

**TIANJIN CITY:
LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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Executive Summary

1. Tianjin did well economically before reform, but it lagged behind after 1978, being overshadowed by its rival and big brother, Beijing (北京).
2. It has recently been inflicted by a string of political scandals. However, with the leadership reshuffle, the municipality is trying to create its own character in economic development.
3. A strong performer in the pre-reform years, Tianjin became a laggard in the early years of economic reform and opening up to the outside world. Subsequent to Deng Xiaoping's southern tour in 1992, Tianjin began to catch up.
4. The city's development was further accelerated under the leadership of Mayor Dai Xianglong (戴相龙), former governor of the People's Bank of China (the central bank), between December 2002 and December 2007.
5. Tianjin's leadership reshuffle was taking place amidst a nation-wide anti-corruption campaign, exposing a number of top leaders in Tianjin such as Song Pingshun (宋平顺) and Pi Qiansheng (皮黔生).
6. In December 2007, Dai Xianglong (戴相龙), mayor of Tianjin since December 2002, was replaced by Huang Xingguo (黄兴国), executive vice mayor of Tianjin and former Party secretary of Ningbo (宁波).
7. Xing Yuanmin (邢元敏) became chairman of the Tianjin People's Political Consultative Conference in January 2008 but relinquished his positions in the Tianjin Municipal Party Committee in May 2009.
8. Gou Lijun (苟利军) first replaced Pi Qiansheng as director of the Tianjin Binhai New Area Administrative Committee (天津市滨海新区管委会) and a

standing member of the Tianjin Municipal Party Committee in June 2007 and then was transferred to Xiamen (厦门) as Party secretary in May 2009.

9. In exchange, He Lifeng (何立峰), Party secretary of Xiamen and an alternate member of the 17th Central Committee, was appointed as deputy secretary of the Tianjin Municipal Party Committee and director of the Tianjin Binhai New Area Administrative Committee in the same month.
10. With the establishment of the Tianjin Binhai New Area (天津市滨海新区) in 2006, Tianjin has become a new attraction for foreign direct investment. In addition to a number of high-profile projects such as Air Bus S.A.S, Tianjin is also working with Singapore on building an eco-city.
11. With a growth rate of 16.5 percent in 2008, Tianjin was one of the best performers in China in the year. The newly reshuffled leadership is poised to take the development of Tianjin to the next high level.

An Erratum

EAI Background Brief No. 470 (20 August 2009), TIANJIN CITY: LEADERSHIP RENEWAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, pp. ii, 2-3, 9.

Gou Lijun (苟利军), former director of the Tianjin Binhai New Area Administrative Committee (天津市滨海新区管委会), was wrongly reported as being transferred to Xiamen as Party secretary.

In fact, Gou is currently still a standing member of the Tianjin Municipal Party Committee and has been appointed as secretary of the Education Work Committee in charge of education in Tianjin.

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