

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

December 2, 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

- 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; Taiwan Trade Center Chicago; Chicago Marriott Suites O'Hare**, and with support from: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association; Swiss-American Business Council; 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:

WTO-ITC Initiative for Women Receives Record-high Pledge: The WTO and the International Trade Centre on have welcomed the [donation pledge](#) of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Legacy Fund™ for the Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund, a global program to help women tap into opportunities in international trade and the digital economy through grants and technical assistance. The Legacy Fund has pledged up to US\$ 16.6 million to the WEIDE Fund, with an initial deposit of US\$ 5 million. This marks one of the largest pledges ever made to a WTO fund.

ASCM Chapter at NEIU Seeks Opportunities for Factory Site Visits: The Association for Supply Chain Management at Northeastern Illinois University is looking for opportunities to make student site visits to local factories. For information, please contact Susanne Pawlikowski (S-Pawlikowski-Sosa@neiu.edu).

New Report Examines How Artificial Intelligence May Shape Future of International Trade: A new [report](#) published November 21 by the WTO Secretariat discusses the potential impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on world trade. The report examines key trade-related policy considerations raised by this technology and discusses the critical role of the WTO in facilitating AI-related trade, ensuring trustworthy AI, and promoting global regulatory convergence.

Tariff Act of 1930: The Progressive Policy Institute’s Ed Gresser reminds us of the effects of Smoot-Hawley and offers three [perspectives](#) on the 2023 U.S. \$3 trillion export sector: Exporters, he writes, are the “cannon fodder” of trade wars – the unwitting front-line conscripts who lose sales, output, and jobs first when the targets retaliate. Cautiously unsealing statistics buried for a century in the 1936 edition of the Almanac of Statistical Extracts, here’s how they fared after the U.S. government’s last such venture, the “Tariff Act of 1930”:

1929	\$5.24 billion
1930	\$3.85 billion
1931	\$2.42 billion
1932	\$1.61 billion

Latin America: The World’s Copper Stronghold: Copper is a vital input for many of the technologies required for the modern economy. While Latin America mines 46% of global copper, China has secured most of this critical offtake. This new [report](#) from the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) explores how existing U.S. policy frameworks and financial instruments can be leveraged to strengthen hemispheric mineral partnerships and secure copper supply chains closer to home.

Environmental Technologies Trade Dashboard: This new [data visualization tool](#), recently released by the U.S. International Trade Administration, provides annual U.S. country-level trade data for the environmental technologies industry, covering the following sectors: Air pollution monitoring and control; Monitoring and instrumentation; Waste management and recycling; Water and wastewater treatment. The tool presents annual export data for 126 10-digit Harmonized System (HS) Schedule B codes and annual import data for 67 6-digit HS import codes, which serve as a proxy for the environmental technologies sector as a whole.

Cybersecurity Resources for Manufacturers: The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) offers useful [links](#) for manufacturers who increasingly rely on data, information, and technologies to run their operations. Defending these assets from disclosure, modification, disruption, or improper use is a challenging but critical aspect of operating a business. With competing priorities and limited resources, manufacturers need guidance, solutions, and training that is practical, actionable, cost effective, and ultimately helps them manage their cybersecurity and privacy risks.

Congratulations, John Stoesser (IDEAL Agriculture & Marine Insurance): ITA/GC Director and 30-year member **John Stoesser** has been awarded the prestigious 2024 Professional Insurance Agents Western Alliance Montana Company Person of the Year. In part, his citation reads: *Each year PIA members benefit from the contributions of time, money and expertise that come from our insurance company partners. In recognition of those contributions, the PIA honors one individual whose active involvement with PIA helps drive their company to support our efforts with our members...we cannot think of a more deserving person for this award. Congratulations, John!*

The State of Maritime Supply-Chain Threats: Maritime supply chains remain the backbone of the global economy. Eighty percent of global trade by volume, and over seventy percent by value, is transported by sea. Maritime supply chain security is therefore paramount to prosperity worldwide, which means that monitoring threats is critical. This [State of Global Maritime Supply Chains](#) primer, published recently by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, aims to identify and assess current and potential key threats to seaborne trade.

