

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

September 30, 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.

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

- Oct. 18 **GLOBAL SUCCESS WITHIN REACH: THE BIGGER PICTURE.** 9th Annual Global Small Business Forum sponsored by Foley & Lardner & Associated Bank and with partnership support from the: **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**; GlobeTrade; Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global; and others. Speakers include: **Laurel Delaney**, President, GlobeTrade.com; **Lori Novak**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Associated Bank; **Ellen Wheeler**, Partner, Foley & Lardner; **Marc Schulman**, President, Eli's Cheesecake; **Donald J. Lloyd**, Senior Vice President & Manager, Capital Markets – Foreign Exchange, Rate Swaps and Commodity Derivatives, Associated Bank; **Angie Kappel**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Adam Wisniewski**, Founder & CEO, EX3 Labs; **Kirk Samson**, Global Business Consultant & Founder, Samson Atlantic LLC; **Yvette Laugier**, Chairman Emeritus, International Housewares Association Board of Directors; **Amy Mills**, Owner, 17th Street Bar Barbeque; **Tami Lange**, Founder, Save The Girls; **Diamond Young**, Assistant VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Rajiv Khatau**, Founder and Managing Director, LODAAT Pharma. 8:00 – 11:30 a.m., Foley & Lardner, 321 North Clark Street, 30th Floor, Chicago. Fee: \$75; \$600 – ticket & vendor table. For information & registration, please see: <https://globalsmallbusinessforum.com/>.
- Oct. 23 **NEARSHORING – AND YOU!** Breakfast roundtable sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chapter with: RSM US LLP; Baker McKenzie; **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Speakers include: **Alberto Villarreal**, Nepanoa – *Developing and Processing Opportunities*; **Haydn Powell**, Applix – *Manufacturing Industry Highlights*; **Roberto Cantu**, Baker McKenzie – *Legal Considerations in New Investments*; **Edgar Lopezlena**, RSM US – *Tax Considerations in New Investments*. 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., RSM, 30 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3300, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations – \$30; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.usmccoma.org/events>.

Nov. 13 **EMERGING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA.** Special Luncheon Presentation and Executive Briefing sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago.** Presentation by **Elena V. Son**, Executive Director, American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce; US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council; US-Tajikistan Business Council; US-Afghanistan Business Initiative. Ms. Son will share her perspective on the key sectors where American companies have the most potential to invest in these countries, and what advantages Central Asia offers to foreign investors. Additionally, as economic ties between the U.S. and Central Asia strengthen, she will discuss what initiatives or frameworks are in place or need to be ratified to support American businesses entering these markets. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members -0 \$55; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerging-business-opportunities-in-central-asia-tickets-1022979407947>.

Of Note:

Commerce’s ‘SCALE’ Supply Chain Tool Helps Bolster Quantum Investments: The International Trade Administration’s Industry and Analysis unit rolled out the “SCALE” [supply chain risk assessment tool](#) earlier this month. The tool is designed to evaluate risks across key industries and help inform agency decision making. The Commerce Department is leveraging its new supply chain data tools to help drive its investments in critical technologies like quantum computing.

White House Pursues De Minimis Crackdown: Barnes Richardson attorney Ashley J. Bodden has written a useful [guide](#) to the current White House and Congressional concerns that imports into the United States using the de minimis rules include unsafe and unfairly traded products. A shipment is typically eligible for the de minimis exemption if the retail value is \$800 or less when it is imported into the United States. The Administration’s proposed new rules are intended to aid Customs in enforcing United States law at the time of importation.

Business Plan in Eurasia/Türkiye/China: Call for Interest: Professor Trevor Gunn, Adjunct Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University & VP-International Relations, Medtronic, Inc. has issued this call for interest: *We are looking for clients who wish to advance their interests in Eurasia(Türkiye, Ukraine, Moldova, 5 Central Asian countries, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Russia) or China. Specifically, those who could benefit from a “free” business and/or strategy/marketing plan for companies looking at advancing in the regions. Any business of any size is welcome! Any undertaking, including an expansion or contraction of a business, is equally welcome.* For further information or to submit a proposal, please contact Professor Gunn: gunnt@georgetown.edu by **October 20**.

Clarifying Amendments to the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act: Attorneys at ArentFox Schiff have written a comprehensible [summary](#) of the Foreign Extortion Prevention Act (FEPA), designed to supplement the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and expand liability to foreign government officials who solicit or accept bribes from US companies. Previously, only companies and individuals who “supplied” the foreign bribery (i.e. offered, promised, authorized, or paid bribes) to government officials were charged under the FCPA. Now, foreign government officials on the “demand” side of the bribery, who solicit, seek, agree to receive, or accept bribes from a US company or individual, or any person while in US territory in exchange for or in connection with obtaining or retaining business, are liable under FEPA.

