

## **Work Meeting on Developing West China, in Beijing, China**

On 5-6<sup>th</sup> July, the Working Meeting on the Development of Western China was held in Beijing. President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, Vice Premier Li Keqiang etc. attended and delivered speeches at the meeting.

President Hu Jintao stressed the importance of developing the country's West in order to build a moderately prosperous society that would be in the interests of all ethnic groups in the region. He urged efforts to accelerate infrastructure construction, to continue rural development, to upgrade the industrial sector and to revitalize enterprises and traditional industries as well as to enhance ecological protection. Hu also said the government would make unswerving efforts to raise people's livelihoods in the western regions in the next decade and to maintain harmony in an area made up of many ethnic minorities such as Buddhists and Muslims.

At the same meeting, Premier Wen Jiabao called for good implementation of all the policies and measures the central government has made in order to further boost the development of the west. He said a modern industry structure should be developed in the west to translate its resource-rich advantage into a spur for economic growth, while the region should also seek a robust development of the agricultural, industrial and tertiary sectors. Wen promised to make efforts in social development aimed at improving the livelihoods of those in the region so that they can share the fruits of national economic progress. In his speech, Wen also stressed sustainable development and ecological protection.

Vice Premier Li Keqiang summed up the meeting by adding that the government would continue to improve its policies and its financial support for the development of the western regions over the next decade. He also asked central government departments and local governments in the eastern and central regions to intensify their support of the west, and encouraged enterprises to invest in the west.