

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

April 15, 2024

The *Illinois International Business Calendar* is published by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC). The *Calendar* is also available on our website: www.itagc.org. It is published every Friday, and available at no charge.

Inclusion Policy: As a public service to the international business community, we publish a listing of **international business events** for which we receive **written** notification, preferably by e-mail (info@itagc.org). Any organization may submit events that would be of interest to **and are open to** the Illinois international business community. There is no charge. All calendar listings are subject to the editor's discretion. Inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement by any of the sponsoring organizations.

Founded in 1978, the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)6 voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms. The ITA/GC provides a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. Members share interests in import and export matters, in international investment, alliance, and licensing opportunities, and – in the broader sense – doing business across the world.

The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

New events, and events with additional/revised information, are indicated in Green.

Of Note:

US Trade Deficit Widens in Feb. Despite All-Time High Exports: Exports rose by the most in a year in February, while imports saw their second fastest gain in two. The solid outturn caused a modest widening in the U.S. trade deficit and suggests net exports will be a drag on U.S. real GDP growth in the first quarter, [reports](#) FXStreet. International trade flows ripped higher in February with exports registering the largest gain in a year and imports seeing the second largest pickup in two years. U.S. exports advanced \$5.8 billion in February, while imports shot \$7.1 billion higher.

New Global Services Trade Data Hub Offers Extensive, Tailored Access to WTO Data: The new Global Services Trade Data Hub now available on the [WTO website](#) provides access to comprehensive data on services trade. It provides visualizations and customizable features for download – catering to the diverse needs of trade negotiators, analysts, researchers and decision-makers – to deliver insights into global services trade. Four separate WTO datasets are available, covering digitally delivered services, trade in services by mode of supply, trade in commercial services, and the WTO-OECD Balanced Trade in Services dataset.

Incentives for Entering the German Market – A Global Automation Executive Breakfast: Hosted by Saxony Trade and Invest with Germany Trade and Invest. Discover Saxony's high-tech potential, network with potential partners, and learn about incentives for entering the German market. Saxony is a leader in robotics, microelectronics, engineering, and software, supported by a vibrant network of companies, startups, and research institutes. Tuesday, **May 7, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**, FatPour Restaurant, Hilton Garden Inn, 2206 South Indiana Avenue (Adjacent to McCormick Place| AUTOMATE show). No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please click [here](#).

USTR Releases 2024 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers: United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai released the [2024 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers](#) (NTE Report), which provides a comprehensive review of significant foreign barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services, U.S. foreign direct investment, and U.S. electronic commerce in key export markets for the United States.

U.S. Remains World's Top Destination for Foreign Direct Investment for 12th Consecutive Year: The United States has been ranked as the top destination for foreign direct investment for the 12th consecutive year according to Kearney's Global Business Policy Council's [2024 Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\) Confidence Index](#). The strength of the US economy – the fastest growing in the G7 – and rebounding consumer sentiment likely supported this score. Canada also makes a strong showing, maintaining its second-place rank and forming part of the top five markets for the 12th consecutive year. China jumps from 7th position to 3rd, which could be explained in part by its loosening of capital controls for foreign investors in Shanghai and Beijing in September 2023.

U.S. – Cuba Agriculture Business Conference: The United States Agriculture Coalition for Cuba's annual high-level [business conference](#) is set for May 12-16 in Havana, Cuba. If you want to find new trade opportunities, this is your chance. Trade is increasing as Cuba's private sector expands. Meet the policy makers from the ministries that impact agriculture production and trade. Exchange business contacts with the private sector, producers, buyers, and processors. Learn about recent policy changes affecting agriculture trade, investment, and production. For details, contact Paul Johnson at: johnson@focus-cuba.com.

Export-Import Bank of the U.S. Announces It Will Begin Accepting Applications for 2024-2025 Advisory Committees: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) has opened the application period for the following 2024-2025 committees and councils: Advisory Committee, Sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee, Council on Climate and Energy Transition, Council on China Competition, Council on Small Business and Council on Advancing Women in Business. The application period will remain open through **April 26**. Application forms are [here](#).

New Chamber Report Reaffirms Digital Trade's Enormous Benefits: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce on March 19 released a [report](#) showing digital trade – from telemedicine to GPS-enabled cars to streaming movies – supports more than 3 million American jobs. The digital economy fuels growth, prosperity, and dynamism across the U.S., accounting for \$2.6 trillion in GDP in 2022, a sum equivalent to 10% of all U.S. economic output. The report shows the vast increase in digital trade across the U.S. and breaks down on a state-by-state basis how many jobs are supported by digital trade, as well as revenue earned through digital exports.

2024 Registering for the EXIM Annual Conference? ITA/GC member, Louise Kern (louise@glo-bis.com), is extending GloBIS' 10% conference discount to all ITA/GC members. GloBIS is a proud stakeholder partner for the Export-Import Bank of the United States' (EXIM) [2024 Annual Conference](#), taking place June 6-7 in Washington, DC. The conference will bring together prominent figures from small businesses, multinational corporations, think tanks and government to discuss global trends in trade and finance. Conference attendees can meet one-on-one with EXIM specialists and other agencies to learn about trade financing tools and network with business leaders, government representatives and global banking deal makers. Secure your spot now to enjoy discounted early bird registration. Plus, benefit from an additional 10% discount using GloBIS' exclusive code: **GLOBIS2024** on the final payment screen. Visit the conference website today to learn more and [register to attend](#).

