

Press Release

More Than Half Employers to Freeze Head Count Working Attitude the Key Factor in Hiring Fresh Graduates

(2 June 2009)

[2 June 2009– Hong Kong] According to JobsDB’s Q1 2009 Hiring Index – Preference & Intention, since many employers plan to freeze head count in the coming months, fresh graduates are expected to brush up their skills in order to increase their chances of being employed.

JobsDB.com, the leading online recruitment network in Asia Pacific and the most used recruitment media in Hong Kong, conducted an online survey from April to May 2009 on employers, gathering information on their hiring intention and preference. Companies were invited through e-mail to fill in an online questionnaire, and more than 100 companies participated in the survey.

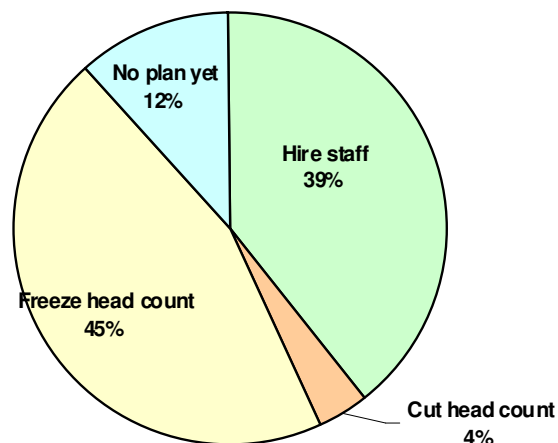
Nearly Half Companies to Freeze Head Count

The survey has shown that 45% of the respondents said that they would freeze head count in the coming three months. Less than 40% of the companies surveyed reported that they would hire staff in the near future.

Mr. Vincent Koo, Executive Director of JobsDB Holdings Limited, comments, “As the economic situation is not expected to be very promising in the near future, corporations are adopting a wait-and-see attitude in making their hiring plans. That is why the percentage of corporations planning to freeze head count is a bit higher than that of hiring staff.”

The survey has also found out that most employers are not interested in the Internship Programme for University Graduates initiated by the Hong Kong government, with the main reason that they have no vacancy (60.71%). Hence, the career market is expected to be more competitive and fresh graduates looking for a job should upgrade their skills in order to increase the chances of being employed.

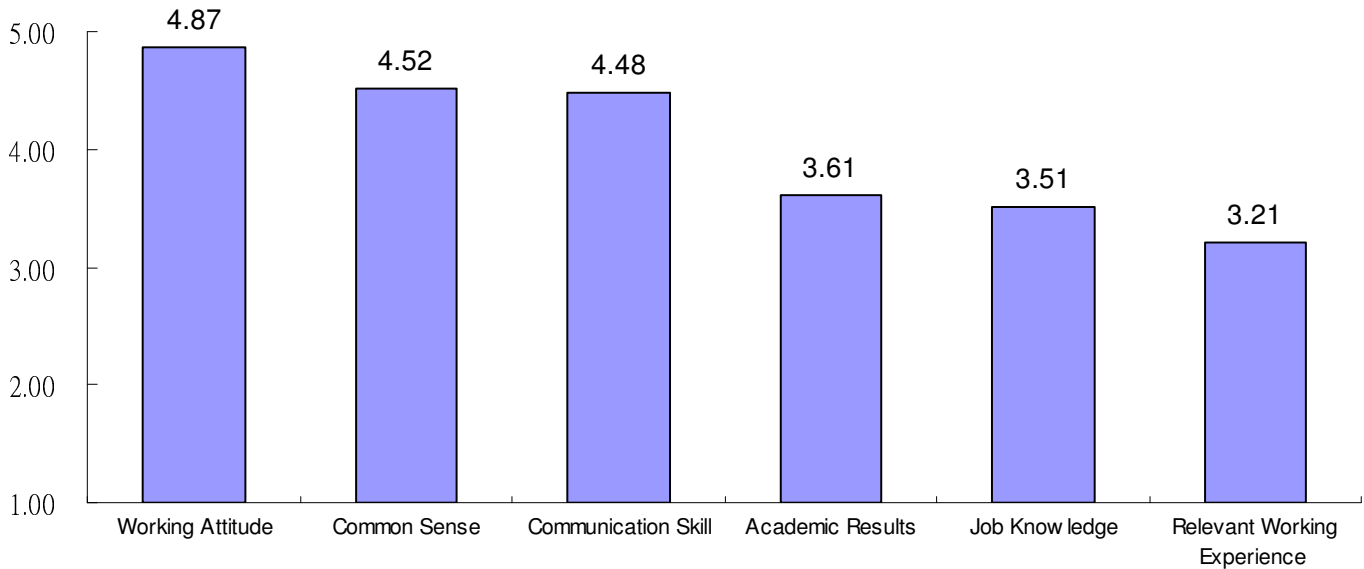
Hiring Plan in the Coming Three Months



Working Attitude the Most Important

In this survey, employers were also invited to give comments on the importance of factors for fresh graduates to be employed. Working attitude is ranked as the most important factor, scoring 4.87 out of 5 marks, followed by common sense and communication skill (4.52 and 4.48 respectively). Relevant working experience is considered the most unimportant factor among them.

