

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

October 28, 2024

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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](http://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](mailto: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.**

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**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*

- Nov. 13 ***EMERGING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA & SBA FINANCE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST.*** 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. **Keith Schlegel**, Export Finance Manager, Office of International Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration will be on hand to outline SBA financing programs. 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>.
- Dec. 11 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!*** Twentieth Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with sponsorship support from: **The Huntington National Bank; Barnes, Richardson & Colburn; IDEAL Agriculture & Marine Insurance; Nexdigm; Supply Chain Solutions; The Anderson Law Firm; Boomerang Carnets; LL.M. Law Group; Chicago Marriott Suites O'Hare**, and with support from: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Chapter. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots.** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - \$40; Non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-put-a-little-fa-la-la-la-la-in-your-season-tickets-1058944755269>.

## Of Note:

### **2024 Reshoring and Nearshoring Report Finds “Made in America, For America” a Lasting Trend:**

Kearney’s latest [Reshoring Index Report](#) focuses primarily on import and export flows between the US and 14 Asian low-cost countries and regions (LCCRs), including mainland China, as well as import trends with Canada and Mexico. The Index shows that American, Canadian, and Mexican nearshored and reshored industrial production efforts continue to take market share away from Asian manufacturers, including mainland China.

**Sustainable Trade Index 2024:** The Hinrich-IMD [Sustainable Trade Index](#) (STI) evaluates the ability of 30 global trading economies to engage sustainably in trade using 72 economic, societal, and environmental indicators. It recognizes the profound interconnectedness of various global challenges and underscores the importance of building resilience in economic, societal, and environmental capital and resources.

**BIS Issues New Rule and Proposed Rule to Amend U.S. Space-Related Controls:** Barnes Richardson’s *Global Trade Law* [reports](#) the Bureau of Industry & Security’s recent announcement of new rules aimed at furthering U.S. innovation and technology leadership while protecting national security and foreign policy interests. These new rules are intended to make it easier for U.S. companies to sell satellites, launch vehicles, and other space-related technologies to close international partners.

**Assessing the Most Improved Places for Doing Business:** The Economist Intelligence Unit’s business environment rankings assess 91 indicators to give a comprehensive measure of the attractiveness of doing business in 82 countries and territories. Vietnam leads for the most improved business environment over the past 20 years, followed by Serbia and Romania, with countries in the Middle East and North Africa strongly benefiting from increased investment funding, economic growth and business confidence. Download the [summary report](#) for two decades worth of data and insights on markets to watch over the next five years.

**New State Fact Sheets Reveal How “Trade Means Growth for America”:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has released fact sheets showing the benefits of international trade and investment for all 50 states. The [fact sheets](#) show state jobs supported by trade, top export markets and industries, and additional details on the benefits of trade agreements. They also trace the footprint of foreign direct investment in the United States.

**Section 301 Tariff Exclusions for Machinery:** On October 15 the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative opened a [docket](#) for requests to temporarily exclude specific machinery used in domestic manufacturing and classified under 312 HTSUS subheadings from the Section 301 tariffs against imports from China. All such requests must be submitted no later than March 31, 2025.

**Global Goods Trade on Track for Gradual Recovery despite Lingering Downside Risks:** Global goods trade is projected to post a 2.7% increase in 2024, up slightly from the previous estimate of 2.6%, WTO economists said in an updated [forecast](#) on October 10. The volume of world merchandise trade is likely to increase by 3.0% in 2025; however, rising geopolitical tensions and increased economic policy uncertainty continue to pose substantial downside risks to the forecast. Services trade has a more favorable outlook compared to goods according to leading indicators.

**U.S. Department of Commerce Accepting Applications for Membership on the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board:** The U.S. Department of Commerce is currently seeking applications for individuals to serve on the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board ([TTAB](#)), which advises the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to the travel and tourism industry in the United States. The Secretary of Commerce will be appointing up to 32 members from a variety of sectors representing the industry. [Applications](#) are due by **November 1**.