USTR Releases President Biden's 2024 Trade Policy Agenda and 2023 Annual Report: The Office of the United States Trade Representative has released President Biden's [2024 Trade Policy Agenda and 2023 Annual Report](#) to Congress, which details USTR's work to advance President Biden's trade agenda. The President's 2024 Trade Policy Agenda stands up for workers' rights and sustainable trade practices, supports U.S. farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food manufacturers, bolsters supply chain resilience, addresses unfair policies and practices, and advances inclusive, durable trade policy through expanded engagement.

Request for Comments on Promoting Supply Chain Resilience: On March 7 the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published a [notice](#) in the *Federal Register* seeking input to inform the development of trade and investment policy initiatives that promote supply chain resilience. In outlining a new trade policy vision promoting resilience, the notice explains that resilient supply chains provide a range of sourcing options; adapt, rebound, and recover with agility following shocks; uphold labor rights and environmental protections; and strengthen the U.S. manufacturing base and workforce. To help achieve these objectives, the notice seeks information on developing sector-specific policy tools, strengthening domestic manufacturing and services, collaborating with like-minded trading partners and allies, and measuring resilience, among other topics. Due date for submission of written comments: **April 22, 2024**.

USTR Releases Annual Report on China's WTO Compliance: Just released, "this [report](#) details the breadth and scale of China's non-market policies and practices and the serious harm that they cause to workers, businesses, and industries in the United States and around the world. It is a stark reminder that the members of the international trading system must continue to work together to defend our shared interests against these many harmful policies and practices, particularly in sectors targeted by China's industrial plans," said USTR Katherine Tai.

Introduction to Doing Business in Asia 2024 Guides: The Introduction to Doing Business guides by Asia Briefing, a publishing subsidiary of Dezan Shira & Associates, have been updated for the latest regulatory changes in 2024 for [China](#), [Vietnam](#), [India](#), and [ASEAN](#) (Southeast Asia). Each guide covers the main compliance requirements your business will need to fulfil, as well as a corporate establishment walk-through for each country or region. The guides are free to download.

Annual Report on the U.S. Manufacturing Economy: 2023: Recently released by the National Institute on Standards & Technology (NIST), this [report](#) provides an overview of the U.S. manufacturing industry with three aspects of U.S. manufacturing considered: (1) how the U.S. industry compares to other countries; (2) the trends in the domestic industry; and (3) the industry trends compared to those in other countries. The study provides aggregate manufacturing industry data and industry subsector data to develop a quantitative depiction of the U.S. manufacturing industry.

Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade: In response to growing demand for coherent and comparable data on digital trade, the OECD, WTO and IMF produced the first edition of the Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade in 2019. The Handbook formalized for the first time a statistical definition of digital trade which focuses on the nature of the transaction: “digital trade is all international trade that is digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered.” Building on the first edition, the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD and WTO have produced a second edition of the [Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade](#), published in 2023 which provides clarifications on the concepts and definitions related to digital trade, and to the guidelines on how to operationalize them.

Better Trade Tool: Launched recently by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), the [Better Trade Tool](#) empowers users to advance efforts in supply chain transparency as well as strategic sourcing priorities. This innovative tool integrates existing reporting developed by the ILAB with U.S. import trade data, including Harmonized Tariff Schedule codes. The Better Trade Tool is intended to serve as a resource for users interested in learning about labor exploitation risks in global supply chains. Consider adding the Better Trade Tool to your compliance, sourcing, trade, and supply chain toolbox. The Better Trade Tool search feature enables users to select a specific country, good, type of labor exploitation, and year from the respective dropdown lists. The default view presents data for all countries, goods, and labor exploitations.

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- Apr. 16 ***FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS – STRATEGIES FOR UTILIZATION AND COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association, will cover: Types of Trade Agreements; How to determine if a product “qualifies” under an FTA Rules of Origin or Classification under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule; Certificates of Origin; FTA Commercial Availability and Short Supply List. 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/eadf047-d280-45c4-bc1a-3385bb497942/summary?locale=en>.
- Apr. 16 ***REDUCING AND ELIMINATING DUTIES THROUGH TARIFF ENGINEERING, INCLUDING 301 DUTIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, explores how to analyze your existing tariff exposure and the steps you can take to achieve the lowest duty rates available. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/reducing-and-eliminating-232-301-and-other-duties-through-tariff-engineering-\(2\)](https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/reducing-and-eliminating-232-301-and-other-duties-through-tariff-engineering-(2)).
- Apr. 16 ***GREEN ALLIANCES: CULTIVATING US AND CHINESE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the US Heartland China Association, will discuss possible paths forward for climate and food collaboration between the United States and China. We will also hear from leading professionals in agrifood sciences and agricultural studies. 7:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/5917108283409/WN_xFKSOJbgQEW8HgS_oBpQ#/registration.
- Apr. 16 ***MALAYSIA DEFENSE INDUSTRY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide you with in-depth insights on current and future requirements, how to bid on available contracts, local partnerships, and offset requirements. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$37. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Webinar-OpportunitiesintheSecurityandDefenseSector/purchase.php>.

