

## **IEA SHC congratulates solar thermal pioneer Huang Ming to his receiving the “Alternative Nobel Prize”**

**30 September 2011. Huang Ming, solar thermal pioneer and founder of Himin Solar, was awarded the Right Livelihood Award on 29 September 2011. The International Energy Agency's Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC) congratulates Huang Ming on this great honour.**

*“Huang Ming really deserves this award.” says IEA SHC chairman Werner Weiss. “He has been a driver of solar heating and cooling in China and beyond. And it is not by accident that he has built one the largest solar thermal companies in the world.”*

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation announced the four laureates of this year's award on 29 September 2011. Huang Ming receives the 2011 Honorary Award *“for his outstanding success in the development and mass-deployment of cutting-edge technologies for harnessing solar energy, thereby showing how dynamic emerging economies can contribute to resolving the global crisis of anthropogenic climate change.”* It is the first time that a Right Livelihood Award goes to China.

The IEA SHC sees the award to Huang Ming as a strong reminder that world wide solar energy is harnessed primarily for heating and cooling purposes. The worldwide capacity of solar collectors already stands at 200 GW<sub>th</sub> and installation numbers are growing in countries around the world. Solar heat is used to prepare domestic hot water, to heat buildings, and in industrial processes. It is also fed into district heating networks and used for air conditioning and other cooling applications.

*“Half of all energy use world wide is for heating and cooling purposes,” explains Mr. Weiss. “But the 19% generating electricity draws most of the public attention. Huang Ming is one of those visionaries who saw the great potential of solar energy for such applications as water heating, and who passionately works towards making his dream come true. This world needs more Huang Mings!”*

**More information on Huang Ming and the Right Livelihood Award** can be found on the Foundation's website: <http://www.rightlivelihood.org/huang.html>

## **About the International Energy Agency's Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC):**

- The Programme was established in 1977.
- Its objectives are co-operative research, development, demonstration and exchange of information regarding solar heating and cooling systems.
- 19 countries and the European Union are IEA SHC members.
- The research topics of the current 9 projects range from more general topics, such as "Solar resource assessment and forecasting" , system research, such as "Large solar thermal systems" to material research, such as the use of "Polymeric materials for solar thermal applications."
- Additional information: [www.iea-shc.org](http://www.iea-shc.org)

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