



MEDIA RELEASE

Singaporean Workers Highly Mobile When It Comes To Finding The Right Jobs

SINGAPORE, May 12, 2008 - More than three quarters of Singaporean workers say they would be prepared to look overseas to find the right job, according to a new international workplace survey.

The survey, by global recruitment firm Kelly Services, also found that many Singaporean workers are not willing to devote long periods travelling to and from work, with only 10% prepared to spend one hour or more commuting each way.

The global survey sought the views of 115,000 people in 33 countries, including more than 2,000 in Singapore, about their patterns of travel to and from work, their capacity to move to find the right job and the main factors preventing them from relocating.

Mr Dhirendra Shantilal, Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific, Kelly Services, said the survey reveals a high degree of mobility in the workforce, with many people very comfortable with the idea of moving considerable distances for the right job.

“With a more globalized workforce, there is increasingly a recognition that people may have to relocate to find the right work, or to advance their career. There are many skills that are easily transferable across borders including in areas such as banking and finance, IT, science and engineering,” he said.

Amongst the key findings of the survey:

- 78% of people would consider relocating to a different country for work
- 56% would consider relocating to a country where they didn't speak the local language fluently
- 66% of people say they are prepared to spend no more than 45 minutes commuting each way
- 39% of people say that, before their retirement, they would like to move away from the place where they currently live and work

“For many workers, the chance to move to a different city or country can be a rewarding professional experience as well as a good lifestyle choice,” Mr Shantilal said. “Employees, in general, have become much more mobile and willing to be flexible in both their travel and living arrangements to find the right job”.

Those workers most likely to move were aged from 25 to 34 years. Typically, they have fewer family and other commitments that prevent them from relocating. Males were more willing to relocate than females.

When asked to rank the main complicating factors in moving to another country for work, the overwhelming issue was ‘family’, cited by 72% of respondents, followed by

'language barriers' (49%), 'children's schooling' (27%), 'tax complications' (24%), 'property ownership' (20%), and 'pension/superannuation rights' (14%).

The finding that many workers are willing to be highly mobile in their search for work is good news for employers. At a time of relative skills shortage, globally, targeting employees from another city or internationally can be one of the most effective ways of filling gaps in the labour market.

The survey found that in Singapore, 39% of people say that, before their retirement, they would like to move away from the place where they currently live and work.

"This suggests that significant numbers of people will be actively looking to change their jobs, homes and lifestyles, with implications for employment, urban planning and transport infrastructure," Mr Shantilal said.

Travelling times to and from work are a key consideration for employees and the vast majority (66%) are not willing to spend more than 45 minutes, each way, commuting.

However 24% are willing to spend 45-60 minutes and 10% are willing to spend 60 minutes or more each way.

The survey also shows that in Singapore, 13% of respondents said that they have already relocated to a country where they did not speak the local language in order to find the right type of work.

Kelly Services, Inc. (NASDAQ: KELYA, KELYB) is a world leader in human resources solutions headquartered in Troy, Michigan, offering temporary staffing services, outsourcing, vendor on-site and full-time placement. Kelly operates in 37 countries and territories. Kelly provides employment to more than 750,000 employees annually, with skills including office services, accounting, engineering, information technology, law, science, marketing, creative services, light industrial, education, and health care. Revenue in 2007 was \$5.7 billion. Visit www.kellyservices.com.

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