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Xi calls for regional cooperation as APEC summit opens in China

From Shenzhen, Iran Daily correspondent writes



China's President Xi Jinping (C) pose for a group photo with other leaders before the welcome banquet at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shenzhen, China, on November 18, 2026. ● *AFP*

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

REPORT EXCLUSIVE

The 33rd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering opened in the Chinese city of Shenzhen on Wednesday, with President Xi Jinping calling on regional economies to strengthen cooperation, uphold peace and stability, and pursue shared prosperity amid mounting global economic uncertainties.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the APEC Summit, Xi said the world was undergoing profound changes, with sluggish global growth, rising unilateralism and protectionism creating new challenges for international economic cooperation.

Despite these headwinds, global trade continued to expand and breakthroughs in emerging technologies were accelerating, he said, stressing the need for Asia-Pacific economies to determine how best to respond to the changing international landscape.

"To open doors or close doors, work together or against each other, adapt to change or stick to old ways?" Xi asked, describing these as pressing questions that countries must address.

China is hosting APEC for the third time and is ready to work with other participants to build an Asia-Pacific community and promote shared prosperity, he said.

Xi outlined four priorities for achieving prosperity across the region: safeguarding peace and stability, expanding openness and cooperation, promoting innovation as a driver of economic growth, and pursuing mutual benefits and win-win outcomes.

The Chinese president also highlighted the opportunities offered by China's 15th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development, which begins this year, saying it could contribute to growth across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

He described China's economic development as an opportunity for international business communities, pointing to the country's vast consumer market, its large middle-income population and considerable potential for investment and consumption.

China, the world's second-largest economy, would offer global businesses a broad and open market, a promising environment for development and opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said.

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