India Charts its IMEC Path to Global Trade Influence: In 2023, India, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union agreed to establish the India–Middle East Economic Corridor ([IMEC](#)) to enhance global trade and counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative. The IMEC aims to connect a combined GDP of US\$47 trillion with a comprehensive infrastructure network and focuses on high-efficiency trade routes, renewable energy, digital infrastructure and improved international communication networks.

EXIM Announces Launch of U.S. States & Territories Guides: The Export-Import Bank of the United States has announced state export credit insurance guides highlighting the positive impact exporting can have on state economies. The [guides](#) cover all 50 states and five American territories, featuring the top export markets, industries and goods exported among other data points, demonstrating the export opportunities that currently exist in each area. The guides outline the financing tools EXIM has available to small businesses looking to export and the ways they can be utilized to enhance and secure their exporting capabilities.

EU Investments in China Soar to New Quarterly Record of US\$3.9 billion: Despite calls by European Union political leaders to “de-risk” economic ties with China, EU businesses’ [greenfield investments there surged](#) to record levels in the second quarter of 2024, led by German carmakers reports the *South China Morning Post*. This was the highest quarterly level on record and well above the average quarterly EU investment of €1.8 billion since 2022. German companies accounted for 57 per cent of the total EU greenfield investment in China over the first half of the year.

Boomerang carnets® UK Releases Film on the Benefits of ATA Carnets: Boomerang carnets® UK, in collaboration with ITN Business, proudly announces the premiere of its film as part of the ITN Business program *Transforming Logistics: Precision and Purpose*. The program, featuring industry insights and sponsored editorial profiles, includes a boomerang carnets UK [profile film](#) highlighting the advantages of ATA Carnets and their impact on global trade. The program debuted at the British International Freight Forwarders Association (BIFA) Business Leaders Forum on 10 October.

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.

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.

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.*

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.”

