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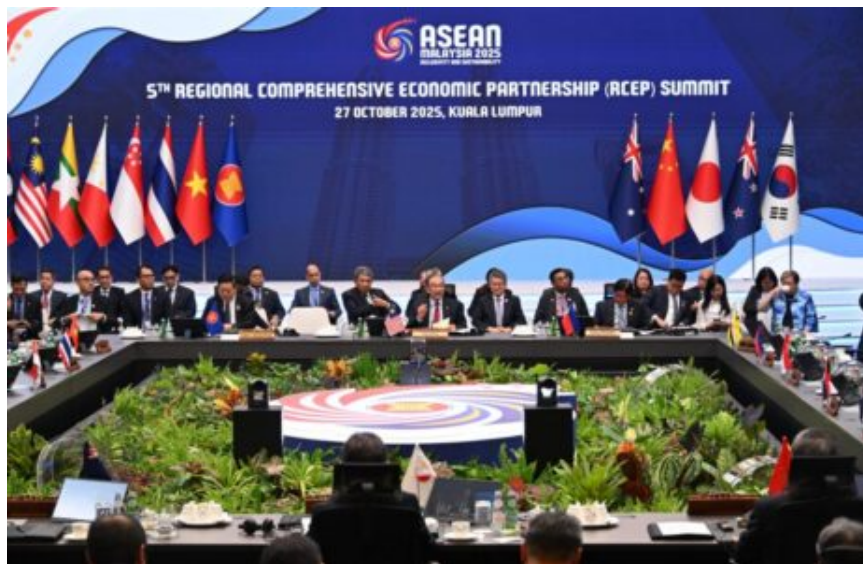
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RCEP Was a Major Breakthrough, But It Still Needs Work

With RCEP's first general review scheduled for next year, this is a timely opportunity to assess its relevance and potential amid profound global uncertainty today.

By **Jesslene Lee**

January 28, 2026



The fifth RCEP summit convenes in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Oct. 27, 2025.

Credit: [ASEAN Secretariat](#)

As the Asia-Pacific finds itself in the crosshairs of intensifying geoeconomic competition and strategic rivalry, plurilateral agreements provide a crucial safeguard – and strategic opportunity – to weather the volatility in the global economy.

Nowhere is this more evident, or more consequential, than in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest trade agreement to date.

Being the first and only pan-Asian trade agreement, RCEP presents a significant opportunity to enhance the Asia-Pacific's position in global production networks as firms reassess supply chains amid mounting global uncertainties.

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