



FIP COMMISSION FOR TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

Minutes of Commission Bureau Meeting on 8 July 2026 8 p.m. (20:00hr) Singapore/Hong Kong time

Thanks to the excellent arrangement by FIP Secretary Kelly Ong, members of the commission were able to meet by zoom on Wednesday, 8 July at 8 p.m. Singapore/Hong Kong time.

The following bureau members were in attendance:-

Chairman Andrew Cheung, Secretary Prakrit Foongvanich, Bureau member (FIAP) Sdiann Ng, Bureau member (FIAF) Roberto Cravero, Bureau member (FEPA) Lars Jorgensen and FIP Co-ordinator for Traditional Philately Richard Tan.

Agenda

Notice of the meeting and agenda has been circulated to members of the commission as well as FIP Board in advance to comply with new regulations. The agenda is as follows:-

1. Welcoming and congratulations to the newly elected Bureau members
2. Website updating
3. Traditional Philately Qualifying Seminar
4. Traditional Philately Exhibiting Seminar
5. AOB and future meetings

1. The newly elected chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated them for being elected into the bureau.

2. The Chairman discussed updating of the delegate list with delegate changes and addition of delegates from Macao and Mongolia. He drew attention to the exhibits that he added to the website for teaching and promotion of Traditional Philately. Lars suggested displaying exhibits of the same category for better comparison.

3. The group agreed that qualifying seminars are necessary when new apprentices need training. The seminar given at IBRA 2023 and Philakorea 2025 was originally developed in 2022, therefore, revision by members may be necessary to keep it up to date. Lars would review and potentially revise the current seminar. The commission is planning to deliver a qualifying seminar during Slovphilex 2027 in Bratislava in July.

4. Shorter exhibiting seminar dealing with specific judging criteria could be given at meeting rather than a comprehensive all-encompassing presentation which lasts 1.5hr. Sdiann proposed that these can also be given in online formats, to better reach exhibitors and promote traditional philately. Lars proposed presenting his collection's evolution over time as a potential seminar topic for teaching.

5. AOB

The Modern Philately Class

The commission discussed about this exhibiting class. Prakrit explained that the original intent of modern philately was to promote post office sales of stamps and new collecting materials, the cut-off date varies at each exhibition. Richard confirmed that collections starting from 2000 onwards would be classified as modern philately, with some flexibility for pre-2000 material. Lars raised concerns about potential judge bias against modern material.

Commission Newsletter

Lars suggested creating a newsletter to better communicate with commission members before the Taipei meeting. The newsletter could contain the latest commission news as well as personal contributions from each member.

Classification of Telegraph and Telephone stamps

The commission received an email from Bernard Jimenez RDP asking about French Timbres téléphone, whether these should be classified under Traditional Philately or another class.

French telephone and telegraph stamps were used to prepay telephone calls and telegraphs by the public. Because of their purpose is to pay a specific government tax or service fee rather than traditional postage, they are often classified revenue class. In Lars experience, exhibits of these stamps could have been judged under Traditional Philately. The current FIP Revenue Class guidelines also cater for exhibits of these stamps.



Future meetings

PhilaTaipei 2026: Richard indicated that while rooms are typically allocated for talks, specific details are still being finalized. He will provide an update on the availability of seminar/meeting rooms and time slots after meeting with the Organizing Committee.

Another meeting is planned for Slovphilex 2027.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Summary

This was the first bureau meeting of the Traditional Philately Commission, chaired by Andrew Cheung and attended by all members of the Bureau. The main discussion focused on revising the traditional philately qualifying seminar, with participants agreeing that the current seminar was too long and needed to be broken down into more focused presentations covering specific judging criteria rather than attempting to cover everything in one session. The group discussed the possibility of having both qualifying seminars for potential jurors and exhibiting seminars for general education. The commission also addressed the current traditional philately guidelines, with members expressing satisfaction with recent harmonizations and agreeing that changes should be minimal to avoid confusion. Additional topics included the need for a commission newsletter before the upcoming Taipei exhibition, the classification of telephone & telegraph stamps in the traditional philately class, Modern Philately and the challenge of promoting traditional philately.



Dr. Andrew Cheung RDP, FRPSL, AIEP
Chairman, FIP Traditional Philately Commission