



A letter to the Editor

6D (2018-2019) Lee Yuk Ting, Sharon

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the trend of working from home as a policy of international business firms or even local businesses. In fact, working from home benefits both the company and staff.

Firstly, working from home maximizes the working efficiency of staff. As we all know, home is the most comfortable place. Working from home allows staff to focus and work under the best condition. They can decide to work with their laptop on the sofa or in their bed, rather than being stuck in the office on a rotten rolling chair. Burning out is a common workplace problem which adversely affects one's productivity and working efficiency. The cozy home environment will prevent that from happening.

Besides, working from home allows staff to have a flexible schedule. Originally, working from home was designed for those who are sick or unable to return to office without affecting the running of business and the projects on hand. Working from home provides freedom of arrangement to staff, as they can take a short break whenever they want, or have a meeting whenever they could via Email or Skype. Some staff who are new to motherhood and childbearing can take good care of their children while still obliged to work and collaborate with their colleagues and subordinates.

Some may think that companies are foolhardy to let their staff go - which give staff a chance to be lazy and distracted. However, when you look into the situation of working from home, you can see that companies benefit as well.

For companies, allowing staff to work from home reduces the office scale. Renting a huge office for 50 staff is the greatest financial burden for a firm. It is a fact that most of the companies liquidated because of unaffordable rental expenses in Hong Kong. Thus, allowing staff to work from home makes it possible for the companies to rent an office in a smaller scale, or even do without an actual physical office to cut down the operation costs.

Furthermore, having staff working from home is an advantage of recruiting potential employees. For some companies who are expanding their business scale around the world, well-experienced and loyal staff coming from different countries are true assets. Some international managers may be appointed from other countries to oversee the expanded business in that area. Working from home provides a motivation and incentive for staff of high caliber to join a company.

While some firms in Hong Kong are still having doubts to the working-from-home policy, an era of working from home is coming. It is a down-to-earth measure for firms that have motivated and cooperative staff, which can mitigate the burdens of the firm and serving customers in other parts of the world at the same time. The company and staff share benefits from working from home, and why are you still sitting in the office?

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

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