



Executive summary

The Xinjiang Work Forum, convened in May 2010, heralded an unprecedented state-led

Background

Against a backdrop of imbalanced economic growth between its eastern and western regions, the Chinese central government initiated the Great Western Development Drive (GWDD) as part of its 10th Five Year Plan (2001-2005).¹ Given that disparate rates of regional economic growth could have destabilizing effects, especially in areas with high proportions of non-Han Chinese people, the GWDD initiative was given the ambitious

positions were set-aside for those of Han Chinese ethnicity.

and 28 of the Employment Promotion Law all clearly state that ethnic minorities should receive equal opportunity in the job market.¹³

Income Distribution and Levels of Poverty

In 2001, proven oil reserves in East Turkestan stood at 2.6 billion tons, and at 647 billion cubic meters for natural gas.¹⁶

the socio-economic development of ethnic minorities [in East Turkestan] continues to fall behind on all indicators: southern Xinjiang (with a 95 per cent non-Han population) has an average per capita income half the

Hopper and Webber discovered that income

on cultural and religious practices would remain in force. State media reported that

coverage,⁴⁰ raise per-

assistance.⁴⁷

Tax reform

Under the new policy on natural resource taxes set forth at the Work Forum, taxes on oil

An Assessment of the Xinjiang Work Forum

It has been over two years since the Xinjiang Work Forum was convened in Beijing. It is too early to judge the efficacy of the policies stemming from the Work Forum with regards to restructuring policies from the Great Western Development Drive toward “a

In addition, the need to monitor the disbursement of increased regional government revenues from restructured natural resource taxes to Uyghurs is important if Uyghur grievances over distribution of benefits are to be addressed. Even though there are very few

customers.⁹² Kashgar Party Secretary Zeng Cun said in 2010

plainclothes police officers questioned and intimidated the Uyghur man her reporting

The Uyghur American Association (UAA) works to promote the preservation and flourishing of a rich, humanistic and diverse Uyghur culture, and to support