Focus on wages to help S’pore stay on top

Study shows Republic lags behind other top cities in gross hourly pay

By AARON LIM

IT USED to be that a conversation starter would be asking what one had for lunch or how the children are doing.

These days, though, hardly a conversation goes by without a mention of the $600,000 certificate of enforcement on the more than 600,000 foreigners in the country.

Indeed, the living cost of living has been one of the hottest political issues of late and looks set to remain so.

Inflation has hovered around 5 per cent over the past 18 months and is unlikely to abate by very much soon.

Higher prices are likely to rise by 4 to 4.5 per cent for the whole year – far higher than Singapore’s historical average of 2 to 3 per cent.

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