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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. 2 ***HEALTHTECHX ASIA: ACCESS TO ASIA'S RAPIDLY GROWING HEALTH TECHNOLOGY MARKET.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will focus on accessing Asia's rapidly growing health technology market. Hear from local healthcare experts to learn why Asia is the fastest growing region when it comes to health technology adoption. 6:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hiY-bnEIRDqd3gSgkR_dzA#/registration.
- 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.event.com/event/5cb3b40a-9dfe-4539-b527-2120f446498a/summary>.
- Dec. 3 ***STEP INTO EXPORTING: STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM (STEP) GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS GROWTH.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and IBT Online, will discuss how small businesses use STEP to grow: Learn how the U.S. Small Business Administration continues to help small to mid-sized business owners and entrepreneurs reach their international business objectives (resources, programs and grants available); Hear from digital experts on the power of Website Localization and International Online marketing strategies in establishing a digital footprint in your chosen international target markets; Unpack Ecommerce Digital Landscapes with strategies and trends for Search Engines, Social Media marketing, regulations, reporting and analytics. 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/uscommercialservice-state-trade-program-grants-for-international-business-growth-dec-3>.
- Dec. 3 ***ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER.*** Event, sponsored by the Swiss American Business Council, is a great opportunity for the Swiss American business community to celebrate the holiday season, catch up with old friends, and bid on unique auction items. 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago. SABC Members - \$175; Non-members - \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://sabcnow.com/product/christmas-dinner-2024/>.
- Dec. 3 ***U.S. - KOREA SUPPLY CHAIN COMMERCIAL DIALOGUE: ROBOTICS INDUSTRY SHOWCASE.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Leading robotics industry stakeholders from each country will discuss their involvement in the robotics space, key projects and programs they facilitate, how they engage with industry, as well as opportunities to partner or collaborate within each market. 7:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://vroongtms.hyundaiad.net/38>.
- Dec. 3 ***INTRODUCTION TO DOING BUSINESS IN THAILAND.*** Virtual Asialink Business Academy Program will help participants, especially Australian businesses, build the knowledge and skills to do business in Thailand, including an understanding of Thai business styles and how to engage to ensure successful business outcome. 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/asialink-business-academy-introduction-to-doing-business-in-thailand-tickets-928322998077>.
- 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. 4 ***CHINA'S IN-VITRO-DIAGNOSTIC (IVD) MARKET.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide an overview of China's IVD market, highlighting market opportunities, access requirements, IP considerations, and the latest regulatory updates. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/WebinarChinaIVDMarket/>.
- Dec. 4 ***AI FOR IMPACT: ELEVATE YOUR BRAND AND DRIVE GROWTH.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Anna Schiller**, Director Germany, Trilligent, who will discuss: Leverage AI to increase brand awareness; Get yourself talked about; Stay on top of trends in your industry; Don't be afraid to experiment. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4558276584665771869?mc_cid=d695256de5&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Dec. 4 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORK (EPN) – CHRISTKINDLMARKET.*** Event sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest with SACC, Danish American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest, DAC, Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce - Midwest, FACC-Chicago, Hungarian American Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, IACC, LACC, NACC, PACC, Trade Commission of Spain, UACCI. Enjoy traditional German seasonal treats including Glühwein, Potato Pancakes & more. Members - \$60; Non-members - \$65. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8x2v5dk?source_id=0fe843b2-fa3f-44fb-8bd9-4579ab0cdf0b&source_type=em&c=JYYcYtP8t0B67rnLCAeOAc42sytPUFDs9pJL3I-DybAs3VuDbiGDqg==.
- Dec. 4 ***CREATING VALUE IN UNEXPECTED PLACES.*** Program and Winter Social sponsored by the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations in collaboration with the Madison International Trade Association. Presentation by **Steven Wallace**, North American Project Manager, Niche Cocoa and Founder & President, The Omanhene Cocoa Bean Company in Ghana, West Africa. 5:15 – 8:00 p.m., Skyview Room, Fluno Center, 601 University Avenue, Madison, WI. Fee: \$50. For information & registration (by **November 27**), please see: <https://mcfr.wildapricot.org/event-5876221>.
- 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. 5 ***INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TÜRKIYE AND POLAND.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss challenges, opportunities, and market dynamics for each market ahead of the Fall 2025 Advanced Manufacturing Trade Mission to Poland and Türkiye. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7274706a-6a8a-47e9-b48b-c5ae4cd2464b@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 5 ***U.S. COMPANIES IN DUBAI: MASTERING FINANCIAL, TAX, AND COMPLIANCE ESSENTIALS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, will provide the essential insights and strategies needed to navigate Dubai's regulatory frameworks, achieve compliance excellence, and drive success in this dynamic economy. Key topics include: *An introduction to the UAE market and the current financial landscape for U.S. businesses; Compliance requirements for both new and established companies in Dubai; An overview of accounting standards, tax implications, and necessary statutory filings; Real-world case studies showcasing compliance best practices.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7384335928120159837?source=flyer&cldee=q1wwd4sSN7o5uf8Hu44rj7_FzOAEiG84ws2npbCotxc8gQ3mobzlu6CYfH631_Jj&recipientid=lead-e5937e5c404ae911a993000d3aa306f0-0564b66ac7ae43a3af3d3a724677da32&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Intl.%20N.%20America%20Desk%202024&esid=a1bb0d37-6d75-ef11-a670-6045bd1ece65.