**Shifting Sands: How China is Outpacing the USA in the MENA Region:** [White Paper](#), authored by Fawaz Anwar Almudhaf, Associate Director, National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce, notes that: *China is making strategic inroads into the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. While the USA struggles to keep the peace in the region, China is forging ahead with economic programs and incentives that are very attractive to Middle Eastern governments and businesses alike.*

**State of Illinois to Assist Shanghai Delegation for Pack Expo:** The Shanghai Packaging Technology Association will visit Chicago November 4. They would like to visit local companies and business associations to discuss the future communication in packaging business, involved in food, cosmetics or pharm sectors. To schedule an appointment, please reach out to Mary Ma, Managing Director, State of Illinois China Office: [Maryma@ilchinaoffice.com](mailto:Maryma@ilchinaoffice.com).

**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.

**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.”

**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.

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**Oct. 28 - *DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (D&C) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SE ASIA***

**Nov. 1 (*HONG KONG, TAIPEI, HO CHI MINH*).** 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](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. 28 **BASIC EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide a comprehensive review of the most commonly used documents and terms in international trade. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/stywq5x>.
- Oct. 29 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM.** 2024 Symposium (hybrid) sponsored by the Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance, University of Nebraska. Topics include: *U.S. Politics and the Road ahead for the WTO; Looking ahead to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement Six Year Review; New Dynamics of U.S. Trade Policymaking & Negotiations; The Indo-Pacific: Shifts in Supply Chains & Regional Integration; The Future of Trade in an Era of Disruption.* 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CDT, Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC), 2021 Transformation Drive, Lincoln, NE. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-symposium-opportunities-for-leadership-in-the-global-trading-system-tickets-991051771527>.
- Oct. 29 **BRAZIL: FREIGHT RAIL MODERNIZATION TECHNOLOGIES BUSINESS BRIEFING.** The U.S. Trade & Development Agency (USTDA) will host a business briefing for U.S. companies to learn about upcoming opportunities in Brazil’s freight rail sector. Delegates representing key freight rail organizations will present on their modernization projects and initiatives and discuss their needs for U.S. technologies and equipment. The event will include presentations by decision-makers from Brazil’s leading rail organizations, a networking lunch and an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the delegates. 9:00 a.m., Royal Sonesta Chicago Downtown, 71 East Wacker Drive, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.tuataragroup.com/brazilianfreightrailreversetrademissionandbriefing>.
- Oct. 29 **GROWTH STRATEGIES FOR U.S. MANUFACTURERS: RESOURCES AND BEST PRACTICES IN GROWING SALES VIA GLOBAL MARKET ENGAGEMENT.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service with EXIM, SBA, Census and MEP, will discuss the tools and strategies that can take U.S. manufacturers to next level sales success. 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4728041/7A7C77C3F1D361503B224BF612788CA1?partnerref=USCOMM>.
- Oct. 29 **USMCA RENEWAL SEASON.** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will discuss top tips on reviewing and renewing your USMCA certificate: The number one thing to consider before you sign the certificate; What are your responsibilities; Common mistakes and frequently asked questions. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://info.nderinger.com/usmca-webinar-reg?utm\\_campaign=Webinars%202023&utm\\_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8\\_7\\_vobSvQ528jXRnKeg4yvVmADqASSHft-WL8bm1-p-2yKLEcwKhsKAvtTzxGlFxsREJTpguQ32FaieTykvV26xsMdQ&hsmi=330647540&utm\\_content=330647538&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://info.nderinger.com/usmca-webinar-reg?utm_campaign=Webinars%202023&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8_7_vobSvQ528jXRnKeg4yvVmADqASSHft-WL8bm1-p-2yKLEcwKhsKAvtTzxGlFxsREJTpguQ32FaieTykvV26xsMdQ&hsmi=330647540&utm_content=330647538&utm_source=hs_email).
- Oct. 29 **AUSTRALIA: AEROSPACE & DEFENSE.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, discusses Australia’s ambitious defense expansion plan underway with a ten-year acquisition plan of the order of US\$ 220 billion augmented by a strategic refocus on naval shipbuilding, GWE0 and high-tech engagement with the U.S. and the U.K. including the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines. 5:00 – 6:15 CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AustraliaDefenseWebinar2024-9884-1727791146/purchase.php>.