USTR Finalizes Action on China Tariffs Following Statutory Four-Year Review: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has [announced](#) final modifications concerning the statutory review of the tariff actions in the Section 301 investigation of the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation. These updates do not reflect further consideration or alteration of the review’s finding that, while the PRC had changed some specific unfair measures, the PRC’s harmful forced technology transfer practices – in particular its cyber theft and industrial espionage – have continued, and in some instances, worsened.

BIS Amends Voluntary Self-Disclosure Process and Penalty Guidelines and Adds First-Ever Chief of Corporate Enforcement: Crowell & Moring [reports](#) on September 12, 2024, the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) issued a [final rule](#) to amend the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) revising provisions related to the voluntary self-disclosure (VSD) process for persons who believe that they may have violated the EAR, or any order, license or authorization issued thereunder. BIS also announced it appointed Raj Parekh to be its first-ever Chief of Corporate Enforcement.

Trade-Led Growth Has Driven Down Poverty, Malnutrition, WTO Report Finds: New WTO [analysis](#) finds that trade-led economic growth in recent decades has helped narrow income gaps, lowering poverty and malnutrition, as UN agencies say hunger numbers have plateaued since 2021.

The Future of European Competitiveness: This [report](#) calls for immediate and drastic changes if Europe is to remain competitive. “Across different metrics, a wide gap in GDP has opened up between the EU and the US, driven mainly by a more pronounced slowdown in productivity growth in Europe...in fact, the productivity gap between the EU and the US is largely explained by the tech sector. The EU is weak in the emerging technologies that will drive future growth. Only four of the world’s top 50 tech companies are European.”

USCBC Member Survey: The US-China Business Council conducted its annual [Member Survey](#) in summer 2024. The data in this report reflect responses from representatives of leading American companies. Most respondents are large US-headquartered multinationals that have operated in China for several decades, and around 40 percent generated more than \$1 billion in revenue in China last year. The survey is unique among trade associations in that it incorporates responses from US company representatives in both the United States and China. This report seeks to measure business sentiment and benchmark challenges and opportunities in the China market.

Updated Hong Kong Business Advisory: On September 6 the U.S. Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture and Homeland Security issued an [amendment](#) to the July 2021 Hong Kong Business Advisory to highlight new and heightened risks associate with actions undertaken by People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region authorities. These risks could adversely affect U.S. companies that operate in the Hong Kong SAR of the PRC (Hong Kong). This amended advisory highlights the potential reputational, regulatory, financial, and, in certain instances, legal risks to U.S. companies operating in Hong Kong.

Investment Canada Act Reforms: Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP (Blakes) has issued a new [publication](#) to help firms adapt to the recent and upcoming reforms to the *Investment Canada Act*. These changes reflect a heightened emphasis on national security reviews, signaling a shift in Canada’s approach to foreign investments.

Banking on Women Who Trade across Borders: This recently released [report](#) commissioned by the International Finance Corporation (www.ifc.org) examines the complexities and hurdles for women-owned SMEs in emerging markets to access trade finance. The study suggests that certain aspects of trade finance markets magnify the difficulties faced by women-led firms and offers solutions.

“Talking Trade” with Judith Pryor, Export-Import Bank of the United States: The latest episode of the [“Talking Trade”](#) podcast features banking insights from Judith Pryor, First Vice President and Vice Chair of the Export-Import Bank of the United States Board of Directors. Ms. Pryor presented an Executive Briefing on the Bank’s operations to an ITA/GC luncheon meeting on August 21.

Recent Developments in International Transport and Insurance Costs: Observed data on merchandise imports with both CIF and FOB valuations remains limited. As of today, only around 30 economies make this information available with the required level of product and partner detail. The OECD has been working to fill this data gap since 2016, when the first edition of the [International Transport and Insurance Costs](#) of merchandise trade (ITIC) database was released. The ITIC database provides detailed information on CIF/FOB margins, interpreted as the proportion of the CIF value of imports that corresponds to international transport and insurance costs.

China Diversification Framework Report: A recent [report](#) commissioned by The Business Roundtable finds that diversification of production away from China, which the U.S. and other countries have been promoting in recent years as a way to lower supply chain and national security risks, has been limited so far. About a quarter of U.S. and European Union firms are considering or actively moving parts of their manufacturing and sourcing activities out of China, a wide majority are deciding how to reduce supply chain risks from overreliance on China, and China has seen a decreasing share of U.S. imports and foreign direct investment over the past seven years.

WTO Issues 2024 Annual Report: The WTO has just published its [2024 Annual Report](#), providing a comprehensive account of the organization's activities in 2023 and the early part of 2024. The Report looks back at key events over the past year, such as the 13th Ministerial Conference, and describes the WTO’s work in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing world trade.

