



C & C LAWYERS

May 1, Labour Day

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Next Thursday will be May First, also commonly known as "International Worker's Day," "May Day," or simply "Labour Day." On this date, workers around the world celebrate this day.

This date has increasingly become more internationalized and several countries hold multi-day celebrations that include parades, shows and other patriotic and labour-oriented events.

The celebration of Labour Day has its origins in the eight hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, eight hours for rest and better treatment. It came to be known as the "Eight-Hour" movement and it started in October 7, 1884, when US workers united to demand better treatment and more reasonable working hours.

Gradually, the eight-hour workday took root in businesses practices throughout the US, eventually spreading to the UK, France and other countries of the world, including the Republic of China, where, in 1919, the labour movement began with the founding of the nation's first workers organizations, which quickly spread throughout the country. Later, the Republic of China joined the International Labour Organization (ILO) and established an International Labour Affairs Bureau in Geneva, Switzerland.

Today, the People's Republic of China is a permanent member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) council and regularly sends delegations of government, business, and labour representatives to the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

Committed to protecting workers' rights and interests, the International Labour

Organization (ILO) has sought to define and guarantee labour rights and improve conditions for working people by building a system of international labour standards expressed in the form of Conventions, Recommendations and Codes of Practice.

Since its creation, the ILO has adopted more than 180 ILO Conventions and 190 Recommendations covering all aspects of the world of work.

In Macau, these Conventions and Recommendations applied before the handover and remain in force today as the Basic Law of Macau rules that they are applicable in the Special Administrative Region.

How does Macau Law protect your rights if you are working next May First?

Well, according to Article 19 of Macau Labour Law May First is a statutory holiday and those who have finished the probationary period are entitled to a day off.

However, if due to the company's business you are required to work on that day, Article 20 of the same Law states that you have the right to be compensated in not less than twice the amount of your normal pay.

Even if that's your case, May First is a great day for all the workers around the World, so don't forget to enjoy yourselves and also remember all of those who have been fighting for your labour rights.

Have a great day!