- 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 & **CANCELED** Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. Discover from **CANCELED** 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>.
- Oct. 30 ***ASIA MANUFACTURING INDEX 2025 - COUNTRY RANKINGS FOR SUPPLY CHAIN DECISIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, marks the official launch of the Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2025. The index provides a comprehensive analysis of 11 economies, offering crucial insights into the evolving business environment, cost structures, and more. **Kyle Freeman**, Partner, Dezan Shira & Associates, will lead a conversation with **Marco Foerster**, Head of ASEAN Advisory and Lead Author of the report to unpack the key findings and strategic implications of the rankings. Attendees will also hear from **Pritesh Samuel**, Head of Business Intelligence, who will demonstrate how to leverage the AMI's insights for supply chain optimization and location decision-making. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2021541630439630943?source=other&\\_cldee=tteMi3yBvK6yMIauJQXGockLKy8QKvFY5BrG2x04RnmbN5YS446v1jb4Sgsc8eZT&recipientid=lead-e5937e5c404ae911a993000d3aa306f0-db068752ccb4e0785e96e328803fad2&utm\\_source=ClickDimensions&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Intl.%20N.%20America%20Desk%202024&esid=b322cc9a-6b75-ef11-a670-0022485a0b11](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2021541630439630943?source=other&_cldee=tteMi3yBvK6yMIauJQXGockLKy8QKvFY5BrG2x04RnmbN5YS446v1jb4Sgsc8eZT&recipientid=lead-e5937e5c404ae911a993000d3aa306f0-db068752ccb4e0785e96e328803fad2&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Intl.%20N.%20America%20Desk%202024&esid=b322cc9a-6b75-ef11-a670-0022485a0b11).
- Oct. 30 ***STRATEGIC SOURCING FOR DUTY FREE TEXTILES, APPAREL, BAGS & FOOTWEAR INTO THE U.S.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review information that can assist your company in strategically setting up sourcing options to eliminate significant duties based on: Country of production; Type of product; Specific input materials. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/strategic-sourcing-for-duty-free-textiles-apparel-bags-footwear-into-the-u-s>.
- Oct. 30 ***THE CASE FOR A NEW INDIA 2047: ECONOMIC REALITY AND AMBITION.*** Reception and program sponsored by the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations and the UW-Madison Center for South Asia in collaboration with the Madison International Trade Association. Presentation by **Akar Patel**, human rights activist, journalist and author of multiple books focusing on politics, society, and culture in India. 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., The Concourse Hotel (Assembly Room, Main Floor), 1 West Dayton, Madison, WI. Fee: \$43. For information & registration, please see: <https://mcfr.wildapricot.org/event-5811422>.
- Oct. 31 ***THE FUTURE OF U.S.-EU TRADE AND INVESTMENT.*** Hybrid event sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association. An armchair discussion with the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, **Jovita Neliupšienė**, and Ambassador **Susan Schwab**, the former United States Trade Representative. The Ambassadors will discuss the trade policy priorities of the new European Commission as it prepares to take office later this year, and the European Union's trade and investment footprint in the United States. Following the discussion between the Ambassadors, an expert panel will discuss trade relations between the U.S. and EU, and the possibility for deepening ties between the world's first and third largest economies. 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdonBB3xrwpuYtvmW7nZU4nedEwzNgLMS4W1xO07PbKANSBhQ/viewform>.