WTO Issues New Edition of World Tariff Profiles: The WTO has issued the 2024 edition of [World Tariff Profiles](#), a joint publication of the WTO, International Trade Centre (ITC) and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The publication provides comprehensive information on the tariffs and non-tariff measures imposed by over 170 countries and customs territories. Summary tables, providing data by country/territory, list the average “bound” or maximum tariffs each economy can apply to its imports from other WTO members as well as the average tariffs actually applied. Tariffs are listed for both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

Selecting Master’s Program in International Business and Trade: The Hinrich Foundation has launched the [Hinrich Foundation Guide to Master’s in International Business and Trade](#). Backed by insights from senior academics and trade professionals, the guide aims to help prospective students in selecting the ideal master’s program to achieve their career aspirations in trade. It highlights the benefits of master's studies and a career in trade, criteria for high-quality programs, key questions for program selection, marquee master's programs, and career options in global trade.

EXIM Bank Resource: North America Exporting Guide: Exporting opportunities with neighboring countries to the north and south, Canada and Mexico, present promising avenues for U.S. companies to expand their market reach. Leveraging these exporting opportunities with neighboring countries can lead to increased revenue, market diversification, and long-term business growth. This [Guide](#) provides market research, industry opportunities and sales strategies for exporter to Canada & Mexico.

Global Manufacturing Could See Strong 2025 – 2028: Although the global manufacturing economy is on track for “sluggish” growth of just an 0.6% annual expansion in 2024, that picture is forecast to brighten considerably in 2025, according to a [report](#) from the industrial automation research firm Interact Analysis. Manufacturing output is expected to recover in 2025 and maintain a steady rate through to 2028, despite seeing a slight dip in the growth rate in 2026, the firm said in its latest Manufacturing Industry Output Tracker (MIO). While most territories see optimistic signs of future growth, the global measure of manufacturing production could be hindered by a stuttering economy in China. The report includes a slight downward revision for China compared with the previous edition; from 2.8% to 2.4%.

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.

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- Sep. 30 ***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/a3vdhrm>.
- Oct. 1 ***INTRODUCTION TO CUSTOMS AUDITS: WHAT TO EXPECT.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will discuss current CBP audit methods and what importers may expect. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/customs-audits-101-what-to-expect-\(1\)](https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/customs-audits-101-what-to-expect-(1)).
- Oct. 1 ***CONNECT WITH BATTERY INDUSTRY LEADERS FROM GERMANY.*** B2B speed networking and curated general networking event sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action with support from the Detroit Regional Partnership, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, Michigan Economic Development Corporation. This is an opportunity to connect with decision-makers and learn about German advances in battery lifecycle management and electric vehicles. These are some of Germany’s finest startups and mid-sized companies looking to the USA market for growth. 2:00 – 6:00 p.m., Automotive Hall of Fame, Dearborn, MI. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://share.hsforms.com/15fyY0ohpQ8GTkFLjfs3dDw14lr8>.
- Oct. 2 ***THE STATE OF FIRST SALE: A SURVEY OF CBP’S EVOLVING ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES OVER 30+ YEARS OF FIRST SALE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will provide importers with both a history of the first sale rule and how it has been interpreted by CBP in the past, as well as a better understanding of what areas importers should focus on today to ensure compliance in the event of a CBP inquiry or audit. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/the-state-of-first-sale-a-survey-of-cbp-s-evolving-enforcement-priorities-over-30-years-of-first-sale>.

- Oct. 3 **GETTING GLOBAL EXPANSION RIGHT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE EXPERTS.** Webinar sponsored by the Organization of Women in International Trade International and the Forum for International Trade Training. In this broad-reaching event, **Pernille Fischer Boulter**, President & CEO, Kisserup International Trade Roots, will present and discuss many of the fail-proof international expansion strategies that help businesses thrive in today's trade ecosystem. She will be joined by FITT's President & CEO, **Caroline Tompkins**, and **Hulya Kurt**, President, OWIT International, after the presentation for a Q&A panel to answer your international trade-related questions and share their expertise and insights. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://fittfortrade.com/getting-global-expansion-right-practical-guide-international-trade-experts>.
- Oct. 3 **REVOLUTIONIZING HS CODE CLASSIFICATION: THE FUTURE OF AI-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS.** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, is designed for seasoned practitioners eager to delve into the latest innovations and practical applications of AI in trade compliance and classification. We will cover the current AI-powered classification landscape, compare new approaches and methods in the market, and consider actionable tips for navigating and selecting solutions. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$185. For information & registration, please see: <https://contentenablers.com/live-events/webinars/revolutionizing-hs-code-classification-the-future-of-ai-driven-solutions/>.
- Oct. 7 **BENEFITS OF THE U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONE PROGRAM.** Luncheon program sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Foreign Trade Zone and the World Trade Center-Kansas City. Topics include: *High-level overview, including an introduction to the Greater Kansas City FTZ; Financial and supply chain benefits of an FTZ; FTZ Operator perspective; Next steps if you think an FTZ is a good fit for your company.* 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 30 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/benefits-of-the-us-foreign-trade-zone-program-tickets-946614849497>.
- Oct. 8 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Webinar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, will address: *Japanese communication style; Why Japanese tend to be vague/indirect – how to interpret what they mean; Why Japanese don't give a lot of feedback; Overcoming the language barrier; How to confirm whether you've been understood correctly; How decisions are made in Japanese organizations; Why Japanese avoid risk; How to get your ideas accepted by a Japanese organization; How to make meetings with Japanese more effective; How to build strong working relationships with Japanese; How to behave appropriately at meals and other social situations; What to keep in mind if you travel to Japan for business; What most bothers Japanese about the Americans they work with.* 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-2138626424>.
- Oct. 8 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. GENOMIC AND GENETIC TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES IN GREECE, TÜRKIYE, AND ITALY.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service in advance of a May 19-23 Trade Mission, will provide an overview of the markets from in-country industry experts and industry sectoral specialists from the U.S. Embassies. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/558291b1-8776-48b9-9b8b-d8e0e197311b@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Oct. 8 **FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL GROWTH.** Program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association. At this program you will learn about: Exim Financing; EB-5; Tax Credits; and a new SBA Working Capital Pilot Program. Gain a better understanding of these programs and learn how to take advantage of these resources to support international growth in your organization. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. 3:00 – 7:00 p.m., Global Water Center, 247 West Freshwater Way, Milwaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$25; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/financial-solutions-to-support-international-growth-1200393?sourceTypeId=Website>.