- Dec. 5 **PROTESTS AND POST ENTRY CLAIMS.** Webinar, sponsored by Braumiller Law Group, will discuss: *Filing a protest; Post Summary Corrections; 520(c) claims; Going to court.* 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-pll/Protests-and-Post-Entry-Claims?show_live_page=true.
- Dec. 5 **FTZ CONSIDERATIONS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE TARIFFS.** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones, will: *Review recent Section 301 actions (impacted HTS subheadings, proposed rates and effective year(s)); Understand History and status of FTZ production requests (approvals/denials) in sectors subject to new Section 301 tariffs; Explore practical challenges with FTZ implementation; Review Leading practices for navigating these types of Board and CBP challenges.* 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. NAFTAZ Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://nationalassociationofforeigntradezones.growthzoneapp.com/eventcalendar/details/virtual-event-ftz-considerations-for-current-and-future-tariffs-1246439>.
- Dec. 5 **OWIT CHICAGO – MIDWEST LAUNCH MEETING.** The Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) Chicago – Midwest is officially re-chartered under OWIT International. Join them for a launch meeting to meet the members, introduce the Board, and share upcoming programming ideas. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, 320 South Canal Street, Suite 3300, Chicago. No fee; advance registration requested. For information & registration, please contact: owitchicagomidwest@gmail.com.
- Dec. 5 **DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES IN SE ASIA.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service in advance of a business development mission to Hong Kong, Taipei, and Ho Chi Minh City (March 24 – 28). Topics include: *Green Building Technologies & standards; Sustainable design & Resilient Infrastructure; Advanced building materials; Retrofitting & refurbishment; Recycling & circular economy; Construction robotics & automation; Safety; Digital technology & PropTech.* 7:00 – 8:10 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/DesignConstructionOpportunitiesinSEAsiaWebinar/hotsite.php>.
- Dec. 6 **ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2024.** Event sponsored by the British-American Business Council. Includes a champagne toast, an open bar reception, whiskey tasting, and an authentic three-course British lunch accompanied by a selection of wine, beer, and tea/coffee. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., The Drake, 140 East Walton Place, Chicago. BABC Members - \$155; Non-members - \$199. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/t2ygt52?source_id=ef641703-d2a6-442c-ba72-4383ff29ee7f&source_type=em&c=huEjCMzbaImkKmzCjcfAdSIohoXapJLdg0Qw6pf8SaG6zsUIDHq5bg==.
- Dec. 6 **PACC CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024.** Event sponsored by the Polish American Chamber of Commerce. Enjoy a night filled with delicious food, drinks, and great company as we ring in the season together. 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Dwell Studio Chicago, 7449 West Irving Park Road, Chicago. PACC Members - \$30; Non-members - \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://polishamericanchamber.org/pacc-annual-christmas-party/>.
- Dec. 8 - 9 **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. 8 - **CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP - APRIL 2025**
- Apr. 13 **EXAMINATION.** Remote Platform Cloud Based Virtual Online Training sponsored by The World Academy. 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. 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 held on alternate Sundays, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$1,895 (exclusive of class materials). For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course>.
- Dec. 9 **INTERNATIONAL AI POLICY: OUTLOOK FOR 2025.** Hybrid program, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, will focus on global governance initiatives such as the G7's Hiroshima AI Process, private sector adoption of AI policy frameworks, infrastructure advancements to meet AI power demands, and what to expect AI policy to look like under the Trump Administration. Keynote speakers include: **Shigeo Yamada**, Ambassador of Japan to the United States; **Laurent Bili**, Ambassador of France to the United States; **Sara Cohen**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Canada. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/international-ai-policy-outlook-2025>.
- Dec. 10 **301 & CURRENT EVENTS.** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will address: *Section 301; What's new in the world; Planning for 2025*. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/301-current-events/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Post-Entry%20-%20November%202024&utm_content=Post-Entry%20-%20November%202024+CID_8064118627a445ecb792eb46ac1075db&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20more%20%20register.
- Dec. 10 **THE TURNING POINT? U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND THE RACE FOR TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP.** Big Data China 3rd Annual Conference (Virtual) sponsored by Center for Strategic & international Studies Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics and Stanford University's Center on China's Economy and Institutions (SCCEI). China experts in the policy and academic communities will discuss the key challenges in U.S.-China relations, recent shifts in China's economic governance, and the global implications of technology competition with China. Topics include: *Charting U.S.-China Relations: Key Challenges and Choices for the Incoming Administration; China's Economic Stimulus: A Short-Term Fix or Path to Sustainable Recovery?; Decoupling vs. De-risking: The Competitive Dilemma in Tech Innovation*. 10:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/turning-point-us-china-relations-economic-growth-and-race-technology-leadership>.
- Dec. 10 **U.S. CUSTOMS RAMIFICATIONS OF TRANSFER PRICING ADJUSTMENTS.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, explores this concept, as well as the effect of transfer price adjustments on U.S. customs valuation. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/u-s-customs-ramifications-of-transfer-pricing-adjustments>.
- Dec. 10 **HONG KONG HOLIDAY RECEPTION.** Event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, New York. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. HKBAM Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hkbam-holiday-reception-tickets-1051070769967>.

