

PRESS RELEASE

[Immediate Release]

HKIHRM HR Pulse Check Releases Findings on the Employment Support Scheme

[20 July 2020 – Hong Kong] The results of the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management (HKIHRM) HR Pulse Check: Employment Support Scheme was published on 16 July 2020 polling 230 organisations.

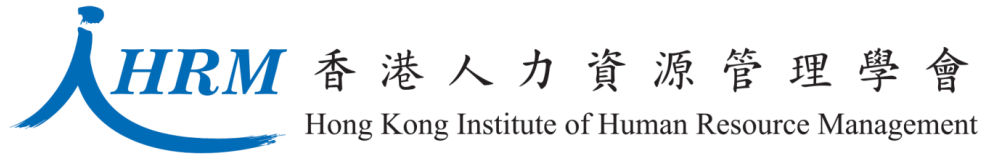
Altogether 79% of the HKIHRM HR Pulse Check’s respondents acknowledged that their organisation has applied for wage subsidies under the Employment Support Scheme (ESS), indicating its popularity as a relief measure. For respondents who stated the status of the application, half of them said it is approved while the rest said it is still being processed.

Top reasons for not applying for wage subsidies are “Negative perception of my organisation’s image” and “My organisation is not eligible to apply”. For respondents who were willing to describe the ESS’s application process, 50% of the respondents said it was “not that complicated” while 30% said it was “not at all complicated”, reflecting an overall perception of the application process as simple.

When it comes to measures that will enhance the ESS, the measures “Increase the period of subsidy” (42%), “Cover employees over 65 years old with no voluntary MPF contributions from employers” (37%), and “Shorter approval time” (33%) are ranked top three respectively. For respondents who were happy to divulge their organisation’s plans for the second round of wage subsidies under the ESS, a majority of 78% said their organisation will consider applying for it.

Launched under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund, the HK\$81 billion Employment Support Scheme (ESS) provides time-limited financial support to employers, enabling them to retain employees who may otherwise be made redundant. Kris Lui, Chairperson of the HKIHRM’s Research Committee and member of the Executive Council, said, “The results of the HR Pulse Check show that the majority of the respondents have applied for the ESS as wage subsidies for their organisation. We believe that the ESS helps to ease unemployment during these exceptional times.”

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Media Enquiry

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About HKIHRM

As the most representative professional human resource institute in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management (HKIHRM) has a membership of around 5,300, of whom over 500 are corporate members. Founded in February 1977 as a non-profit organisation, HKIHRM aims at developing, maintaining and enhancing professional standards in HR management, as well as increasing the value and influence of the HR profession. HKIHRM organises a wide range of professional activities, including multi-level training programmes, conferences and exhibitions and an awards programme. It also provides various membership services, conducts surveys, and publishes an official journal. The HKIHRM is a member of the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management, which is one of the continental federations under the World Federation of People Management Associations. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.hkihrm.org>.

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