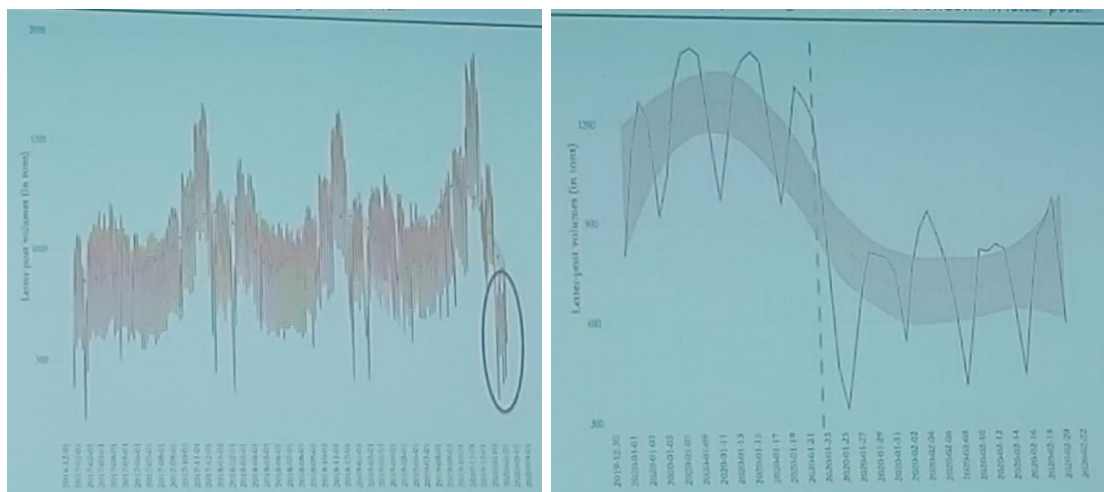


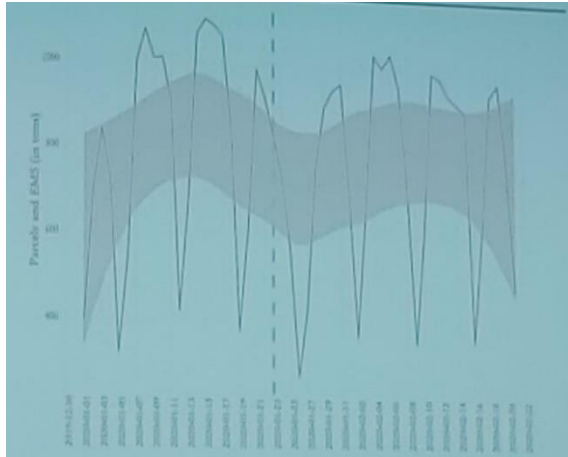
Coronavirus: 21% fall in Global Letter Post traffic volumes

Real-time data issued by the Universal Postal Union offers a dramatic picture: the total global letter post volume fell by almost a quarter in February 2020. During the same period, parcel and EMS volumes did not increase. As most, if not all, commercial items are sent as small packets/E-format postal items in the “letter stream”, the 21% decline represents the missing e-commerce volumes originating from China.

At its spring session in Bern, Switzerland, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) considered the future of the global postal network, its remuneration policy, products and services development, and inclusion of the wider postal sector players. The UPU International Bureau also presented the latest (real-time) figures and trends within the global postal network.



The current public health emergency (China’s coronavirus) is having a severe impact on global postal flows, with a considerable slow down in letter post volumes at item level already becoming clear in February (see figures above). The UPU’s real-time volume monitoring impressively shows that the decrease in letter post volumes is directly related to commercial items.



Parcels and EMS items have not been affected and their volumes have not declined (see figure above). Following the official announcement made by the P.R. of China, during the period 23 January to 20 February 2020, the overall volume of letter post items (= commercial letter post items) decreased by 21%. As this trend has not stopped, but is rather accelerating, it is safe to state that the global postal network has lost $\frac{1}{4}$ of its volume, with all China OUTBOUND ecommerce having disappeared.