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## China to tap sunlight for power

The International Herald Tribune, October 29, 2008

Wednesday - China gets nearly 70 percent of its energy

from coal, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, and more than 23 percent from oil and natural gas. Nuclear and renewables furnish 7 percent: somewhere in there is solar.



Yet this year the Hurun Report, a ranking of the 1,000 wealthiest individuals in China, released Oct. 7, included 22 solar energy entrepreneurs, up from nine last year. Two made it into the top 10.

With personal wealth pegged at \$4 billion, Peng Xiaofeng, chief executive of LDK Solar, came in fourth place. Shi Zhengrong, the founder of Suntech Power, was ranked seventh.

These fortunes were built on exports. China ranks second to Japan as a global supplier of photovoltaic cells, and may have already taken the top spot. Producers hope soon to be selling in China too.

China "will become the world's biggest market in five to 10 years," said Charlie Lin, an executive in Beijing with the photovoltaic division of DuPont. With manufacturing facilities in three different provinces, the division exports 95 percent of its Chinese production, much of it to Spain.

Against a background of soaring power consumption, horrendous pollution and deep energy security concerns, the potential for solar in China is "huge," said Frank Haugwitz, renewable energy manager with the European Union delegation in Beijing.

"If it were to cover 10 percent of the Gobi Desert, China could have unlimited energy forever."

October 30, 2008

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