

# Don't expect hare-raising start to year

**Elizabeth Law and Samson Lee**

The rabbit will crawl before it starts hopping around, fung shui masters say.

The year will be good for those in the oil trade but there is trouble brewing in Eastern countries.

"Those investing in stocks are going to experience mostly slow, or even negative, growth in the first three months," master Pang Hok-ming said.

The best time to invest will be in the fourth and sixth lunar months.

"Investors in stocks and shares need to be patient," Pang added.

"Rushing into things will give you money that comes quickly, but leaves just as quickly."

Qi Xian-yu, also a columnist at *Sing Tao Daily*, sister paper of *The Standard*, said it will be a good year to invest in oil stocks because of the Earth elements in the Year of the Rabbit.

Both experts said Hong Kong will generally face a humdrum year with nothing extremely good or bad happening, similar to that in the Year of the Tiger. The masters see trouble brewing



**Qi Xian-yu**

in the East and suggest extra precautions when traveling elsewhere in the region.

Meanwhile, workers are generally wishing the traditional health, wealth and happiness with a slight change in order.

Around 27.5 percent of respondents in a Hong Kong Christian Service survey are hoping for job promotions or a pay rise, while 23.2 percent want good health.

Just 7.2 percent place a balanced work-leisure life as their main wish while 6 percent hope to change to better jobs. Happiness at work polled just 5 percent.

"Employees want to get promoted and have pay rises," said Natalie Cheung Yue, the organization's senior manager. "During and after the financial crisis in 2008, many employees suffered pay cuts or salary freezes. The economy is getting better, so they want their employers to share the fruits of success with them."

Those wanting to change jobs feel they are unlikely to get promoted in their present positions, she said.

The Hong Kong Christian Service said the average score of respondents' life satisfaction is 6.33 on a scale of one to 10.

"The result shows that Hong Kong employees are generally satisfied with their lives," Cheung said.