

19 JUN 1999

AIDS-Stamps

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH AIDS CONGRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Commemorative stamps and first-day cover in conjunction with the 5th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) were launched here today.

Director-General of Posts Nasaruddin Che Abu officiated at the launch, marking the first-ever commemorative stamps and first-day cover issued in the eight-year history of ICAAP.

The stamps and first-day cover are available at all post offices.

The stamps, in 30 sen, 50 sen and RM1, bear images with important messages on AIDS.

A set of three stamps seen together, as on the first-day cover, conveys two special meanings -- compassion represented by the hearts, and care by the heart shape formed by the double red ribbon logo.

The light and dark blue colours on the 30 sen stamp means everyone has a role to play to check the AIDS epidemic, while the blue colour on the 50 sen stamp depicts the joint efforts of individuals to challenge the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS.

The white on the RM1 stamp represents an environment free and safe from all the negative impact of HIV/AIDS.

"I am confident that these commemorative stamps will deliver an impactful message," Malaysia AIDS Foundation chairman Marina Mahathir said.

About 3,000 delegates were expected to attend the 5th ICAAP which will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre on Oct 23-27, she told a press conference after the launch.

-- BERNAMA

MEO AHH YBY