- Oct. 31 ***U.S. INVESTMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE.*** Hybrid program, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, presents the findings of a report by the same name accompanied by two panels to discuss the state of U.S.-Philippine economic ties and explore the impacts of investment on different sectors, including IT-BPM, agriculture, semiconductor manufacturing, critical minerals, renewable energy, defense manufacturing, and shipping and logistics. 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/us-investment-philippines-more-meets-eye>.
- Oct. 31 ***DOING BUSINESS IN BRAZIL.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss Brazil's market potential and business opportunities in advance of the April 7-9 Trade Winds – The Americas in São Paulo, Brazil. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/TradeWindsTheAmericas-WebinarSeries/>.
- Oct. 31 ***EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING YOUR DRAWBACK PROGRAM: STREAMLINE YOUR PROCESS AND INCREASE YOUR RECOVERIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, will provide practical guidance on optimizing your duty drawback program to maximize refunds and ensure compliance. Key topics include: Program assessment and optimization; Navigating complex drawback scenarios; Maximizing drawback recoveries. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$185. For information & registration, please see: <https://contentenablers.com/live-events/webinars/effective-strategies-for-improving-your-drawback-program/>.
- Oct. 31 ***U.S. CLEAN ENERGY MARKET LANDSCAPE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide participants with valuable insights into public and private investments in the manufacturing and deployment of climate technologies across the United States. We will explore current trends in foreign direct investment and projections for renewable electricity demand, along with an overview of financing and available loans for clean energy projects. Participants will gain an enhanced understanding of the industry, financial landscape, and policy developments driving the U.S. renewable energy market. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/USCleanEnergyMarketLandscape-9884-1727983513/>.
- Oct. 31 ***TRICK OR TREAT? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR DE MINIMIS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will address your fears and help you understand what is at stake: What can traders expect de minimis to look like in the future and what supply chain adjustments may be necessary? 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/trick-or-treat-what-s-in-store-for-de-minimis>.
- Nov. 4 - 6 ***2024 AMCHAM MONGOLIA CERTIFIED TRADE MISSION.*** The American Chamber of Commerce in Mongolia (AmCham), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia, is organizing a Certified Trade Mission to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, focused on U.S. agricultural goods and services. The mission will focus on helping U.S. companies active in the agricultural and livestock equipment, processing, and related services seeking new export opportunities in the Mongolian market. The mission will provide market information and link participants with potential partners and trade leads. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/2024-9884-1722538552/>.
- Nov. 4 ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE: VIETNAM.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide you with in-depth insights on current market opportunities, especially in key fields such as Naval and Air Defense, Cybersecurity and Electronic Warfare, Missile Defense, and Artillery. 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/VietnamDefenseWebinar2024-9884-1727879329/purchase.php>.
- Nov. 5 ***CHICAGO RIVER VIP NETWORKING CRUISE.*** Event, sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club, features presentations by leading maritime industry figures. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., West Dock; 400 North Michigan Avenue Chicago in between the Wrigley Building and Trump International Hotel & Tower. Members - \$55; Non-members - \$95. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-river-vip-networking-cruise-tickets-1007777618987>.

