



Leaders of the 2018 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting pose for a picture at a gala dinner in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on Nov 17. XIE HUANCHI / XINHUA

Charting a better future

Xi calls on APEC leaders to pursue common development, prosperity to benefit Asia-Pacific and the world at large

By AN BALJIE and XINHUA
in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

While the world economy sails further into a sea of uncertainties, Chinese President Xi Jinping urges people to make rational choices for the future of mankind, encourages more opening-up and inclusiveness, and calls on business leaders to develop China's role as a global growth driver.

"We are all indeed fellow passengers in the same boat," Xi told the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO meeting, held in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, on Nov 17.

"Let us keep the steering wheel steady and paddle in the right direction so that the ship of the global economy will brave winds, break waves and sail to a brighter future," he said.

Addressing the audience in a conference room on board the *Pacific Explorer* cruise ship moored in Port Moresby Harbour, Xi stressed the importance of building an open, inclusive, innovative and rule-based world economy.

In a keynote speech to business leaders, the president urged the international community to steer the world economy in the right direction and develop an efficient global governance system.

"As we brave the rough waters of the global economy and confront the many risks and challenges, it is all too befitting that we have come together on this ship to chart the course for future development and cooperation," Xi said.

While achieving its own development, China will make greater contributions to help the world realize shared prosperity, Xi said.

In April next year, China will host the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, Xi said, adding that the Belt and Road Initiative is a transparent plan for China to share opportunities and pursue common development with the rest of the world.

"Mankind has once again reached a crossroads," he said. "Which direction should we choose? Cooperation or confrontation? Openness or closing one's door? Win-win progress or a zero-sum game? The interests of all countries and indeed the future of mankind hinge on the choice we make."

Recalling the establishment of APEC, Xi said its growth has echoed the historical trend of openness and integration, the region's fervent desire for development and people's need to meet challenges through cooperation.

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