- Apr. 17 **GROW YOUR EXPORTS FOR MANUFACTURING COMPANIES - ONLINE GLOBAL.** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and IBT Online. Gain knowledge about which platforms to utilize, search and buyer behavior, AI applications, personal data privacy considerations, and more, all aimed at flourishing in Manufacturing's digital ecosystem; Uncover effective strategies to leverage digital marketing techniques for reaching manufacturing consumers; Case studies - how manufacturing companies are selling online and globally today. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/uscommercialservice-grow-your-exports-for-manufacturing-companies-webinar>.
- Apr. 18 **CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS.** Breakfast & luncheon program sponsored by **[SOLD OUT]** Chamber of Commerce Midwest and the Traffic Club of Chicago. Keynotes: Amb. Consul General of Mexico in Chicago; Hon. **Madeleine Fequiere**, Consul General of Canada in Chicago. Panels will address: *Practitioners & Policy Makers: A Collaboration in the Cross-Border Environment*; *A View from the Bridge*; *Crossing the Border: How Carriers and Third Parties Support the Supply Chain*; *Decisions and Decision Makers: What Is the Why Behind Global Business?* 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m., Baker & McKenzie, 300 East Randolph Drive, 50th Floor, Chicago. USMCoC & TCC Members - \$150; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.usmcooma.org/>.
- Apr. 18 **LEVERAGING AI IN YOUR WORKPLACE.** Breakfast program sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. Speakers: **Sudhir Gajre**, Director, AI and Data Services, Neudesic (an IBM Company) and Adjunct Professor, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and **Ron Osborne**, Global Head of Technology Agribusiness, Amazon Web Services (“AWS”). 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Tiburon Golf Club & Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Leveraging-AI-in-Your-Workplace-on-April-18th.html?soid=1103352564910&aid=T-qdNsLHsIs>.
- Apr. 18 **EXPANDING IN THE US MARKET.** German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest SME Forum will explore the opportunities and challenges that businesses encounter as they navigate the dynamic landscape of the US market. 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Itasca Country Club, 400 East Orchard Street, Itasca, IL. GACC Members - \$125; Non-members - \$160. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ud8u7ch?source_id=2002f49d-ad3a-4563-a0f3-0122c52b524b&source_type=em&c=IQXeXxHnG9ISGE2Y3Qqa5S5WrefcHodvyKVVaCwpjLqT_pkhv2i2PJw==.
- Apr. 18 **THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA'S GLOBAL MARITIME RELATIONS: INEVITABLE COMPETITION OR FEASIBLE COLLABORATION?** Hybrid Book Talk & Panel Discussion sponsored by the Institute for China-America Studies, The China Institute, University of Alberta. Speakers: **Nong Hong**, Executive Director & Senior Fellow, Institute for China-America Studies and author, *U.S.-China Global Maritime Relations*; **Dingli Shen**, Professor Emeritus and Former Executive Dean, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University; **Gilang Kembara**, Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University. 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://chinaus-icas.org/event/the-united-states-and-chinas-global-maritime-relations-inevitable-competition-or-feasible-collaboration/?c>.
- Apr. 18 **EXPORT CONTROLS & COMPLIANCE.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover export controls from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State, including Export Administration Regulations, ITAR, and Trade Sanctions. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ptu6ud8>.
- Apr. 18 **UPCOMING PROJECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CANADIAN AEROSPACE MARKET.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Aerospace & Defense Team, will discuss Canada's Commercial Aerospace Market; Upcoming projects; AeroMontreal Forum. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://trade.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_2E4w_VT2R623quaZS9W1aw#/registration.

