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CEO summit to fuel region's integration

Business leaders seek supply chain connectivity, innovation cooperation

By ZHONG NAN
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Deepening regional economic integration, advancing free trade and expanding innovation cooperation will be crucial to unlocking new growth opportunities across the Asia-Pacific, as business leaders and policymakers sought to build a more connected and dynamic regional economy.

In a sign of the region's commitment to closer cooperation, 12 leaders of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation member economies will attend the APEC CEO Summit 2026, which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade announced on Sunday.

President Xi Jinping, along with leaders from APEC economies Australia, Canada, Chile, China's Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam, will attend the summit and deliver speeches or remarks, or will take part in panel discussions, said Li Qingshuang, the council's vice-chairwoman, at a news conference.

Li said business leaders from 115 Fortune Global 500 companies will attend the APEC CEO Summit 2026, with companies from the United States accounting for nearly 20 percent of participating businesses, the largest share among economies outside the Chinese mainland.

Ahead of the summit, during the opening ceremony of the fourth meeting of the APEC Business Advisory Council in Shenzhen on Saturday, representatives from APEC economies called for greater openness and cooperation to deepen regional economic integration, improve connectivity and advance digital innovation.

Participants from Singapore, Thailand, Mexico, New Zealand and the US emphasized the importance of sustained dialogue and closer business engagement in navigating an increasingly complex international economic environment.

More than 200 representatives and guests from 21 APEC economies have gathered in Shenzhen for the meeting, which is scheduled to conclude on Monday, according to a statement released by the CCPIT over the weekend.

Li Fanrong, 2026 chair of the APEC Business Advisory Council and chairman of State-owned Sinochem Holdings Corp, said the council has identified 14 key deliverables this year, including policy recommendations to APEC leaders and statements addressing regional economic integration, free trade and connectivity.

Loreto Leyton, a business advisory council representative from Chile, said APEC remains one of the few platforms capable of bringing world leaders together for dialogue, playing an increasingly important role in promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and shared prosperity amid global challenges.

She also pointed to opportunities to promote sustainability, facilitate trade in goods and services, and provide greater support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

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Above: An APEC-themed floral installation is seen alongside colorful flags on Shennan Avenue in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Sunday. The 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held in Shenzhen on Wednesday and Thursday, with the city fully prepared for the event. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY
Left: Visitors pose for a photo at an APEC-themed floral installation at Gangxia North Station in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Sunday. ANDY CHONG / CHINA DAILY

Shenzhen ready to welcome Asia-Pacific leaders

By ZHAO JIA and **CHEN HONG**
in Shenzhen, Guangdong

At the APEC media center in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Saturday, Russia Today journalist Mariia Cherdantseva watched a robot prepare coffee — a sight that she had expected in a city often dubbed "China's Silicon Valley".

Having previously visited Shenzhen, Cherdantseva said that she is impressed every time by how the city has developed. She found the center's artificial intelligence applications both useful for journalists and fun to interact with.

The media center, which opened on Nov 11 for journalists covering the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Week, offers a glimpse into the city's preparations for the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting on Wednesday and Thursday.

Shenzhen will become the third Chinese city to host the event, after Shanghai in 2001 and Beijing in 2014. This year's meeting is themed "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together", with openness, innovation and cooperation as priorities.

The city's preparations extend well beyond the media center, bringing together conference arrangements, visitor services and technology to welcome guests from across the Asia-Pacific.

At a news briefing on Saturday, Shenzhen Mayor Li Yun said that all of the meeting venues were ready following equipment checks and full rehearsals.

Dedicated channels for delegates have been established at nine ports of entry spanning sea, land, air and rail routes. Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport has introduced advanced screening technology for checked baggage in order to streamline clearance, Li said.

More than 100,000 foreign-language signs have been standardized across the city, and over 7,000 AI translation devices have been installed at transport hubs, tourist attractions and shopping areas. Visitors can use bank cards issued overseas to pay for metro rides or withdraw cash from more than 3,000 ATMs across the city, while 1,360 conference volunteers and tens of thousands of city volunteers are on hand to help.

The use of technology in the preparations reflects Shenzhen's broader strengths in innovation and manufacturing.

Xia Lei, deputy director of the city's science and technology innovation bureau, said that Shenzhen's industry has long generated more than 30 percent of its GDP, helping to translate research findings in laboratories into market-ready products.

