

China gets first seat in select WTO negotiating group, officials say

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GENEVA -- China gets its first seat in the World Trade Organization's most select negotiating group when seven commercial powers meet Wednesday.

The meeting behind closed doors at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva aims to break a stalemate between rich and poor countries over liberalizing trade in agriculture and manufacturing.

Two trade officials said China will join the United States, European Union, Brazil, India, Japan and Australia in a "G-7" meeting hosted by WTO chief Pascal Lamy. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.