- Oct. 9 **REGULATING AND REFORMING DE MINIMIS.** Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, discuss the White House de minimis proposals, its use of executive authorities to address this issue, and proposed legislation. Speakers include: **Ralph Carter**, Staff Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, FedEx; **Kim Glas**, President & CEO, National Council of Textile Organizations; Commissioner, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; **John Pickel**, Senior Director, International Supply Chain Policy, National Foreign Trade Council; **Felicia Pullam**, Executive Director, Office of Trade Relations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; **Ana Swanson** (Moderator), Domestic Correspondent, The New York Times. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. WITA Members – No fee; Non-members - \$10. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/regulating-de-minimis/>.
- Oct. 9 **EXPLORING FRANCE AND EUROPE'S HYDROGEN MARKET AND OPPORTUNITIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss: France's hydrogen strategy and public policies; Status of hydrogen project development in France; Latest developments in hydrogen manufacturing capacity in France; Overview of broader European market for hydrogen; Case study of a U.S. hydrogen company successful in French market; The Hyvolution trade show and how it can help expose U.S. companies to the French market. 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/fb6f237a-c2d7-43ba-aa67-64561204d0fa@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Oct. 9 **INDONESIA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN HEALTHCARE SECTOR.** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Companies interested in supplying the Indonesian public healthcare sector are invited to learn about procurement under the Ministry of Health's centralized programs using the World Bank procurement rules. The Ministry of Health, the World Bank in Indonesia, and a medical devices regulatory consultant will present and hold a Q&A. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/IndonesiaPublicProcurementinHealthcareSectorWebina/>.
- Oct. 10 **SECTION 321 CLEARANCES.** Webinar, sponsored by Braumiller Law Group, will address: *What is Section 321; What is eligible – and not eligible; How do the clearances work; Possible changes; Resources.* 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-llc/Section-321-Clearances?show_live_page=true.
- Oct. 10 **USING FTZs TO MITIGATE ANTICIPATED DUTY INCREASES.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will discuss what FTZs are, how they work, and how they can help your domestic operations reduce their exposure to these and other customs duties. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/using-ftzs-to-mitigate-anticipated-duty-increases-\(1\)](https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/using-ftzs-to-mitigate-anticipated-duty-increases-(1)).
- Oct. 10 **CHINA IN THE HEARTLAND: BUILDING A BALANCED APPROACH.** Hybrid program sponsored by the Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas in partnership with the United States Heartland China Association and the KU Department of Political Science. Speakers include: Dr. **Jack Zhang**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Kansas; **Susan Thornton**, Vice Chair, U.S. Heartland China Association & formerly Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; **Kyle Jaros**, Associate Professor of Global Affairs, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame. 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://doleinstitute.org/event/china-in-the-heartland-building-a-balanced-approach/>.

