

Panasonic China staff to get "pollution pay"

16th March, 2014



Japanese electronics company Panasonic will pay its Japanese staff in China "pollution pay". The

company wants to give its workers more money because of China's poor air quality. No one knows how many people will get the extra cash. Neither did the company say how much the additional pay would be. Panasonic did not announce any plans to give the payment to its Chinese staff. Workers who have to work in other countries usually get extra pay for phoning home, eating in restaurants or buying furniture. Panasonic is probably the first company in the world to give compensation to its workers because of pollution. Other companies in China may now follow Panasonic's example.

Air pollution is a serious problem in China. The World Health Organization said pollution levels there were 15 times higher than healthy levels. China's Premier, Li Keqiang, recently said his country would fight a "war on pollution". The Japan Times newspaper reported that: "Over the weekend, a top Chinese environment official said air quality was below national standards in almost every major city last year." There are several reasons why pollution in China has become so bad in recent years. The country's economic success means there are thousands more factories. China also uses coal as its main source of energy. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more cars than before on China's roads.

Sources: BBC / Japan Times

Writing

People should not get more pay because of pollution. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

electronics / staff / workers / additional / payment / phoning home / follow / example / serious problem / healthy levels / environment / reasons / economic / success / roads

True / False

- Panasonic staff will get a 7% increase in pay because of pollution. T / F
- The company said its Chinese workers would also get more pay. T / F
- Panasonic may be the first company to offer pollution pay. T / F
- The article said other companies might copy Panasonic. T / F
- Pollution in China is 15 times higher than safe/healthy levels. T / F
- China said it is fighting a war on pollution. T / F
- Pollution was bad in half of China's major cities last year. T / F
- China's main source of energy comes from oil. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. staff | a. dining |
| 2. extra | b. amounts |
| 3. eating | c. copy |
| 4. buying | d. quality |
| 5. example | e. workers |
| 6. levels | f. leading |
| 7. top | g. primary |
| 8. standards | h. additional |
| 9. main | i. plus |
| 10. in addition | j. purchasing |

Discussion – Student A

- Will pollution disappear when we use more green energy?
- Would you move if your city became too polluted?
- What does a country do in a "war on pollution"?
- How does a lot of pollution affect people's lives?
- Is economic success good, even if it brings lots of pollution?
- How can we reduce the number of cars on the roads?
- How much do you worry about pollution?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of Panasonic?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. poor | a. work in other countries |
| 2. Panasonic did not announce any | b. higher |
| 3. Workers who have to | c. main source of energy |
| 4. give compensation | d. Panasonic's example |
| 5. companies in China may now follow | e. thousands more |
| 6. 15 times | f. why |
| 7. below national standards in almost | g. to its workers |
| 8. There are several reasons | h. every major city |
| 9. China also uses coal as its | i. plans |
| 10. hundreds of | j. air quality |

Discussion – Student B

- Is pollution pay a good idea?
- How much should it be?
- Do you think Panasonic's Chinese workers should also get the extra pay?
- What other dangerous things should workers get more pay for?
- Is it right that people who work in other countries get more pay?
- Why would you need more pay if you worked in another country?
- Should workers get less pay for working in beautiful cities?
- Should English teachers get more pay?

Spelling

- Japanese oesrtlcenic company
- poor air ltauyqi
- taaildndoi pay
- Panasonic did not unocnaen any plans
- buying frntuueir
- follow Panasonic's xlepema
- a iessuro problem
- 15 times higher than ythehla levels
- a top Chinese ervnmineont official
- below national stddsaanr
- The country's economic cesssuc
- uantshods more factories

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. j	5. c
6. b	7. f	8. b	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – English teacher

You are an English teacher. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): nurse, soldier or bank clerk.

Role B – Nurse

You are a nurse. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): English teacher, soldier or bank clerk.

Role C – Soldier

You are a soldier. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): nurse, English teacher or bank clerk.

Role D – Bank clerk

You are a bank clerk. You think you should get the highest salary. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why they shouldn't get a high salary. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these jobs (and why): nurse, soldier or English teacher.

Speaking – Highest salary

Rank these with your partner. Put the ones who should get the highest salary at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| • English teacher | • soldier |
| • nurse | • train driver |
| • bank clerk | • fire fighter |
| • police officer | • hairdresser |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.