

Over a Thousand Domestic and International Enterprises Attend the 2nd Hunan (Huaihua) RCEP Economic & Trade Expo Opening



Huaihua, Hunan May 11, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - On May 9, the 2nd Hunan (Huaihua) RCEP Economic & Trade Expo opened in Huaihua and brought together more than one thousand enterprises from both China and abroad to form a comprehensive platform for integrated trade exchange and cooperation involving exhibitors and buyers from fifteen RCEP member countries and over twenty provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across China. At the opening ceremony, twenty-eight projects were signed involving a total investment amounting to RMB 11.886 billion across sectors, including luggage and leather goods, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), mechanical equipment, and new energy technologies.

RCEP, or the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, officially entered into force on January 1, 2022. Hunan is accelerating its integration into the world's largest free trade bloc. From 2022 to 2024, Hunan's total trade with other RCEP member countries reached RMB 574.89 billion, accounting for 30.5 percent of the province's overall import and export volume, while tariff concessions under RCEP and

other free trade agreements amounted to RMB 3.675 billion in duty reductions.

This year's Expo, themed "Sharing Opportunities for a Win-Win Future," features Thailand as the Guest Country of Honor, Yunnan as the Theme Province, and Yueyang as the Theme City. Three major events are scheduled: the Opening Ceremony and RCEP Economic and Trade Investment Promotion Conference, the Conference on Promoting Coordinated Development of "Dual Corridors" and RCEP Ports, and the Launch Ceremony of "Intangible Cultural Heritage Going Global & Economic Collaboration Initiative" and the Opening of Wuxi Intangible Cultural Heritage Theme Park.

The exhibition area of this year's Expo spans a total of 20,000 square meters, featuring five major exhibition zones: the RCEP Country Pavilion, the Dual-Corridor Pavilion, the Huaihua "5+10" Industrial Pavilion, the Hunan Municipal Pavilion, and the Services Trade Pavilion, thereby creating an integrated display system encompassing "International Trade + Dual Corridors + Industrial Matrix + Services Trade."

During the Expo, nine specialized matchmaking sessions will be held, covering sectors such as luggage and leather goods, TCM, Huaihua's international land port logistics channel, Yantian international sea-rail intermodal services, Hunan International Trade Group, and a dedicated session for Australia. Each session will bring together over one hundred suppliers and buyers for precise matchmaking, facilitating the direct access of Huaihua's signature products, such as luggage and TCM, to ASEAN markets via the RCEP channels.

Following the opening ceremony, an Economic and Trade Investment Promotion Conference was held, during which RCEP member countries such as Cambodia, Malaysia, and Myanmar presented their trade and investment opportunities. During the promotion, His Excellency Mr. Wen Weiye, Consul General of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Chongqing, warmly invited entrepreneurs and scholars from RCEP member countries to work together to build a stronger regional economic partnership. His Excellency Mr. Khaing Su Linn, Consul General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nanning, expressed his hope that Myanmar and Huaihua could jointly seize new opportunities for connectivity through the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

"RCEP, as the world's largest regional free trade agreement, holds significant practical importance for both regional and global economic development through its signed agreements and implementation schedule," stated Xu Ningning, Chairman of the RCEP Industry Cooperation Committee. He suggested fully leveraging Hunan and Huaihua's geographical and industrial advantages and, through the Hunan (Huaihua) RCEP Economic & Trade Expo and RCEP Economic and Trade Investment Promotion Conference, showcasing the achievements and contributions of Hunan and Huaihua and ultimately positioning Huaihua as a model for international regional open cooperation.

Huaihua, a member of the "13+2" inter-provincial cooperation mechanism under the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, is also Hunan's only ASEAN cargo aggregation center. It has launched seven international rail routes, including cross-border lines to Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar. During the Expo, Huaihua highlighted 142 investment attraction projects for 2025, with a total investment scale of RMB 81.697 billion, creating a closed-loop system of "policy guidance—project implementation—industrial upgrading."

Currently, Huaihua is dedicated to building an open platform, fully leveraging its strategic role as an international land port, and accelerating the development of a trade service-oriented national logistics hub & a national composite distribution point city. The city is actively pursuing the establishment of a cross-border e-commerce comprehensive pilot zone and designated regulatory sites, while continuously

expanding international and domestic logistics corridors. Moreover, Huaihua is committed to optimizing the trade environment, aligning fully with the high standards of RCEP rules, enhancing cross-border services, customs clearance facilitation, and intellectual property protection, and further improving a market-oriented, rule-of-law, and international business environment. (End)



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