- Apr. 19 **WIN CONTRACTS AT THE WORLD BANK.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will demonstrate how to find out about WB projects and how your company can win contracts at the World Bank. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tyt7vr7>.
- Apr. 20 - **VIETNAM AND THE PHILIPPINES TRADE MISSION.** Multi-sector mission led by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP) to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to this important market. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Mission participants will also benefit from networking events and logistical support provided by the GSGP Southeast Asia Trade Office. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/media/xsqaxauh/gsgp-vietnam-philippines-trade-mission-flyer.pdf>.
- Apr. 22 - **ILLINOIS MULTI-SECTOR TRADE MISSION TO INDIA.** Illinois small businesses are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment on a multi-sector trade mission. Participants will receive a customized itinerary, including networking events and one-on-one pre-vetted meetings with potential distributors and business partners. Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with eligibility guidelines: Pre-scheduled B2B Matchmaking; 50% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; In-country briefing materials; logistics. For information & an application, please contact: kelly.hou@illinois.gov.
- Apr. 22 **EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover key tips to selling into the region, avoiding pitfalls, and taking advantage of selling duty-free with FTAs. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/scmrm25>.
- Apr. 22 **OVERVIEW OF THE JAPAN AEROSPACE, DEFENSE AND SPACE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Topics include: Japan Market overview; Defense Market Overview; Space Market Overview; Success Stories and Tips for Achieving Success; U.S. Pavilion at Japan Aerospace. 7:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://trade.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TRFEfCm3Rpa0wLdNP4SvAw#/registration.
- Apr. 22 **INVESTING INTO THAILAND.** Webinar, sponsored by RSM Singapore and RSM Thailand, will address: *Thailand's economic outlook; Key tax developments/changes; Opportunities and common challenges faced by foreign businesses in Thailand; Key tax developments in Singapore for outbound investment; Case study - Developing a tax-efficient holding structure and supply chain.* 10:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UvJgtwwFT26HivJXVU13qA?_cldee=3ZJ6AKfMja7FSycSSwtuLjqft6q_E1anAn4Pp0v35MN970Irg3LIId1ZnSJ7PKci6&recipientid=contact-10f890bc9bbaee11b82800155debae55-4cdb602045704d99b1f2b6e339457f85&esid=d6c2eef2-34eb-ee11-b82b-00155d004982#/registration.
- Apr. 24 **NAVIGATING THE RUSSIA-EU BUSINESS CHALLENGES.** Webinar, sponsored by Schneider Group, provides decision-makers of international companies with a detailed roadmap for navigating the intricacies of Russia-EU trade. 4:00 – 5:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://schneider-group.com/en/news/events/navigating-the-russia-eu-business-challenges/>.
- Apr. 24 **SUCCESS FOR CHINESE BUSINESSES IN THE U.S.** Webinar sponsored by Harris Sliwoski. Partner **Jonathan Bench** and China trained lawyer **Emily Chen** will discuss the importance of federal and state laws for establishing entities and doing business. We will explore the intricacies of employment law, immigration law, how to raise investment capital in the US, and how to structure foreign direct investment opportunities. 11:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://harris-sliwoski.com/chinalawblog/free-webinar-success-for-chinese-businesses-in-the-us-april-24th/>.

- Apr. 24 **CANADA AND U.S. CUSTOMS AUDITS – LEVERAGING DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO YOUR COMPANY’S BENEFIT.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will be: (1) exploring both customs agencies’ primary auditing approaches, why candidates are selected, and the primary differences; (2) the foundation of import-related internal controls that if implemented correctly will increase business certainty and prepare your organization for any customs audit; and (3) focusing on the topic of valuation and demonstrating both agencies’ auditing approaches. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/canada-and-u-s-customs-audits-leveraging-different-approaches-to-your-company-s-benefit-\(1\)](https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/canada-and-u-s-customs-audits-leveraging-different-approaches-to-your-company-s-benefit-(1)).
- Apr. 24 **DOING BUSINESS IN CANADA: HEALTH CARE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE FOR MEDICAL DEVICES.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide valuable insights on market entry strategies, distribution channels and regulatory requirements. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USITATRADE/2024/04/05/file_attachments/2838739/Canada%20MedTech%20webinar%20-%20April%2024th.pdf.
- Apr. 24 **CHINA’S CLIMATE GOALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS: GROWING OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. CLEANTECH EXPORTERS.** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Hear from industry and local experts on the latest market developments, needs, and best practices of doing business in China; learn more about the recent 2023 U.S. Cleantech Trade Mission to China and future planned trade missions; and join the U.S. Commercial Service China for its first, comprehensive environmental technologies market webinar since 2021. 6:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/ChinasClimateGoals/>.
- Apr. 25 **THE INS AND OUTS OF EXPORTING-PART 3: SMOOTH SAILING THROUGH EXPORT REGULATIONS.** Webinar, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, will provide an understanding of the basics of U.S. export compliance regulations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-5647723>.
- Apr. 25 **DOING BUSINESS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will offer an overview of the UN's more than \$27 billion procurement market. Our expert will share insights into the organization’s demand for goods and services and will explain how to get started with UN procurement, give tips for winning UN tenders, and provide resources for support. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/5dcrhby>.
- Apr. 25 **HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE GLOBAL TRADE: ENSURING WE ARE MAKING IT RIGHT.** Webinar sponsored by the Organization of Women in International Trade International. Speakers: **Katy Evans**, Sourcing Sustainability Manager, JCPenney and **Brian Wolfrum**, Trade Compliance Director, JCPenney. 11:00 a.m. CDT. OWIT Members – No fee; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://owit.org/events/how-to-successfully-navigate-global-trade-april-2024/?occurrence=2024-04-25>.
- Apr. 25 **CUSTOMS CARGO COMPLIANCE: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW YOU LEARNED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, will cover: *Elementary compliance; Sourcing through Recordkeeping controls; Permanent and temporary exports of hardware; How to ask the right questions for every compliance element; Decisions that affect compliance.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$185. For information & registration, please see: <https://contentenablers.com/live-events/webinars/customs-cargo-compliance-everything-you-need-to-know-you-learned-in-elementary-school/>.

