

## **The effects of minimum wage at HK\$28**

### ***Making History***

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 the legislation for minimum wage of HK\$28 finally came into effect after the Minimum Wage Bill was passed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010. This marked a significant change in Hong Kong and made history since the change took nearly 80 years to come into effect.

The change came as no surprise to the people of Hong Kong, who had anticipated it and such legislation also reflected that of other jurisdictions around the world. Five months since the change it has evidently affected small businesses the most, where increased costs have made it hard for employers to keep their workforce. In particular, security guards have seen their wages rise from HK\$4000-H\$K6000 to around HK\$8000 plus other benefits to cover holidays and lunch breaks.

Arguably this change has not been perfect and it is still going through a rough transition, but it certainly does reflect the government's vision of protecting employees' rights and we are at least taking one step forward.

### ***No Pain, No Gain?***

However hard it is for us to refrain from looking at things through a tunnel vision and focusing on our own business concerns and troubles. We must try to look at the bigger picture and understand that it is important for us to overcome traumatic pain and disturbance to look forward to a calmer, more prosperous and better Hong Kong.

### ***The Future***

Since what is done is done, we must now grow accustomed to the change and move forward together to welcome the changing environment of today's society.

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