

Over 45% of Taiwan workers traveled to China

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By *Stephen Che The China Post*

Over 45 percent of Taiwan workers have traveled to mainland China for official business and the number of those who would like to go have increased according to a survey released by the human resources firm 1111 Job Bank.

Over 58 percent of Taiwan workers who visited the mainland are in positions of mid to high level management with 55 percent of them receiving higher pay and benefits as a result of their trips.

In terms of the purpose of their trip, 42.48 percent of Taiwan workers have been sent by their company to mainland China on a long-term basis, 32.41 percent are ordered to conduct business, and 24.41 are told to meet with clients.

When asked if they would like to visit mainland China on a regular basis for official business, 76.97 percent of Taiwan workers answered yes. Some 61 percent of them cited the mainland's market potential as their reason for going to the mainland followed by 52.51 percent who want to further their career development and 52.51 percent wanting to "expand their horizons."

According to a research conducted by management consulting firm McKinsey and Company, mainland China will be in need of some 75,000 high level management personnel within the next ten years.

"Since a few years ago, Taiwan workers who moved to the mainland have received better pay and more opportunities for promotion, especially high tech personnel," read a statement released by the 1111 Job Bank.

Taiwan workers have traveled to Shanghai the most, with 59 percent of them visiting the cosmopolitan city, followed by Shenzhen and Tongguan in southern China with 43.45 percent and 33.38 percent, respectively. Shenzhen and Tongguan are located near the Pearl River Delta, an area where numerous Taiwan companies set up their factories.

In terms of the negative aspects of working in mainland China, 48.97 percent of Taiwan workers are most concerned with crime in local areas, followed by inconvenient transportation at 46.21 percent, and difficult access to information at 31.59 percent.

"Taiwan workers moving to the mainland will become an inevitable and necessary trend," said Wu Chun-yin of the 1111 Job Bank. "The advantage that Taiwan workers have over foreign workers in the mainland is their ability to build relationships, or *guanxi* with the local people."

However, Wu warned that Taiwan must face the problem of losing talent to mainland China and prevent Taiwan companies from being marginalized.

The survey was taken by 1,583 people over a ten day period this November with a margin of error of 2.5 percent.