- Apr. 26 ***SCHEDULE B AND HTS CODES – CLASSIFYING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the details of these codes and the general rules of interpretation to give you confidence in classifying your products for export or import. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/yezm3sm>.
- Apr. 29 ***EXPORT TO SINGAPORE DUTY-FREE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will describe how Singapore offers excellent opportunities for U.S. firms to sell duty-free using the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ysekzcb>.
- Apr. 30 ***HOW BRAZIL’S ADOPTION OF OECD TRANSFER PRICING RULES WILL IMPACT INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Plante Moran, will discuss: An overview of Brazil’s new transfer pricing regulations; The impact of these new rules for Brazilian companies with related entities in the United States (which doesn’t have a treaty with Brazil) and Mexico (which does have a treaty with Brazil); Considerations on transitioning to Brazil’s new transfer pricing regime; Expected regulatory issues and open questions. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4543760/4AA2433F64E39D1178389C3B3FFB12CB?partnerref=EMAIL%20&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGSRDLwF8E6DZ2uijjuBfPuZetAZXJzOWnYqDjYekaRX-XsuBgHJMwlZifD-Jr4QvYuCx4_H43v2ICMXbbnAMTnU_FJTcoFP2R2q0BLgt7NmGI.
- Apr. 30 ***NISPOM: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE ON COMPLIANCE FOR CLEARED CONTRACTORS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, is for contractors with a facility clearance who must continuously ensure their compliance with the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) and the specific requirements in the NISP Operating Manual (NISPOM). Presentation by Karen Harbaugh, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs, who will review the requirements for safeguarding classified information and maintaining a compliant facility clearance through the full lifecycle of a facility clearance. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5440418057387968854?source=HS1>.
- Apr. 30 ***AN OVERVIEW OF THE USDA’S AGRICULTURAL IMPORT PROCESS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will introduce U.S. importers to the USDA’s regulatory framework to better navigate the import process. 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/an-overview-of-the-usda-s-agricultural-import-process>.
- May 1 ***MIDDLE EASTERN TECH MARKET PROSPECTS IN THE AGE OF A.I.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the tech industry, opportunities, and the landscape in the Middle East. This webinar will help firms and organizations gain market insights and solidify business strategies with the goal of increasing U.S. exports. Topics will include industry drivers, trends, and key players. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/8cd6727c-4810-4cee-b706-aed91f6382f@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 1 ***TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF PARTS AND ACCESSORIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, provides practical insights on what constitutes a part and an accessory for tariff purposes, and how to classify them successfully. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/tariff-classification-of-parts-and-accessories>.

- May 1 ***CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL CERTIFICATE (CMMC)***. Second in a series of four hybrid Cybersecurity programs (Mar. 7; Sept. 9; Dec. 11) sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Taiwan. The goal of this program is to introduce U.S. firms offering CMMC solutions and consulting services to senior officials from the Taiwan authorities and private sector representatives. The audience will include officials from Taiwan's Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, as well as representatives from local defense equipment and component manufacturers. 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/CybersecurityMarketonTaiwan-9884-1700492165/hotsite.php#agenda>.
- May 2 ***OECD, USAID AND CLDP ON TRADE FACILITATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR***. Webinar sponsored by the American Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and others. Speakers include: **Grégory Lecomte**, Head, Central Asia Unit, OECD Eurasia; **Amélie Schurich-Rey**, Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia; **Tamar Jejeia Satterwhite**, Senior Attorney, Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce; **Änjali Kaur**, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, USAID. 7:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WOYirYUiTDyXN3SrgWAoIQ#/registration.
- May 2 ***CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED MANUFACTURERS: A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE NIST MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (MEP)***. Webinar, sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will highlight the cybersecurity resources available to the nation's small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs). Topics include: *An introduction to the MEP National Network; An overview of the MEP cybersecurity services and resources; Basic steps an SMM can take to manage their cybersecurity risks; Information about how to locate an MEP Center in your area.* 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.nist.gov/itl/smallbusinesscyber/events>.
- May 7 ***THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN SAXONY GERMANY***. Global Robotics Executive Breakfast sponsored by Germany Trade and Invest and Saxony Trade and Invest. Discover the potential of Saxony's high-tech hubs and the support available from local EDAs. Learn about success stories, connect with potential partners, and explore the range of incentives available to help companies expand into the German market. U.S.-based companies and networks are invited to an info event with and about Saxony – a German region with more than 200-year tradition as a mechanical engineering location, where digitalization and automation are more than just production processes. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., FatPour Restaurant, Hilton Garden Inn, 2206 South Indiana Avenue (adjacent to McCormick Place | Automate!). No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://share.hsforms.com/1pwUSuQr0TL-6GP2L6ZXnUQ14lr8>.
- May 8 - 15 ***U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO IFAT AND EUROPE***. The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration is organizing this Mission to Munich, Germany. The Mission will promote U.S. exports in a range of environmental technology industries, including water and wastewater management, solid waste management and recycling, and air pollution monitoring and control. The Mission will introduce participants to commercial opportunities in the region and connect them with prospective partners, distributors, service providers, end-users, and foreign government decision makers who are seeking U.S. environmental solutions. For details & an application (**due December 15**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/EnviroTechIFAT2024/>.

