



Relocation in Southern Xinjiang: China Expands the Program

OE Watch Commentary: The Xinjiang Prefectures of Kashgar, Hotan, Aksu, and the Kizilsu Kyrgyz Autonomous Prefecture have been identified by Xinjiang authorities as necessary targets of a broader labor transfer campaign—a frequent feature in Xinjiang. Building on the 15,000 people already transferred, the government has a year-long goal of 45,000 and a three-year goal of 100,000 people set to transfer to other parts of China in order to work in factories and other State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

As the accompanying excerpt from *Urumqi Xinjiang Ribao* reports, the director of the Public Employment Service Bureau of the Ministry Human Resources and Social Security of the Autonomous Region plans to target 22 counties in four prefectures, labeled as “heavily impoverished,” with a developmental relocation plan of: political education, cultural and national language training, as well as the technical training required for people to perform the work assigned to them after relocation.

Poverty has been identified as a key ingredient to civil unrest and ethnic tensions in Xinjiang by officials in both the Xinjiang (Provincial) and Beijing governments, and this campaign is viewed as part of the broader strategy to increase long-term stability in the region. The program continues from last year’s, as well as the broader trend in seeing ethnic Uyghurs targeted by government authorities to meet goals of ethnic harmony and stability.

End OE Watch Commentary (Shanks)



Harmony in Urumqi #3.

Source: David Vilder (<https://bit.ly/2HteO85>) (CC BY 2.0).

“As of March 25, more than 15,000 people have been transferred, achieving a ‘good start’.”

Source: “WANG, Yongfei. “南疆四地州贫困家庭劳动力转移就业实现“开门红 (Workers from Poor Families in Four Southern Xinjiang Prefectures Relocated for Employment, “Off to a Good Start),” *Urumqi Xinjiang Ribao*. 27 March 2018. <http://wap.xjdaily.com/xjrb/20180327/102150.html>”

The director of the Public Employment Service Bureau of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the Autonomous Region... said that in the next three years, our district plans to transfer through intraregional migration in Xinjiang...the four counties in South Xinjiang...with 100,000 people. Among them, in 2018, we plan to transfer 40,000 people. As of March 25, more than 15,000 people have been transferred, achieving a ‘good start’...

Compendium of Central Asian Military and Security Activity

By Matthew Stein

Since Central Asian states gained independence in 1991, new regional military and security alliances have been created (some of which are Russian-led), new military partnerships with non-NATO countries have been established, a number of joint military exercises have been conducted, over a dozen high-profile incidents of violence and civil unrest have taken place, and military installations have been used by foreign militaries. While this activity gained attention, it has not been collectively compiled. A compilation of this activity can serve as a guide for current and future military and security involvement in Central Asia.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-monographs/194880>

