

# Factory worker turned Apple supplier now China's richest woman

BEIJING, CHINA: A former factory worker who founded a company supplying Apple, Samsung and other technological giants with touchscreen glass has become China's richest woman, reports said, with a fortune surpassing \$8bn.



The wealth of Zhou Qunfei, chairwoman and president of Hunan-based Lens Technology, soared after the firm's debut on the Shenzhen stock exchange last month, after which its shares surged by their daily limit for 10 consecutive days. She claimed the title on Tuesday, Forbes reported.

Zhou worked as a factory girl at a different glass company before starting her own business in 2003. Now 45, she owns an 89% stake in the firm, which had more than 80,000 employees and revenue of \$3.3bn in 2013, according to Bloomberg.

It put her wealth at \$7.6bn on Tuesday - before the shares went up another 10% on Wednesday. Lens primarily makes touch-sensitive glass covers for mobile phones, computers and cameras. According to the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post*, its covers are used in nearly 21% of the world's smartphones.

China's unprecedented economic boom has turned it into the world's second-largest economy and raised hundreds of millions out of poverty, but has also created huge income disparities and rampant corruption, with only a relative few accruing vast wealth.

The number of dollar billionaires in mainland China passed 300 in 2013, according to the *Hurun Report*, a luxury magazine publisher.

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge