

China International Import Expo 2018 opens in Shanghai



Organizers of the China International Import Expo (CIIE), which runs in Shanghai from Monday to Saturday, welcome products, technologies and services from all over the world to the fast-growing Chinese market amid a global economic downturn and rising protectionism.

China's latest flagship event is believed to be the world's first-ever national exhibition on the theme of imports.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony of the CIIE and the Hongqiao International Economic and Trade Forum, Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Bingnan said at a press conference held in Shanghai on Saturday.

The expo provides a stage for people from different countries and regions to strengthen communication and cooperation especially when the global economy faces severe challenges from protectionism and unilateralism, Zhang Yansheng, chief research fellow of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, told the Global Times.

"The Shanghai expo is exactly what China can show to the world: China is open and ready to work with the international community on the global standard," former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon told the Global Times on Sunday.

"I hope the expo will also be a great occasion where the importance of free trade and liberalization of the market can be learnt," he remarked.

The expo, a crucial step in voluntarily further opening the Chinese market, gathers global companies in a 270,000-square-meter business exhibition area.

Exhibitors include high-tech, intelligent equipment, medical equipment, automobile, accessories, food and consumer good companies. More than 200 are Fortune 500 companies and industrial champions.

Nearly 180 US companies will attend the expo, making the US No.3 among all participating countries, Wang said. "It fully shows the Chinese markets' attractiveness to US companies," he said. The groundbreaking event has attracted more than 3,000 enterprises from more than 130 countries and regions, Wang said at the conference.