- May 13 - ***ACCESS EUROPE AND EURASIA: EXPLORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TÜRKIYE AND BEYOND!*** Organized by the U.S. Commercial Service, this program will feature meetings with U.S. commercial diplomats from over 25 countries in Europe and Eurasia, exciting conference programming, and plenty of networking. Qualified U.S. businesses may customize their experience with optional business-to-business matchmaking meetings with pre-screened buyers, agents, distributors, or joint-venture partners in Türkiye (May 15) as well as Denmark or Romania, (May 9-10) and Poland or Italy (May 16-17). Fees vary. For information & registration, please see <https://www.trade.gov/trade-winds>.
- May 14 ***MASTERING THE MARKET – INDIA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service’s Global Advanced Manufacturing Team, will feature country and industry experts, success stories, and key events. Seasoned trade professionals will equip you with strategies to grow sales, mitigate risks, and lower costs in these top markets. U.S. Manufacturers will learn how to continue to position their firms in an ever-changing international environment, the importance of supply chains, and how to stay savvy in established markets. 10:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/MasteringtheMarket-Germany/>.
- May 14 ***OPPORTUNITY FOR LITHIUM EXTRACTION AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN CHILE.*** Direct Line webinar sponsored by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State. U.S. Ambassador to Chile **Bernadette M. Meehan** hosts Minister of Economy, **Nicolas Grau** to learn more about new opportunities in lithium extraction and value chain development in Chile. Experts from the Chilean government will explain the new National Lithium Strategy, Request for Information (RFI), and tendering process for companies interested in investing in Chile’s lithium industry – from brine extraction to mining technology to value chain development. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required by May 10. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.state.gov/direct-line-for-american-business/opportunity-for-lithium-extraction-and-value-chain-development-in-chile/>.
- May 15 ***GLOBAL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS.*** Conference sponsored by the North Dakota Trad Office. Join industry leaders, engage in insightful discussions, and explore emerging markets. The agenda includes compelling speakers, dynamic panel discussions, breakout sessions, and the prestigious 2023 Global Business Awards ceremony, recognizing excellence in global business. Topics throughout the day include navigating international business in areas of conflict, protecting intellectual property, cybersecurity, government contracting, and market briefings from the Nordic regions and Taiwan. 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., DoubleTree By Hilton, 825 East Beaton Drive, West Fargo, ND. NDTO Members – No fee; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://ndto.com/events/global-business-connections-conference/>.
- May 16 ***SHAPING THE FUTURE: TRENDS AND INSIGHTS FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS GROWTH.*** 2024 World Trade Conference sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. Speakers include: **David L. Roth**, P.E., Chief Executive Officer, Omaha Airport Authority; **Brooke Wehrenberg**, Outreach Chief, Visa Office, U.S. Department of State; **Todd D. Vettel**, President, International Workforce Services; **Paul Lesnefsky**, Senior Key Account Executive, Ocean Network Express (North America) Inc. (ONE); **John Crain**, Special Agent and **Brandon Stigge**, Task Force Officer, FBI Omaha Cyber Task Force; Dr. **Chris Decker**, Economist, University of Nebraska at Omaha. 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Tiburon Golf Club & Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members - \$50; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/2024-world-trade-conference/>.

- May 23 - ***GROW YOUR EXPORTS FOR CLEANTECH COMPANIES - ONLINE GLOBAL.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and IBT Online. Learn about insights and digital strategies to succeed in your target international markets; Best-practices and insights for optimizing your digital presence around the world, including website localization, digital marketing strategies, and leveraging digital platforms to stand out against the competition; Case studies - how Cleantech companies are using digital solutions to sell online and globally today. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/uscommercialservice-grow-your-exports-for-cleantech-companies>.
- May 27 - ***ICT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SINGAPORE.*** Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this mission will be run in conjunction with the Asia Tech x Singapore 2024 (ATxSG 2024) trade show and forum. The purpose of the mission is to expand opportunities for U.S. companies in Singapore and the Southeast Asian region at the intersection of telecommunications services, 5G, SaaS applications, cybersecurity and the digital economy. This mission will also be part of delivering and advancing U.S. technology, standards and commercial interests in this vital region of the world. The objective is to identify, where appropriate and in line with U.S. policy objectives, trade promotion opportunities that will help cement U.S. technology organizations as global leaders in this rapid-growth industry, while also creating new commercial opportunities and encouraging strong regulation and supervision worldwide. For information & an application, Please see: <https://trade.gov/ict-business-development-mission-singapore>.
- Jun. 3 - ***AG & FOOD BUSINESS MISSION TO CHINA.*** The United States Heartland China Association is leading this mission to Shanghai, Shandong and Beijing. Delegation participation fee: \$5,000 per delegate. Includes pre-trip briefing and materials, transportation and hotels in China, participation in meetings and events, and most meals. Travel to/from China not included. For more information, contact Katherine Newton at katherine.newton@usheartlandchina.org.
- Jun. 4 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT EXPO PACK 2024, MEXICO CITY.*** The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at Expo Pack 2024 in Mexico City. Illinois companies who qualify for the mission will receive the following: Exhibit space within the Illinois pavilion; 25% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics; Interpreter services during the show. For information & registration (deadline: **March 8**), please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- Jun. 6 - ***GROWING YOUR AEROSPACE & DEFENSE BUSINESS COLLABORATIVELY WITHOUT FRICTION: LEGAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PURSUING LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS, GOVERNMENT TENDERS, AND THE EXPORTING OF GOODS AND SERVICES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the law firm Robinson & Cole, will assist companies that wish to position themselves for these opportunities, including by securing and defending their intellectual property in an increasingly collaborative environment. The seminar will cover the legal and intellectual property considerations for: Teaming and Joint Development Agreements; Strategic Use of NDAs; Cross-border Collaborations that are becoming more prevalent such as through trade agreements like AUKUS; Government Bids and Subcontracting. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/GrowingYourAerospaceDefenseBusinessCollaboratively/>.
- Jun. 8 - ***BRAZIL AND CHILE TRADE MISSION.*** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers is leading this multi-sector trade mission to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings to meet with prospective customers and business partners. Mission participants will also benefit from networking events and logistical support provided by the GSGP Brazil and Chile Trade Offices. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-chile-trade-mission-2024/>.

