Autumn and Pongal for the first time.

Vividly illustrated on the 12 stamp designs are the colourful elements of each festival and how people celebrate them. The main festivals are featured on two stamps each i.e. the 1st Local (26¢) and 55¢ stamps, while the other festivals are captured on the 2nd Local

(32¢) stamps. SingPost releases stamps on Singapore festivals every two years, with the last issue in 2006.

Chinese New Year (1st Local & 55¢ stamps)

Traditional auspicious colours for the Chinese like red and gold dominate the stamp designs as seen on the firecrackers, lanterns and ‘hong baos’ (red packets of money) that are given to unmarried children for good fortune. The lively dragon dance and children in traditional Chinese costumes also add to the joyous ambiance.

Christmas (1st Local & 55¢ stamps)

On the stamps which commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Three Wise Men surrounded by hollies and mistletoes as well as Santa Claus with Christmas trees and reindeer carry the universal message of joy and peace.

Deepavali (1st Local & 55¢ stamps)

Deepavali, as known as the Festival of Lights, is a Hindu festival celebrating the victory of light over darkness, of good over evil that is both visually spectacular and spiritually significant. The oil lamps for thanking the gods, as well as the peacocks and elephants from the Hindu religion gaily decorate the stamp designs.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri (1st Local & 55¢ stamps)

One of two main festivals celebrated by Muslims in Singapore, Hari Raya Aidilfitri is a joyous occasion marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The stamps show the festive goodies like *ketupat* and *kueh kueh* which are enjoyed during the festive gatherings with family and friends on this day.

Mid-Autumn Festival (2nd Local stamp)

Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated at full moon on the 15th day of the eight Chinese lunar month. In the olden days, the Chinese celebrated this festival to mark the bountiful harvest of mid-autumn. During this festival, children delight in carrying lanterns in the evenings as depicted on the stamp, while friends and family gather for a feast of mooncakes which symbolise unity and perfection.

Pongal (2nd Local stamp)

Originating from South India, Pongal is a four-day thanksgiving celebration for good harvest. Presented on the stamp are the traditional elements of gaily-decorated cows, bulls with painted horns and Indians dressed in their traditional costumes associated with this festival. “Pongal” also means “boiling over”, symbolising an overflowing of blessings.

Hari Raya Haji (2nd Local stamp)

Hari Raya Haji commemorates the pilgrimage of devotees to the holy city of Mecca. Animals like goat and sheep are usually sacrificed at dawn on this day, followed by prayers at the mosque and visits to each others' homes which are featured on the stamp. Held on the 10th day of the twelfth and final month in the Islamic calendar, it also symbolises a quest for the reunion of mankind.

Easter (2nd Local stamp)

Easter is the climax of the Holy Week when Christians around the world commemorate the passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, Easter eggs symbolise new life and Easter egg hunt is a festive activity loved by children, as illustrated on the stamp which completes this series.

The pre-cancelled first day cover and presentation pack will be on sale from 29 Feb 08 at all post offices as well as the Singapore Philatelic Museum. All the stamp products of this issue can also be ordered at our online shopping portal *vPOST*, <http://shop.vpost.com.sg>.

Information and enquiries

For more information on this new stamp issue, please call the Singapore Philatelic Bureau at telephone numbers 1800 741 4111 (toll-free within Singapore) or 6845 6756 during office hours or visit <http://www.singpost.com> or email us at sinstamp@singpost.com

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About Singapore Post Limited

SingPost, the designated Public Postal Licensee for Singapore, provides efficient and high quality domestic and international postal services. One of the most efficient postal operators in the world, SingPost received global recognition in the World Mail Awards for the Quality category in 2007. SingPost is also the leading logistics provider in the domestic market, with global service offerings to more than 220 territories/countries. It has won the EMS Cooperative Certification Gold Level Award by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for its Speedpost Worldwide courier service and is the only postal administration in the world to win this for six consecutive years since 2001. SingPost also owns one of the largest retail distribution networks through its tri-channel platform of post offices, Self-service Automated Machines (SAMs) and *vPOST*, its internet portal. With its extensive network, SingPost provides a one-stop convenience to its customers for a wide range of products and services, including agency, postal and financial services.

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FACTS ON STAMP ISSUE

Items on Sale

<u>Items</u>	<u>Price</u>
First Day Cover (without stamps)	S\$0.25
Pre-cancelled First-Day Cover affixed with complete set of stamps	S\$5.45
Presentation Pack	S\$6.40

Technical Details

Date of Issue	:	29 February 2008
Denominations	:	1 st Local, 2 nd Local & 55¢
Stamp Size	:	30mm x 25mm
Perforation	:	14
Paper	:	Unwatermarked
Printing Process	:	Offset Lithography
Printer	:	SEP SPrint (Australia) Pty Ltd
Sheet Content	:	10 stamps
Designer	:	Neo Lay See Design Business (S) Pte Ltd

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