

EDITOR'S PAGE

CHINESE OIL SHALE BUSINESS IS STILL GOING ON

World crude oil price rose dramatically to 140 USD/bbl in the middle of the last year, and dropped greatly to the present 40–50 USD/bbl. The financial crisis originated from the United States has brought the economic recession to the world.

However, it does not influence the oil shale development in China, due to two considerations: first, China is now importing a large amount of crude oil, about 3 million bbl/d, accounting for 50% of the crude oil consumed. Second, it is believed that after the recession the world crude oil price would still rise.

Now the Chinese oil shale business may be summarized as follows:



(1) Maintaining the commercial production of shale oil

Last year China produced shale oil, averaging 7600 bbl/d. This year would maintain the production at this level. It is expected that 10,000 bbl/d would be produced in 2010.

(2) Continuing oil shale power generation

In Huadian and Sechi, two oil shale power plants (30 MW totally) are continuing their operation. Wang Qin is building a small oil shale power plant with the capacity of 12 MW.

(3) Developing new retorting technologies

Harbin Coal Chemical Company, Daqing Oil field Company and Zhenda Company are continuing the research work on developing new retorting technologies for processing pulverized or particulate oil shale in pilot scale and in laboratory, respectively, and are planning to build a 2000 t or 500 t/d oil shale demonstration plant.

(4) Importing ATP plant

Fushun is importing an ATP unit (6000 t oil shale daily) and is planning to put it into trial at the end of this year.

(5) Continuing oil shale fundamental research and evaluation work

China University of Petroleum, Northeast Dianli University and Shanghai Jiaotong University are continuing oil shale fundamental research and evaluation work and, in cooperation with enterprises, developing new oil shale technologies.

(6) Writing an oil shale book

An English edition of an oil shale book I have written will be published at the end of this year to be distributed all over the world.

At last, I warmly congratulate the Tallinn Oil Shale Symposium.

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