- 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.cvent.com/event/dbacfbe2-9290-4634-808f-df070efe945f/summary>.
- Nov. 6 ***THE ACCIDENTAL ENTREPRENEUR.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Charmaine James**, Founder and Managing Partner, Locsanity. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2024/10/02/the-accidental-entrepreneur-with-charmaine-james/?mc\\_cid=6df6a47693&mc\\_eid=6499c7d108](https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2024/10/02/the-accidental-entrepreneur-with-charmaine-james/?mc_cid=6df6a47693&mc_eid=6499c7d108).
- Nov. 6 ***USING CUSTOMS LAWS TO BOOST YOUR BOTTOM LINE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, provides a basic roadmap for importers to evaluate their customs transactions and supply chain operations to help identify current savings opportunities and set the groundwork for future savings. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/using-customs-laws-to-boost-your-bottom-line>.
- Nov. 7 ***CUSTOMS RULINGS REQUESTS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Braumiller Law Group, will discuss binding ruling requests: Why ask for a ruling; What qualifies for a regular ruling request; Submitting a ruling request; Receiving a response; Appealing a ruling decision; Internal Advice Requests; Protest Review Decisions; CROSS search engine. 11:30 a.m. CST. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-llc/Customs-Rulings-Requests?show\\_live\\_page=true](https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-llc/Customs-Rulings-Requests?show_live_page=true).
- Nov. 7 ***CAPTURING MEXICO'S GROWING DEMAND FOR TECHNOLOGY IN MANUFACTURING SECTOR: IS THE MARKET RIGHT FOR YOU.*** Webinar sponsored by the Washington State Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Association for Advancing Automation (A3), GO-Biz International Affairs & Trade California, and EXIM Bank, in collaboration with the Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington. Learn: How to capitalize on the growing demand in Mexico's manufacturing sector; Explore EXPO Manufactura, a trade show for advanced manufacturing in Mexico; Learn what support is available for U.S. companies interested in Mexico's advanced manufacturing market. 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OE2qTFKKRIOCavVd-ueqzA#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OE2qTFKKRIOCavVd-ueqzA#/registration).
- Nov. 7 ***MEXICO AT A CROSSROADS: TRADE, FOREIGN POLICY AND RULE OF LAW IN A SHEINBAUM PRESIDENCY.*** Reception and program sponsored by the: Madison Committee on Foreign Relations; UW-Madison Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program; and the Wisconsin School of Business - International Business Program in collaboration with the Madison International Trade Association. Presentation by **Carolina Millan**, Bureau Chief, Bloomberg News Mexico City Office. 5:15 – 7:15 p.m., Skyview Room, Fluno Center, 601 University Avenue, Madison, WI. Fee: \$43. For information & registration, please see: <https://mcfri.wildapricot.org/event-5811688>.
- Nov. 8 ***NETWORKING LUNCHEON WITH DELIBERATE BREAKTHROUGHS COACHING & CONSULTING.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the Dutch American Chamber of Commerce and Deliberate Breakthroughs. Experience firsthand how Management Drives can predict and optimize how teams and individuals utilize their skills. The software is used by Ahold, IKEA, and Cannondale. This event promises to deliver personal insights that can propel your organization to new heights. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Sofitel Chicago Magnificent Mile, 20 East Chestnut Street, Chicago. Fee: \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/networking-luncheon-with-deliberate-breakthroughs-coaching-consulting-tickets-1048424926177?aff=oddtcreator>.

- Nov. 12 - ***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 ***IS MEXICO AN OPTION FOR MOVING YOUR U.S. OPERATIONS?*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will feature the real-life reasons and advantages some companies are choosing Mexico versus expanding in the USA. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2150664977944953691>.
- 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 & SBA FINANCE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST.*** 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. **Keith Schlegel**, Export Finance Manager, Office of International Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration will be on hand to outline SBA financing programs. 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. 13 ***CBP RISK ANALYSIS AND SURVEY ASSESSMENT – THE CBP AUDIT TRANSFORMATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the RASA process, the primary risk areas currently being targeted for RASA consideration, and how importers can better prepare to undergo a RASA or audit. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/cbp-risk-analysis-and-survey-assessment-the-cbp-audit-transformation>.
- Nov. 14 ***SETTING UP YOUR FACTORY IN MEXICO: OPERATING STRUCTURES.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will present the pluses & minuses of structure options, including relative costs, how to minimize the costs, set-up time guidelines, and where in Mexico should you consider locating. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3954705173893515613>.
- 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.cvent.com/event/b07d9fae-6fe9-4c73-83a8-3d94513c8f3e/summary?session=cc94eec5-bbd3-4d85-afa8-45b4bff8b7cf>.



- Nov. 14 ***SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY TRANSITION & SECURITY: MARKET BRIEFING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide insights into market trends and specific opportunities while discussing ITA's upcoming trade mission (March 17-21), which will support companies in establishing valuable industry contacts and developing market entry or expansion strategies. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/SEEEnergyWebinar2/>.
- Nov. 17 - 22 ***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 (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. 20 ***REVEALING COUNTRY FEASIBILITY STUDIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will examine how such a feasibility study examines a company's situation in China, and how landed costs, delivery & quality might compare to products imported from more business-friendly countries. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3395993837797311830>.