- Dec. 11 ***WITA ACADEMY MINI VIRTUAL INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR: TARIFFS!*** Virtual program sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association. Topics include: *Making the Case: Tariffs and the Economic Impacts; Tariff and Trade Law Primer: The Legal Basis for Tariffs and Oversight; Global Responses: Negotiation, Retaliation, Multilateral Trade; Sectoral Impacts: What it May Mean for Farmers, Consumers and Firms.* 8:00 – 11:15 a.m. CST. WITA Members - \$100; Non-members - \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/tariffs-mini-its/>.
- 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 ***ENLIT AFRICA 2025 INFORMATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, Power Africa, and Vuka Group. Hear from experts about renewable energy opportunities in the region. U.S. companies will also learn about Enlit Africa 2025, the Power Africa U.S. Pavilion, and how to participate in the USCS Partnerships Program at Enlit. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f14394e4-bfc5-45a8-9497-52c8479ac98d@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 11 ***MANAGING INCOTERMS COMPLIANCE FOR EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the New York District Export Council, is for U.S. producers of goods and services to learn the basics of Incoterms and how best to navigate the 11 Incoterms options and the “Best Practices” to both leverage opportunity and to avoid supply chain headaches. 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://niwt.org/11-12-24/>.
- Dec. 11 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING EVENT.*** Networking event sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. Bring new books for donation to the Open Door Mission’s Educational Programs. 5:30 – 9:00 p.m., Lyle’s Pizzeria, 5213 Leavenworth Street, Omaha, NE. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/holiday-networking-event-at-lyles-pizzeria/>.
- 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; Taiwan Trade Center Chicago; Chicago Marriott Suites O’Hare**, and with support from: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; Chicago International Trade Commissioners’ Association; Swiss-American Business Council; 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. 12 ***AEROMART MONTREAL***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the OEMs and Tier 1s that are expected to attend Aeromart Montreal 2025 (March 25-27) and meet with suppliers. Aeromart Montreal brings together 800 companies from 25 countries. OEMs, Tier 1 and 2 suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers from both civil and defense aviation sectors, use this program to discuss business opportunities, technologies, and capabilities, without the hassle of traditional exhibitions. 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://trade-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_CgEfk9pGQfyCGXzLjR09PA#/registration.
- Dec. 12 ***ENGAGE IN TRADE: INTERNATIONAL E-COMMERCE***. Webinar, sponsored by World Trade Center St. Louis, will cover the most common strategies, best practices, pitfalls, and potential resource partners to give you more visibility and better results. 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r7ujiNnLQd6LOkY-L67W-A?#/registration.
- Dec. 12 ***CANADA'S ENERGY SECTOR 2025 AND BEYOND: THE NEW ENERGY FUTURE***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide American companies with essential market intelligence on future trends and upcoming opportunities. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/13f8f0a7-5eb8-4d43-9818-e7e15348cb88@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 12 ***HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR***. Member Appreciation event sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Port KC, 110 Berkley Plaza, Kansas City, MO. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-5899904>.
- Dec. 12 ***ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY 2024***. Annual Holiday Party sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association. Cocktails, dinner and dancing. 5:30 – 10:30 p.m., Belvedere Banquets, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. CCBFA Members - \$90; Non-members - \$115. For information & registration, please see: <https://ccbfa.org/upcoming-events/annual-holiday-party-2024/>.
- Dec. 12 ***SYMPOSIUM TO CONSIDER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR GLOBAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT***. Live-streamed program, sponsored by Keio University Law School in collaboration with The University of Washington School of Law, will consider developments in the legal environment for global trade and investment, taking into account the results of the U.S. presidential election and other recent geopolitical events. We hope to extend discussion from previous symposia on the changing economic relationships of the People's Republic of China with the USA, Japan, and other nations as summarized by the terms “decoupling” or “derisking,” and to consider whether these leadership changes may present opportunities for a change in direction or stabilization of relations. 8:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ls.keio.ac.jp/news/2024/1213symposium.html>.
- Dec. 13 ***HOW BUSINESS LEADERS CAN PROACTIVELY NAVIGATE GEOPOLITICS***. Webinar, sponsored by McKinsey Live, will discuss the capabilities and strategies required to respond to geopolitical disruption. Speakers: **Cindy Levy** and **Shubham Singhal**, McKinsey Partners. 8:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.ringcentral.com/events/how-business-leaders-can-proactively-navigate-geopolitics/registration?utm_campaign=dot_com&utm_source=dot_com&cid=other-eml-alt-mip-mck&hlkid=5a4c0a883aed444aad77daae20956229&hctky=1420088&hdpid=17c1450d-2958-4da8-91c1-66a49d7031eb.