- Oct. 15 ***CRITICAL MINERALS IN EURASIA SERIES – UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES SESSION 1: ARMENIA, KAZAKHSTAN, & U.S.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is tailored to provide U.S. companies with an overview of the Armenian and Kazakh critical minerals sectors, highlighting immediate equipment and services needs as well as potential areas for collaboration and investment. Topics include: Current and future trends in the critical minerals market in Armenia and Kazakhstan; Opportunities for U.S. companies in mining and distribution within these regions; Best practices for establishing successful partnerships in these countries; Insights into the business and investment climates of each nation. 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/CriticalMineralsSession1/>.
- Oct. 16 ***CRITICAL MINERALS IN EURASIA SERIES – UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES SESSION 2: AZERBAIJAN, UZBEKISTAN, & U.S.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is tailored to provide U.S. companies with an overview of the Armenian and Kazakh critical minerals sectors, highlighting immediate equipment and services needs as well as potential areas for collaboration and investment. Topics include: Current and future trends in the critical minerals market in Armenia and Kazakhstan; Opportunities for U.S. companies in mining and distribution within these regions; Best practices for establishing successful partnerships in these countries; Insights into the business and investment climates of each nation. 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/CriticalMineralsSession2/>.
- Oct. 16 ***EXPORT COMPLIANCE ROADSHOW 2024.*** Program sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Chicago and the Illinois District Export Council. Hear directly from USG regulatory agencies and private sector regulatory experts with the knowledge and tools necessary to help you navigate export opportunities and adhere to critical export regulations. These comprehensive programs will provide an introduction to the many facets of USG export regulations and help companies put a regulatory plan into place to effectively mitigate risks and safeguard your products in international markets. Understanding USG export compliance regulations and putting a proactive export compliance plan in place is critical to mitigating risk. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building - Morrison Conference Center, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fee: \$369. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-commercial-service-chicago-export-compliance-roadshow-2024-tickets-951128861027?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Oct. 16 ***INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE SEMINAR.*** Program, sponsored by the University of South Dakota and South Dakota Trade, will cover navigating Midwest exports in global markets, mastering international negotiations, and exploring international financial instruments and products. Topics include: *Why Exports Matter*; *Foundations of Trade: Business Management & Leadership*; *Foundations of Trade: Enhancing Working Capital and Financial Sophistication*; *Foundations of Trade: Advanced Negotiation Skills*. 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., University of South Dakota – Sioux Falls, 4801 North Career Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/international-business-and-trade-seminar-tickets-1003812820167?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Oct. 16 ***THE NEW EUROPEAN TRADE LANDSCAPE IN THE WAKE OF RECENT EVENTS.*** Summit sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. Program will bring together speakers from a variety of industries and backgrounds to offer their insights into business challenges and opportunities in the current environment. In addition, the event will offer ample networking opportunities with key industry professionals. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 400 East Orchard Street, Itasca, IL. ITCC Members - \$125; Non-members - \$175. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-5608604>.

- Oct. 16 ***REDUCING & 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)).
- Oct. 17 ***MIDWEST AEROSPACE CONFERENCE 2024 (MAC2024).*** Event sponsored by the Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN) with the Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce and IMEC. This is a conference dedicated to aerospace: Be inspired by speakers who will share their insights and vision for the industry; Engage in interactive breakout sessions covering topics such as workforce development, automation, electrification, and cutting-edge technologies in manufacturing; Network with industry leaders, peers, and exhibitors in our exhibit rooms, where you can discover the latest innovations and solutions in aerospace. 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Embassy Suites by Hilton Rockford Riverfront, 416 South Main Street, Rockford, IL. Fee: \$200 (Individual); \$750 (Exhibitor includes two registrations). For information & registration, please see: <https://business.rockfordchamber.com/event-calendar/Details/mac2024-midwest-aerospace-conference-1093680?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Oct. 17 ***UNDERSTANDING NATIONAL SECURITY & COMPLIANCE FOR CRITICAL & EMERGING TECH.*** Hybrid event, sponsored by the South Florida District Export Council, features U.S. government officials discussing what technologies are controlled and why, as well as the penalties for violations and IT and compliance requirements to prevent the unauthorized release of controlled technology. 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$49. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/understanding-national-security-compliance-for-critical-emerging-tech-tickets-984060319907>.
- Oct. 17 ***CRITICAL MINERALS IN EURASIA SERIES – UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES SESSION 3: TÜRKIYE, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, & U.S.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is tailored to provide U.S. companies with an overview of the Armenian and Kazakh critical minerals sectors, highlighting immediate equipment and services needs as well as potential areas for collaboration and investment. Topics include: Current and future trends in the critical minerals market in Armenia and Kazakhstan; Opportunities for U.S. companies in mining and distribution within these regions; Best practices for establishing successful partnerships in these countries; Insights into the business and investment climates of each nation. 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/CriticalMineralsSession3/>.
- Oct. 17 ***THE 2024 US ELECTION: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF US-ASIA TRADE RELATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shir & Associates, will examine how the 2024 election results could reshape US-Asia trade dynamics. **Kyle Freeman**, Partner at Dezan Shira & Associates will explore the likely scenarios under different electoral outcomes, examining the potential policies of former President Trump and Vice President Harris and their impact on trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the US and Asia. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5725330110403457886?source=ref>.

