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... and a question on its purpose

I WONDER if the Hongkong business community is fully aware that the provisions of the new Post Office Bill to come before Legco by the end of October places them at an extraordinary disadvantage compared with the situation hitherto, and the situation in virtually all other countries?

It has become standard business practice to despatch bulky documentation as well as materials for publication such as photographs, proofs, etc by freight or courier services because experience has shown that only in this way can the sender be sure of timely delivery into the hands of the addressee at destination. A flight can be specified, and the addressee can collect. It is as simple as that.

Experience has shown that packages mailed by air parcel post can lie in the sorting rooms of some foreign post offices for days or even weeks before reaching the addressee, and even then often in an advanced stage of dilapidation. Registration is no answer. Registered mail takes even longer to deliver in many countries.

To impose this restriction on firms with overseas affiliates, principals and customers seems retrogressive, to say the least. But to reinforce it with penalties of \$50,000 fines and imprisonment up to six months appears downright vindictive.

I wonder what purpose the legislation is intended to accomplish? Perhaps someone responsible could enlighten us.

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