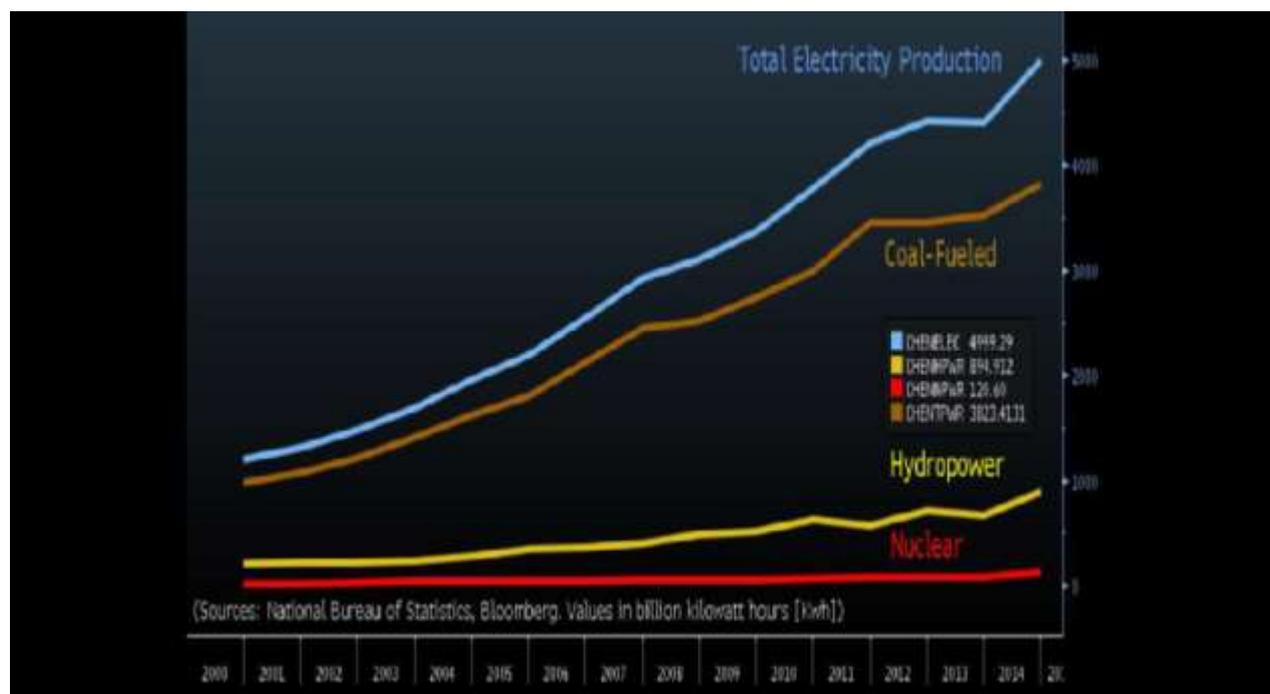


China Revives Nuclear Power to Shed Smog Masks: Chart

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(Bloomberg) -- China approved the construction of new nuclear reactors for the first time since Japan's Fukushima disaster in 2011 as the world's biggest polluter seeks to drive protective masks out of fashion.

THE CHART OF THE DAY compares China's total electricity output with amounts generated from thermal coal, hydroelectric power and atomic reactors. The world's largest energy consumer derived 77 percent of its electricity from coal and gas-fired utilities last year, compared with 17 percent provided by hydropower and 2.4 percent by nuclear, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics compiled by Bloomberg.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-17/china-revives-nuclear-power-to-shed-smog-masks-chart-of-the-day>

China approved two reactors this month as it vowed to cut coal use to meet terms of a carbon-emissions agreement reached in November between President Xi Jinping and U.S. counterpart Barack Obama. About \$370 billion will be spent on atomic power over the next decade, Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimates. Plans to triple nuclear capacity by 2020 to as much as 58 gigawatts -- almost equal to Australia's total electricity resources -- were frozen after the Fukushima meltdown in 2011.

"China is in a race with itself to reach a nuclear-power goal set for 2020 that's concurrent with a coal-reduction plan," Tian Miao, an analyst at North Square Blue Oak Ltd., a London-based researcher, said in Beijing. "Because it normally takes five years to build one reactor, the program needs to be ramped up from now on."

China has 24 reactors in operation and another 25 under construction, according to the World Nuclear Association. France gets about 75 percent of its electricity generated by nuclear, making it the world leader, while the global average is about 11 percent, WNA data show. Whatever money is spent will only put a dent in the importance of coal, which is still expected to make up almost two-thirds of the nation's power mix in 2030, said Wood Mackenzie Ltd., an Edinburgh-based energy consultant.

A Chinese documentary film on air pollution choking major cities, viewed by more than 100 million people in the week of its release, was scrubbed this month from domestic websites even as President Xi pledged to unleash an "iron hand" to protect the environment. Xi made a pact with Obama to cap China's carbon emissions and increase the share of non-fossil fuel in its total energy to 20 percent by 2030.

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