- Oct. 18 ***GLOBAL SUCCESS WITHIN REACH: THE BIGGER PICTURE.*** 9th Annual Global Small Business Forum sponsored by Foley & Lardner & Associated Bank and with partnership support from the: **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**; GlobeTrade; Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global; and others. Speakers include: **Laurel Delaney**, President, GlobeTrade.com; **Lori Novak**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Associated Bank; **Ellen Wheeler**, Partner, Foley & Lardner; **Marc Schulman**, President, Eli's Cheesecake; **Donald J. Lloyd**, Senior Vice President & Manager, Capital Markets – Foreign Exchange, Rate Swaps and Commodity Derivatives, Associated Bank; **Angie Kappel**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Adam Wisniewski**, Founder & CEO, EX3 Labs; **Kirk Samson**, Global Business Consultant & Founder, Samson Atlantic LLC; **Yvette Laugier**, Chairman Emeritus, International Housewares Association Board of Directors; **Amy Mills**, Owner, 17th Street Bar Barbeque; **Tami Lange**, Founder, Save The Girls; **Diamond Young**, Assistant VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Rajiv Khatau**, Founder and Managing Director, LODAAT Pharma. 8:00 – 11:30 a.m., Foley & Lardner, 321 North Clark Street, 30th Floor, Chicago. Fee: \$75; \$600 – ticket & vendor table. For information & registration, please see: <https://globalsmallbusinessforum/>.
- Oct. 21 - ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION (DENMARK & SWEDEN).***
24 Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the objective for this mission is to give U.S. companies an opportunity to provide aerospace and defense equipment, technology, and services to Denmark and Sweden. Participating U.S. firms will 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. The mission will introduce U.S. firms to aerospace and defense stakeholders in the region and assist U.S. companies in developing business in Denmark and Sweden. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/nordic-trade-mission-denmark-sweden>.
- Oct. 22 ***AI HORIZONS: TRANSFORMING INTERNATIONAL TRADE.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the KC Chamber, World Trade Center - Kansas City and the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Leading experts will discuss the latest advancements in AI technology, practical considerations for its deployment in diverse industries, the evolving regulatory environment surrounding AI, and how AI is transforming global trade dynamics. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., KC Chamber Board Room, Union Station, 30 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$20; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://membership.kcchamber.com/events/details/ai-horizons-transforming-international-trade-15247>.
- Oct. 22 ***FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AND ITAR COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, will take a deep dive into the FMS process and how it operates within the larger Arms Export Control Act (AECA) environment, with a focus on how U.S. defense companies can leverage it to suit U.S. government foreign policy objectives and increase top-line revenue. We will examine case studies, provide updates on recent changes to the FMS process, and highlight resources for audience members seeking to learn more. 12:009 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$185. For information & registration, please see: <https://contentenablers.com/live-events/webinars/foreign-military-sales-and-itar-compliance/>.
- Oct. 23 ***NEARSHORING – AND YOU!*** Breakfast roundtable sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chapter with: RSM US LLP; Baker McKenzie; **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Speakers include: **Alberto Villarreal**, Nepanoa – *Developing and Processing Opportunities*; **Haydn Powell**, Applix – *Manufacturing Industry Highlights*; **Roberto Cantu**, Baker McKenzie – *Legal Considerations in New Investments*; **Edgar Lopezlena**, RSM US – *Tax Considerations in New Investments*. 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., RSM, 30 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3300, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations – \$30; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.usmcoocma.org/events>.

- Oct. 24 ***TRADE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will discuss the competing demands on the trade administrative state to both liberalize trade and to restrict it in the name of “economic security” when the executive deems necessary. Panelists will also discuss reforms that Congress could pass to restore balance to the branch’s regulation of foreign commerce. 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. WITA Members – No fee; Non-members - \$10. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/trade-administrative-state/>.
- Oct. 24 ***DISCOVER GLOBAL MARKETS: THE AMERICAS.*** Business development forum sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce. You will have the opportunity to: Gain market insights from U.S. commercial diplomats and industry experts based at U.S. Embassies in the Americas; Participate in one-on-one meetings with U.S. government trade experts. (Register early! First come, first arranged.); Hear from private sector thought leaders about emerging sectors, and regional strategies; Learn about updates to policies and regulations in the region relevant to your market growth. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., First National Bank of Omaha, 1601 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE. Fee: \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/DiscoverGlobalMarketsTheAmericasOmahaNebraska-9884/>.
- Oct. 24 ***EXPANDING YOUR EXPORTS THROUGH EXIM RESOURCES AND SERVICES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Turner Center for Entrepreneurship and Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at Bradley University. Presentation by **Mariel Huasanga**, Regional Director of EXIM Bank, who will provide a deeper dive into the various tools EXIM has available for exporters. She will discuss how to: Protect your business against buyer nonpayment; Extend competitive open account credit terms to international buyers; Unlock cash flow to fulfill sales orders and take on new business abroad; When private-sector lenders are unable or unwilling to provide financing, EXIM fills in the gap for American businesses by equipping them with the financing tools necessary to compete for global sales. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://bradley.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsd-Corj4pE9TJRBKlZpEWmWgKXcZiZ0aU#/registration>.
- Oct. 28 - ***DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (D&C) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SE ASIA***
- Nov. 1 ***(HONG KONG, TAIPEI, HO CHI MIHN).*** Trade Mission, led by the U.S. Commercial Service, will look into D&C subsectors such as safety, sustainable materials, retrofitting and refurbishment, construction robotics, automation, digitalization, Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), recycling, sustainable design and materials, and environmental tech. The mission may include group interactions with government agencies and leading trade associations, and potentially customized one-on-one business appointments with pre-screened potential agents, distributors, partners, and buyers. Networking events may provide introductions to government officials, industry leaders, and senior officials from the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/DesignConstructionMissiontoSEAsia/>.
- Oct. 28 - ***ACE EXPORTS COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar sponsored by the South Florida District Export Council with the U.S. Commercial Service. This virtual program brings together experts from the U.S. Census Bureau, The Bureau of Industry & Security, OFAC and U.S. Customs & Border Protection to provide training on export filing requirements. 11:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$125; discounts available for multiple registrations. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ace-exports-compliance-webinar-tickets-919005298587?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>.