- Nov. 21 ***DOING BUSINESS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the region’s market potential and business opportunities in advance of the April 7-9 “Trade Winds – The Americas” in São Paulo, Brazil. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/TradeWindsTheAmericas-WebinarSeries/>.
- 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. 3 ***COMMERCIAL & OPERATIONAL DIAGNOSIS OF CHINA OPERATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will help you understand the numbers behind China operations, and how the insights we’ll share can address avoidable challenges that your China team is now facing. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4261693218415139160>.
- Dec. 3 ***WHAT HAPPENED AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association and Braumiller Law Group, will provide a retrospective on compliance changes in 2024 and what may lie ahead. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CST. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/5cb3b40a-9dfe-4539-b527-2120f446498a/summary>.
- 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. 5 ***METAL-INDUSTRY SOURCING & SUPPLY CHAIN IN MEXICO.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will explain how to avoid pitfalls, and will discuss sourcing and establishing a successful business relationship with manufacturing partners in Mexico. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5397736120024013663>.

- 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>.
- Dec. 11 ***GLOBAL MANUFACTURING & SUPPLY CHAIN FOOTPRINT ANALYSIS & IMPLEMENTATION***. Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will explore the critical considerations for planning and executing significant changes to global footprints and share experiences assisting companies that are re-visiting the Why, Where and How of producing and distributing their products. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5190910286257970015>.
- Dec. 11 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!*** Twentieth Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with sponsorship support from: **The Huntington National Bank; Barnes, Richardson & Colburn; IDEAL Agriculture & Marine Insurance; Nexdigm; Supply Chain Solutions; The Anderson Law Firm; Boomerang Carnets; LL.M. Law Group; Chicago Marriott Suites O’Hare**, and with support from: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Chapter. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago’s international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots.** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - \$40; Non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-put-a-little-fa-la-la-la-la-in-your-season-tickets-1058944755269>.
- Dec. 19 ***DOING BUSINESS IN COLOMBIA***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss Colombia’s market potential and business opportunities in advance of the April 7-9 Trade Winds – The Americas in São Paulo, Brazil. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/TradeWindsTheAmericas-WebinarSeries/>.
- Mar. 2 - ***GDEI TRADE MISSION TO INDIA, SINGAPORE, AND HONG KONG***. Organized by the U.S. 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/>.

- Mar. 17 - ***SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY TRANSITION & SECURITY: TRADE MISSION (BULGARIA, ROMANIA, SERBIA)***. Led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe and Eurasia **David De Falco**, this trade mission will connect U.S. companies with potential partners and customers in Southeast Europe, where governments are investing in clean energy to achieve climate neutrality and enhance energy security. Participants will gain insights into market trends, establish valuable industry contacts, and develop market-entry or expansion strategies. The program includes tailored business appointments, meetings with industry leaders and government officials, and networking opportunities, all supported by U.S. Commercial Service teams. For information & an application, please see: <https://app.inevent.com/en/TradeGov/SEEEnergyTM/>.
- Apr. 6 - ***SOUTH KOREA TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP) is 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***. 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/>.
- Sep. 21 - ***ADVANCED MANUFACTURING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO TÜRKIYE AND POLAND***. Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this business development mission is to expand opportunities for U.S. companies in advanced manufacturing markets in Türkiye and Poland, with a focus on digital technologies and services, industrial automation, and precision machinery. The mission's primary goal will be to increase U.S. exports to each market by raising brand awareness of U.S. technology solutions in advanced manufacturing and identifying opportunities for commercial collaboration. The mission will help participating firms and trade associations gain market insights, make industry contacts, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects and initiatives in the target markets. The mission is for U.S. firms and organizations that play a part in the Advanced Manufacturing industry, especially those with products in the following categories: Digital Technologies and Services; Industrial Automation; Precision Machinery. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/advanced-manufacturing-business-development-mission-turkiye-and-poland>.

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## 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](mailto:info@itagc.org); or visit: [www.itagc.org](http://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](http://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.