- Jun. 9 - **ILLINOIS MULTI-SECTOR TRADE MISSION TO CANADA (TORONTO & MONTREAL)**. The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to join them on a multi-sector trade mission. Participants will receive a customized itinerary which will include networking events and one-on-one pre-vetted meetings with potential distributors and business partners. Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with eligibility guidelines: Pre-scheduled B2B matchmaking; 50% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; In-country briefing materials; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$750. For information & an application, please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- Jun. 11 **FORGING PARTNERSHIPS. EMPOWERING COMMERCE**. U.S. Customs and Border Protection 2024 Trade Day sponsored by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Chicago Field Office. Connect with CBP personnel, Chicago Field Office Trade Staff, and representatives from partnered government agencies to discuss today's most relevant topics in importing and exporting. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Four Point by Sheraton, 10249 West Irving Park Road, Schiller Park, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TradeDay2024>.
- Jun. 13 **MEXICO EXPANSION SUMMIT**. Program sponsored by Nepanoa. Meet with Mexican Government representatives from Nuevo Leon, Jalisco, Baja California and Chihuahua; Learn about the different industries driving the Mexican economy such as Logistics, Manufacturing, Real Estate, Financial Services, Technology; Forge connections with fellow executives dedicated to nearshoring initiatives; Lay the groundwork for your expansion into Mexico. 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Convene, 311 West Monroe Street, Chicago. Fee: \$215. For information & registration, please see: https://www.nepanoa.com/mexico-expansion-summit?cid=48d0f3b0-f1c2-4acb-a19a-c24e5a521157&utm_campaign=583c8fa5-139c-4543-826c-64f68da3fd7c&utm_medium=mail&utm_source=so.
- Jun. 25 - **COMPLYING WITH U.S. EXPORT CONTROLS**. Event sponsored by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the East Michigan District Export Council, with the support of the U.S. Commercial Service. The program will cover U.S. Government export controls (Export Administration Regulations), including types of controls; classifying your product; licensing requirements; record keeping requirements; export clearance; enforcement; developing an export management compliance program; and laws and policies on U.S. economic and trade sanctions worldwide. Speakers will provide opportunities for Q&A during sessions and will also be available during networking breaks. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit Branch - 1600 East Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI. Fee: \$575. For information & registration, please see: <https://emdec.regfox.com/2024-complying-seminar#register>.
- Jul. 14 - **ILLINOIS MULTI-SECTOR TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO**. The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to join them on a multi-sector trade mission. Participants will receive a customized itinerary which will include networking events and one-on-one pre-vetted meetings with potential distributors and business partners. Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with eligibility guidelines: Pre-scheduled B2B matchmaking; 50% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; In-country briefing materials; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$750. For information & an application, please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- Jul. 15 **INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS**. Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. Managing Forwarders, Brokers & Carriers is the theme of this course. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process. A comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago-Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-july-15-2024/>.

