
HONG KONG, SRI LANKA, CHILE AND BANGLADESH SEEKING TO JOIN RCEP TRADE BLOC

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Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Chile and Bangladesh are seeking to join the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world's largest trade bloc, Southeast Asian officials said on Thursday.

The RCEP currently consists of China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and all ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

RCEP officials, who are meeting on the sidelines of a gathering of ASEAN trade and economic ministers in Malaysia this week, said they had few objections to accepting new applicants and will work towards bringing the four economies into the bloc.

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