- Oct. 30 ***STRATEGIC CROSS-BORDER TRADE: NAVIGATING CUSTOMS REGULATIONS, LEGAL DIFFERENCES FOR U.S. COMPANIES OPERATING IN CANADA, AND KEY TAX AND TRANSFER PRICING CONSIDERATIONS.*** Seminar sponsored by: Frontier Supply Chain Solutions; Barnes & Thornburg; BDO; Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. Discover from industry experts how to navigate and use strategies to access the Canadian market, protect your Intellectual Property, and ensure compliance with Export Controls – key factors that can significantly enhance your company's efficiency and profitability. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel, 1551 Thoreau Drive North, Schaumburg, IL. Fee: \$70. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/strategic-cross-border-trade-event-registration-1007562656027>.
- Nov. 5 ***IMMEX 3.0 - REAL WORLD SCENARIOS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association, will share different real-world scenarios regarding an IMMEX: *Applying, administering and maintaining an IMMEX program; Benefits vs obligations; Main obligations and associated risks; Best practices; Internal assessment audits; PROSEC, rule 8; Permanent establishment; Virtual transfers; Cancellation and suspension.* 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. Fee: #200. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/dbacfbe2-9290-4634-808f-df070efe945f/summary>.
- Nov. 12 - 20 ***INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA.*** Executive-led mission organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Mission aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between mission delegates and local stakeholders in smart city development, digital ecosystems, and sustainable urban infrastructure. The mission will provide delegates with a comprehensive understanding of the urban infrastructure landscape in the Philippines and Indonesia, fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development opportunities. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/InnovativeTechnologiesforUrbanInfrastructureDevelo/hotsite.php>.
- Nov. 12 ***2024 ELECTION INSIGHTS: IMPACT ON TRADE.*** Program and reception sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association and FTI Consulting. Join industry leaders, policy experts, and trade practitioners for an insightful, nonpartisan, event that delves into the latest updates from the 2024 election and their potential impacts on the US trade landscape. 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., WCTC – Pewaukee Campus, Anthony J. Natalizio Center, Building S, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/2024-election-insights-impact-on-trade-1196232?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Nov. 13 ***EMERGING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA.*** Special Luncheon Presentation and Executive Briefing sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Elena V. Son**, Executive Director, American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce; US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council; US-Tajikistan Business Council; US-Afghanistan Business Initiative. Ms. Son will share her perspective on the key sectors where American companies have the most potential to invest in these countries, and what advantages Central Asia offers to foreign investors. Additionally, as economic ties between the U.S. and Central Asia strengthen, she will discuss what initiatives or frameworks are in place or need to be ratified to support American businesses entering these markets. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$55; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emerging-business-opportunities-in-central-asia-tickets-1022979407947>.
- Nov. 14 ***BUILDING THE COMPANY'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Virginia/DC District Export Council and Morgan Lewis, will discuss the key elements of an export compliance program. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/b07d9fae-6fe9-4c73-83a8-3d94513c8f3e/summary?session=cc94eec5-bbd3-4d85-afa8-45b4bff8b7cf>.