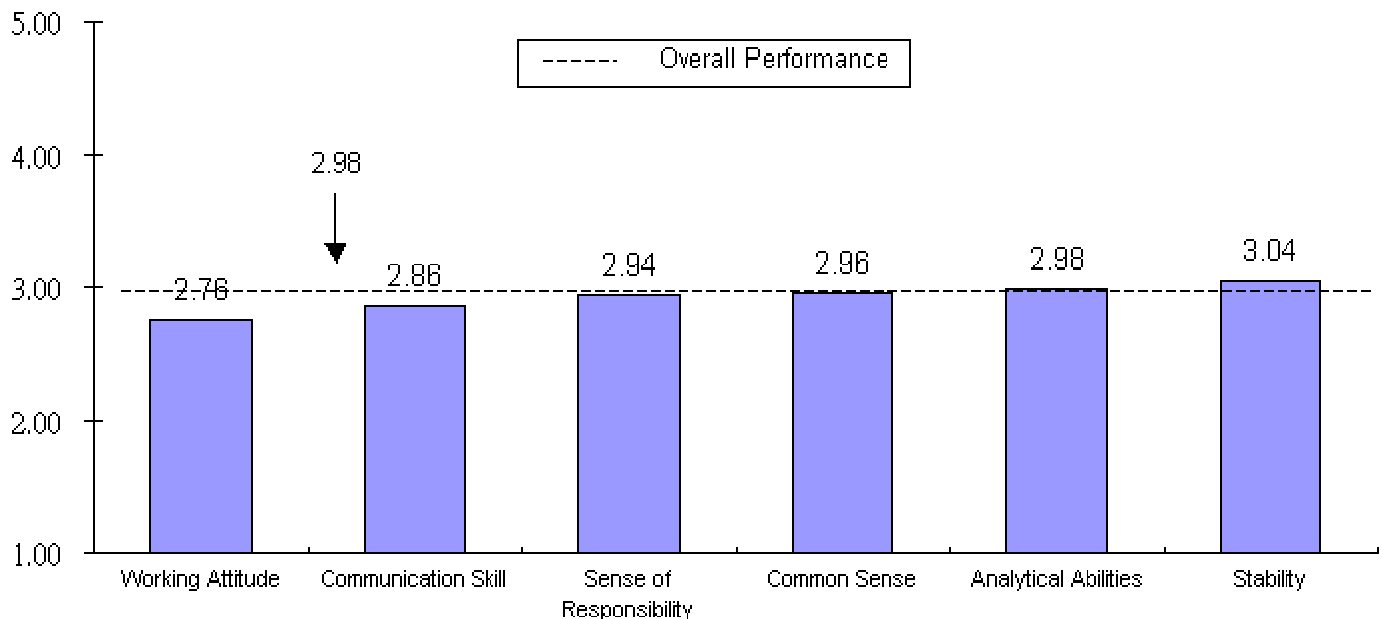
Important elements for fresh graduates to be employed



Fresh Graduates Score Lowest in Working Attitude

For employers who employed fresh graduates in the past year, they gave comments on the performance of these fresh graduates in six areas. It is found out that working attitude, which is the most important factor, is ranked the lowest, scoring only 2.76 out of 5 marks. Communication skill and common sense, which are also expected to be important factors, are also not satisfactory (respectively 2.86 and 2.96 marks). Their performance is better only in “Stability”, scoring 3.04 marks.

Comments on fresh graduates



Vincent Koo advises fresh graduates to equip themselves with other skills rather than merely focusing on academic results in order to increase the chance of getting hired. “Academic knowledge is something you can learn. If two job seekers are similar in academic background, employers will look for other transferable skills such as communication skills, team spirit, people skills and problem-solving skills. Also, most employers look for a positive working attitude in job seekers.”

To increase the chance of being hired, the following are tips Vincent Koo gives to fresh graduates:

1. Well-written CV and cover letter

Tailor your CV and cover letter to the requirements of each job or company. There are tremendous online resources to help you.

2. Prepare for job interviews

Learn about the company in which you have applied for the job by visiting their website and read news about them.

3. A good network helps job hunting

Talk to your families, friends, professors, and career counsellors, and let them know what kind of jobs you are looking for. They may refer you to jobs available because some companies hire through referrals.

4. Try temporary jobs / volunteer work

If you cannot find a permanent job for the time being, try temporary / part-time jobs, internships or volunteer work. These are good opportunities to gain working experience for putting on your CV.

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About JobsDB.com

According to Nielsen Opportunity Hunter Telebus Survey 2007-2009, JobsDB.com is the most used recruitment media among job seekers in Hong Kong. Over the past 10 years, JobsDB.com has built one of the largest member and résumé databases in Asia Pacific with over 10 million job seeker members and more than 160,000 corporate clients, offering over tens of thousands of job opportunities per day. JobsDB provides an advanced and powerful job searching system for job seekers to look for and apply for favorite jobs efficiently with privacy, and a sophisticated yet user-friendly recruitment management system for employers to post job advertisements.

Biography of Mr. Vincent Koo

Mr. Vincent Koo, Executive Director of JobsDB Holdings Limited, is responsible for the operation and businesses of JobsDB’s Hong Kong headquarters, the branch in Malaysia and related businesses in mainland China.

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