- Dec. 16 ***OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EGYPTIAN SPACE INDUSTRY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss how Egypt is positioning itself as a key player in space exploration and technology. Hear from industry experts, get insights into the latest advancements, and understand the impact of Egypt's space initiatives on regional and global scales. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3e34c290-f4d5-46fe-adb2-cbabf6c4c8a7@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 17 ***ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE FTZ COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.*** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones, will: *Identify how to stay ahead of corporate risks and challenges that may affect your Zone's compliance; Understand keys to maintaining oversight of zone transactions and activity; Review tips for a comprehensive audit program; As companies and regulations evolve over time, the importance of maintaining an effective FTZ compliance program is imperative to the success of a company's zone program.* 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. NAFTAZ Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://nationalassociationofforeigntradezones.growthzoneapp.com/eventcalendar/details/virtual-event-elements-of-an-effective-ftz-compliance-program-1236536>.
- 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/>.
- Jan. 27 - ***VIRTUAL CUSTOMS BROKER EXAM PREP COURSE - APRIL 2025 EXAM.*** This virtual course is
Apr. 3 designed to prepare attendees to take and pass the customs broker examination. Its extensive overview of the customs brokerage/import process makes it also a great option for those looking for training in this field. Sessions are Monday and Thursday from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. CST. The final class is a mock exam. The course includes 40 hours of class instruction on topics such as broker regulations, entry, classification, valuation, free trade agreements, antidumping/countervailing duty, fines, penalties and forfeitures, bonds, country of origin marking, liquidation, search and seizure, and intellectual property. Fee: \$1,150 (required materials purchased separately). For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/virtual-customs-broker-exam-prep-course-april-2025-exam>.
- 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/>.
- Mar. 17 - ***SOUTHEAST EUROPE ENERGY TRANSITION & SECURITY: TRADE MISSION (BULGARIA, ROMANIA, SERBIA).*** Led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe and Eurasia
21 **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 (deadline: **February 10**), please see: <https://app.inevent.com/en/TradeGov/SEEEnergyTM/>.

- Mar. 24 - ***DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (D&C) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SE ASIA (HONG KONG, TAIPEI, HO CHI MINH CITY)***. Sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, this mission 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. Delegates may have the opportunity to gain market insights, establish industry contacts, interact with government agencies, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects. 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 and an application (deadline: **December 31**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/DesignConstructionMissiontoSEAsia/>.
- 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 (deadline: **January 31**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GenomicandGeneticTechnologiesTradeMissiontoGreeceT/>.
- Aug. 25 - ***SOUTHERN CONE CLEAN TECH TRADE MISSION TO CHILE, URUGUAY, AND ARGENTINA***. Mission, organized by the United States Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA), will introduce U.S. companies to the dynamic Southern Cone region, whose governments are investing heavily in clean energy technologies to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Targeted clean energy and environmental subsectors with substantial potential include: hydrogen and e-fuel technologies; water and sanitation (treatment & management); green transportation (hydrogen trucks, buses, shipping, rail, and passenger vehicles); and renewable/clean energy (solar, storage, and decarbonization technologies). For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/SouthernConeCleanTechTradeMission/>.

Sep. 21 - ***ADVANCED MANUFACTURING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO TÜRKIYE AND POLAND.***

26 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>.

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.