- Nov. 17 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE (GDEI) TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN***
22 ***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 (**Deadline: September 27**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissionCaribbeanRegion/>.
- Nov. 17 - ***CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE PREPARATION WORKSHOP APRIL 2025 EXAMINATION.***
Apr. 6 Nationwide Remote Platform Cloud Based-Virtual Online Training sponsored by The World Academy in association with the Alston Group. This course will assist you in the development of test taking reference familiarization, time management, Customs Regulations reference and Harmonized Tariff Schedule determination that will result in positive results in the development of each participant test taking ability towards a passing grade. Our instruction is detailed and consists of: Live lectures- Remote platform; Five-month instruction and help desk assistance; Group format with One-on-one tutorship options and Customs Examination preparation skills for positive results. Classes are held on alternate Sundays, beginning November 17, from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$1,895 (does not include required class materials). For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course>.
- Nov. 19 ***INCREASE YOUR SPEED AND AGILITY WITH ITAR EXEMPTIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, will provide participants with practical strategies and expert guidance to streamline compliance processes, accelerate approvals, and enhance operational efficiency while staying fully compliant with ITAR requirements. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$185. For information & registration, please see: <https://contentenablers.com/live-events/webinars/increase-your-speed-and-agility-with-itar-exemptions/>.
- Nov. 19 ***FORCED LABOR SUPPLY CHAIN ASSESSMENT, AFFIRMATION AND SUPPLIER VERIFICATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by The World Academy, will provide updated strategies, explanations, and recommendations for your company’s consideration to meet the demand for import evidence of implementation. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$95. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/product-page/forced-labor-supply-chain-assessment-affirmation-and-supplier-verifications>.
- Nov. 30 - ***THE ILLINOIS DISTRICT EXPORT COUNCIL (IL DEC) DELEGATE TRIP TO THE MENA REGION.***
Dec. 18 The Executive Committee of the IL DEC has been putting together a delegation to go to Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, with an add on to go to Israel and back to Qatar. We are looking for 30 participants to go with the Delegation. The trip will be focused on building business, match making and building long-lasting relationships for future cooperation. Key objectives: Mega Infrastructure Projects in Transportation (Rail, Airports, etc.); Construction Alliances / Joint Ventures with Illinois Companies/Organizations; Consumer Goods Opportunities in Beverages, Spirits, and Other Products; The Jordan Valley Gateway Project Opportunities with U.S. Support and Companies for Value Creation; Attending the Department of Commerce, ITA, Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) Trade Mission to Saudi Arabia; Match-Making and business development collaboration in each focus country. For information & registration, please see: <https://illinoisdec.com/event/the-il-dec-delegate-trip-to-the-mena-region/>.

- Dec. 2 - **2024 U.S. TRADE MISSION TO HONG KONG.** Mission organized by IBS Global Consulting and the
6 Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is being held in conjunction with the 25th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. With a curated series of sessions throughout the week, participating in the Trade Mission allows U.S. companies to connect with potential business partners and customers in Hong Kong and Mainland China. It is an opportunity to learn first-hand about the business landscape, business practices, and opportunities in Hong Kong through briefings and roundtable discussions with industry and government leaders to gain invaluable market and industry insights to help propel your global expansion. Delegates will also attend a VIP welcome reception and participate in prearranged B2B meetings. For information, please see: <https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-26197955/documents/cd9ee7c482f742fda24c62bb7c698b7d/2024%20U.S.%20Trade%20Mission%20to%20Hong%20Kong%20Delegate%20Information%20Packet.pdf>.
- Dec. 4 **U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES MARKET INTELLIGENCE WEBINAR SERIES: INDIA.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the environmental technology market in India. 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/envirotechtopmarketindia/>.
- Dec. 8 - **GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE TRADE MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA.** Led by the U.S.
9 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>.
- Mar. 2 - **GDEI TRADE MISSION TO INDIA, SINGAPORE, AND HONG KONG.** Organized by the U.S.
8 Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, this Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) is focused on expanding export opportunities for U.S. businesses that are founded, led, operated, or owned by members of underserved communities from industries with growing potential in India, Singapore, and Hong Kong, but is open to all export-ready U.S. companies. The mission is horizontal, with various sectors represented, based on best prospects for U.S. companies in the region, such as: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector and subsectors; Cybersecurity; Smart City Infrastructure and Technology Solutions; Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing; Finance and FinTech; Healthcare & Biotechnology; Clean Energy; Environmental Technology; and Critical and Emerging Technologies. For information & an application (deadline: **December 4**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissiontoIndiaSingaporeandHongKong/>.
- Apr. 6 - **SOUTH KOREA TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP) is
11 leading a multi-sector trade mission to Seoul, South Korea. The goal of this mission is 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 South Korea Trade Office. For information & registration (deadline: **January 22**), please see: <https://gsgp.org/media/k5sdhmma/gsgp-south-korea-trade-mission-flyer.pdf>.

May 19 - ***GENOMIC AND GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO GREECE, TÜRKIYE AND ITALY.***

23 Mission, organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, is open to eligible U.S. firms working on genomic and genetic technologies. Best prospects include companies engaged in: Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) R&D and test kit development; Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS); Whole Exome Sequencing (WES); Bioinformatics; Proteomics; RNA Therapeutics; Molecular Cytogenetics; Molecular Genetics; Cancer Genetics; Pharmacogenetics; Rare Diseases; Pre-natal Genetic Disorders; and Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) for In-Vitro Fertilization. Mission participants will have the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the three markets for their products, through hosted networking events and roundtable discussions with key government and industry leaders. Participants will also develop business prospects through vetted business-to-business matchmaking meetings and visits to leading research institutes and genetics labs. For information & an application, please see:
<https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GenomicandGeneticTechnologiesTradeMissiontoGreeceT/>.

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.