He pointed to the Huaqiangbei electronics market and the city's extensive supply chains as part of the ecosystem in which technology businesses have grown.

Shenzhen has given rise to global technology leaders including Huawei, BYD, Tencent and DJI. The city posted GDP of 3.87 trillion yuan ($580 billion) in 2025, with research and development spending reaching 7.1 percent of GDP — the highest ratio among Chinese cities for the second consecutive year.

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WHEN IN SHANGHAI, THEY SPEAK SHANGHAINESE

International residents embrace dialect to engage with the city

By ZHENG YIRAN in Shanghai
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Tobias Le Compte (second from right), a jazz musician from Belgium, performs in the Shanghai-dialect comedy *Hu Shang Fan Ren Ge* in Shanghai's Changning district on Nov 5. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

When Serbian Filip Filipovic said "liang nianji" instead of the standard Mandarin "er nianji" — both referring to the second grade — in a video, someone posted a comment to correct him. Shanghai viewers quickly jumped to his defense: He grew up in Shanghai. That's how we say it, they noted.

For Filipovic, who speaks Mandarin with a strong Shanghai accent, the episode revealed how deeply the city had shaped him.

While on tours in northern China, compliments on his fluent Chinese are often followed by a question: "You learned it in the south, didn't you?" Overseas, his Shanghainese greetings immediately put his fellow conference participants from Shanghai at ease.

Such encounters reflect Shanghai's international character. The city recorded 7.139 million temporary accommodation registrations by foreign nationals in 2025, up 49.6 percent year-on-year, according to the municipal public security bureau.

Filipovic's earliest teacher was the television. Watching local programs, he listened to the Shanghainese being spoken and began imitating the way of talking. Stand-up comedy came next, particularly performances by Seven, a popular comedian known for his Shanghainese performances.

Filipovic then added Duolingo to his learning routine, describing its new Shanghainese course as "structured catch-up learning". He estimates that he understands 70 to 80 percent of the comedy programs he now watches, guessing the rest from context.

Language-learning app Duolingo launched its Shanghainese course on Oct 15. Lessons introduce phrases for situations ranging from workplace conversations to dating and everyday encounters.

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Hopes voiced for more Sino-US trade gains

By ZHANG CHENXU
and **ZHONG NAN**

Following the inaugural meeting of the China-US trade council on Friday, business groups and analysts on both sides of the Pacific are keenly awaiting the implementation of earlier trade agreements, while expressing hope that continued dialogue will yield further deliverables for the world's two largest economies.

A more stable and predictable China-United States trade relationship would inject much-needed certainty into international trade and investment, making a greater contribution to global economic recovery and growth, they added.

At the council's first meeting, held via video link on Friday under the China-US economic and trade consultation mechanism, the two sides had "candid, in-depth and constructive" exchanges on tariffs, the reciprocal tariff reduction arrangement and agricultural trade, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Saturday.

In a post on X after the meeting, the Office of the US Trade Representative said that the administration of US President Donald Trump looked forward to continued engagement with China to "establish fair and balanced trade between the two largest economies in the world".

The trade council was one of the main outcomes of China-US economic and trade consultations in May. Under the council's framework, the two sides agreed in September to cut tariffs on about $30 billion worth of each other's goods, according to the ministry.

"Business communities in both countries have high expectations for the '30-for-30' reciprocal tariff reduction framework, which will help stabilize and expand bilateral trade," He Yadong, a spokesman for the ministry, said at a news conference on Thursday.

Tariffs continue to "raise costs, boost inflation, and depress sales, exports and profits", the US-China Business Council said in its annual member survey released in June. The survey found that 72 percent of respondents were affected by tariffs on bilateral trade, up 4 percentage points from a year earlier.

Dai Mingfeng, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, said that implementing the agreed tariff cuts would help ease the cost pressures facing businesses and bring tangible benefits to consumers in both countries.

The ministry spokesman also said that the two sides are in close communication on implementing the arrangement, urging Washington to work with Beijing to bring it into effect as soon as possible and create more favorable conditions for agricultural trade.

"Agriculture has long been one of the most tangible and mutually beneficial dimensions of the US-China economic relationship," said Eric Zheng, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

Carlos Salinas, executive director for East Asia at the US Soybean Export Council, said that he was very pleased with the progress in US-China soybean trade and was optimistic about the outlook.

Luo Zhiheng, chief economist at Yuekai Securities, said the two sides could continue discussions on extending tariff reductions to a wider range of nonsensitive goods.

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