

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR THE PROJECT  
MINIMUM WAGE SYSTEMS (REVISED 17.12.1998)**

**Scope**

This purpose of this research is to find out the experience in some countries/territory in the establishment of minimum wage systems, and the study will cover the following areas in each of the countries/territory studied:

- (a) historical development of the minimum wage system;
- (b) methodology of determining minimum wage levels, including whether or not reference is made to a poverty line and whether or not collective bargaining has an impact in such determination;
- (c) national minimum wage levels;
- (d) categories of workers receiving minimum wages;
- (e) procedures and authorities for adjusting minimum wages;
- (f) enforcement of minimum wages and problems; and
- (g) impact of the adoption of the minimum wage system on employment, poverty, income distribution, and competitiveness of the economy.

**Countries/territory to be Studied**

In this research, we propose to study the experience in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore. These countries/territory have been selected because, same as Hong Kong, they are all classified as high income economies by the World Bank. At the same time, we propose to study also the experience of mainland China due to its close economic ties with Hong Kong.

**Hong Kong SAR Government's Position on Minimum Wage**

The research report will include a section on the Hong Kong SAR Government's position explaining why a minimum wage should not be set for the work force in Hong Kong.