

《教育部直属高校将扩编 14所中西部高校将晋级》

Elite universities are to be established by the Ministry of Education in 14 central and western provinces that have never had a university directly under the ministry before, as part of the central government's pledge to bridge the widening education gap.

There are only 79 universities that are directly administered by the ministry. In Beijing alone, there are 24, including Peking University, Tsinghua University and Renmin University.



Chu Zhaohui, a senior researcher at the National Institute of Education Sciences, said that establishing more universities in central and western areas under the ministry's administration means increased access to educational resources and opportunities.

The government also promised to take more measures, which include improving school facilities and education quality to better education in central and western areas.

The authorities are pressing ahead with a plan to ensure more students from poverty-stricken areas and those from ethnic groups have equal opportunities to enroll at prestigious universities.

In a document issued on last Wednesday, the government promised to take more measures to improve education in less-developed central and western areas. It aims to improve school facilities, education quality and to cultivate more talent to support local economic development, narrowing the gap with developed eastern areas by 2020.