

**Job adverts point to return of employer confidence in the region**

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SINGAPORE: More signs of a return of employer confidence in the region. According to the latest **Robert Walters** Asia Job Index, advertisements placed in Hong Kong, Singapore, China and Japan national newspapers rose 33 per cent between January and March this year.

For Singapore, the recruitment consultancy said the most significant increases in job advertisements have been in the merchandising, purchasing and legal sectors.

Advertisements placed by these firms rose about 120 per cent in the period.

There is also a notable increase in the number of IT jobs in Singapore in the first quarter.

A similar trend was seen in the sales, business development and retail functions, with a 17 per cent increase in the number of job advertisements.

Advertisements for clerical, administrative and secretarial jobs increased by 25 per cent.

Robert Walters Singapore director Andrea Ross said Singapore is moving strongly ahead and the outlook is positive.

Managing director of **Robert Walters** Asia, Mark Ellwood said confidence has returned to the hiring market across Asia relatively quickly with advertisements returning to something close to pre-banking crisis levels.

Budgets are increasing, projects previously put on hold are restarting and many organisations are actively trying to recover ground lost during the recession. - CNA/vm

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