- Jul. 16 **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.** Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. Classification for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-july-16-2024/>.
- Jul. 17 **USMCA THE MODERNIZED NAFTA.** Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. This course is for those new to USMCA and for those already familiar with NAFTA. Learn what the new changes mean for you and how it will affect your current NAFTA process in this USMCA webinar. Special sectors will be discussed and covered. You may need to change your supply chain to continue to benefit under the new agreement. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/usmca-the-modernized-nafta-chicago-july-17-2024/>.
- Jul. 18 **EXPORTING PROCEDURES.** Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. This course will provide an in-depth understanding of export regulations and procedures combined with a study of the appropriate documentation that will give you a valuable advantage in making your international trade business a success. Learn to comply with regulations to avoid violations, fines, fees, and delayed shipments. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/exporting-procedures-chicago-july-18-2024/>.
- Jul. 19 **INCOTERMS® 2020.** Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. Take this class to understand when the transfer of risk moves from the Seller to the Buyer and who is responsible for insurance. It's important that you understand which Incoterm is best for your company. 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$445. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/incoterms-2020-chicago-july-19-2024/>.
- Jul. 22 - 26 **ILLINOIS GROUP TRADE MISSION TO FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW.** The Illinois Office of Trade & Investment invites Illinois small businesses to join them in a group trade mission to the world's largest airshow held in Farnborough, UK. Six key themes are at the heart of the show: Space, Defense, Sustainability, Innovation, Future Flight, and Workforce. Qualifying Illinois companies will receive: Co-exhibitor space within the Illinois booth; Business and government matchmaking; In-country briefings and networking; Personalized hands-on assistance from recruitment to final exhibition; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of travel costs for hotel and airfare in accordance with guidelines; Organized group hotel accommodation and transportation to and from the fairgrounds. Fee: \$750. For information & an application (deadline: **April 12**), please contact: zdenka.samson@illinois.gov.
- Aug. 19 - 24 **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA RAIL AND PORT TRADE MISSION (SOUTH AFRICA & ANGOLA).** Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, Global Automotive and Smart Mobility Team, the mission will include participation at the South African Railway Association's SARA Conference from August 20- 23 in Johannesburg South Africa. Participation in the trade mission will include tickets to attend the SARA Conference for each registered U.S. company participant as well as tailored assistance to help connect company delegates with sub-Saharan Government Transportation officials, private-sector railway and port companies and prospective business partners. U.S. companies mission participants will have several opportunities to network with prospective partners and sub-Saharan government officials, U.S. interagency project financing agency representatives from the Development Finance Corporation, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Trade and Development Agency and Prosper Africa, and rail and port equipment, technology, and management companies at both the South Africa and Angola stops. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/Sub-SaharanAfricaRailandPortTradeMission/>.

- Sep. 22 - ***TAIWAN UNCREWED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) AND COUNTER-UAS (C-UAS) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION***. Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the objective of this mission is to advance U.S. national interests and focus on meeting Taiwan market demand for U.S. UAS and C-UAS commercial and defense solutions. Participating U.S. firms will explore market development opportunities, gain market insights, make industry contacts, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects with the goal of increasing U.S. exports and services in the aerospace and defense sectors. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/aerospace-defense-trade-mission-taiwan>.
- Nov. 17 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE (GDEI) TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN REGION***. Organized by the U.S. Commercial Service, the mission will include the “Opportunities for Minority-Led Businesses in the Caribbean Region Conference” in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November 17-18. Selected participants will either engage in business-to-business (B2B) meetings in Santo Domingo if approved for the Dominican Republic Trade Mission, or travel to other markets in the region to engage in B2B appointments in those markets. B2B meetings will be conducted with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors or joint-venture partners, in the selected city/market in the Dominican Republic, and/or Barbados/Eastern Caribbean, and/or Guyana, and/or Jamaica, and/or Suriname, and/or The Bahamas and/or Trinidad and Tobago. The mission is horizontal, with various sectors represented, based on best prospects for U.S. companies in the Caribbean region, such as automotive parts and services, consumer goods, construction equipment/road building machinery/building products/infrastructure projects, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, ICT, energy equipment and services, safety and security equipment, hotel and restaurant equipment, franchising, manufacturing equipment, yachting/maritime services/sailing equipment, marine ports, aviation/airports, tourism and related construction, waste management, and water treatment and supply. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissionCaribbeanRegion/>.
- Dec. 8 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE TRADE MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA***. Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the mission will offer women-owned, -led, and -operated businesses important market insights and meetings with pre-screened foreign business partners and key decision-makers. Included: B2B matchmaking meetings with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors, or joint-venture partners will provide participants with substantive information on strategies for entering or expanding their business in Saudi Arabia, key contacts with Commercial Service officers and local staff, and networking opportunities to build vital business relationships. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GlobalDiversityExportInitiativeGDEITradeMissiontoS/hotsite.php>.

About the ITA/GC

Founded in December 1977, **The International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)** was incorporated in January 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit, voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms by providing a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. The ITA/GC’s focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

Annual membership dues are: Individual - \$150; Consular/Diplomatic - \$75 (up to 3 members); Academic/Faculty - \$200 (up to 8 designated faculty members); Student from a participating academic institution - \$25; Regular student - \$50; Associate/Non-resident (more than 150 miles from O’Hare International Airport) - \$50; Retired/Job Transition - \$50; Corporate (up to 8 designated members) - \$300. For a Membership Application, please call 773/725-1106; e-mail: info@itagc.org; or visit: www.itagc.org.

About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (<http://www.barnesrichardson.com>) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

About MichaelSilver

MichaelSilver (www.michaelsilver.com) provides a full scope of accounting and assurance, tax consulting and compliance, and consulting services to a broad range of clients in a wide variety of industries in the U.S. and internationally. Global clients are served through the Firm's membership in GMN International, an association of legally independent accounting firms. MichaelSilver is committed to exceptional service and provides creative solutions to address the needs and goals of our clients. We continually operate in a manner that reflects our pillars: innovative, trusted, consultative, and energizing.