

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

January 19, 2026

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

Jan. 21 26TH ANNUAL GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK: YOUR OPINION MATTERS. Special Open Forum Luncheon Discussion sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. We think it's time for Chicago's international business community to have an open forum to share their respective Global Trade Outlooks and solution(s) for the year ahead. You are invited to share yours with your colleagues and peers. This discussion forum will be held under the Chatham House Rule. 12:00 – 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/26th-annual-global-trade-outlook-your-opinion-matters-tickets-1980140158518>.

Of Note:

U.S. withdraws from 66 International Organizations: In a January 7 [presidential memorandum](#), the White House announced it had determined that "it is contrary to the interests of the United States to remain a member of, participate in, or otherwise provide support to" 66 international organizations and agreements and ordered relevant U.S. agencies to withdraw from them immediately. The final version is mostly consistent with business advocacy in favor of preserving U.S. membership in organizations involved in standard setting and commercial dispute resolution.

Industry-level Detail Provides New Insights on the Growing Space Economy: The U.S. Census Bureau released January 13 the first ever [Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#) (QWI) at the national industry level. These data will allow users to view and download economic indicators such as employment, job creation, earnings and other measures of employment flows for six-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. In 2024, nearly one-half of all new hires in the Space Economy cluster were under the age of 35.

Brazil Surpasses US as Top Global Beef Producer: Citing a Reuters' report, [Farm Policy News](#) writes, "Brazil surpassed the U.S. as the world's top beef producer last year, according to market estimates, after the South American country beat output forecasts by hundreds of thousands of tons, easing a global supply squeeze and helping limit a surge in meat prices." If the official numbers confirm market estimates, 2025 will be the first year that Brazil's output will have surpassed U.S. production, which fell 3.9% to 11.8 million tons in 2025, according to USDA estimates, following years of drought.

Cyberattacks on Logistics Are Set to Double in 2026: A [new report](#) from Everstream Analytics finds that cyberattacks targeting logistics companies are expected to double in 2026, following several years of sharp growth. The research tracks incidents affecting carriers, ports, 3PLs, and other logistics providers and shows attacks are up nearly 1,000% since 2021. [Article appeared in [Supply Chain 24/7](#)]

International Community Agrees Way Forward on Global Minimum Tax Package: The 147 countries and jurisdictions working together within the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) have agreed on key [elements of a package](#) that charts a course forward for the coordinated operation of global minimum tax arrangements in the context of a digitalized and globalized economy. Following months of intense negotiations, the comprehensive package for a [“side by side” arrangement](#) announced today represents a significant political and technical agreement which will set the foundation for stability and certainty in the international tax system.

Restoring American Semiconductor Manufacturing Leadership through an Agreement on Trade & Investment with Taiwan: According to a Commerce Department [press release](#), on January 15 the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States signed “a historic trade deal that will drive a massive reshoring of America’s semiconductor sector. This unprecedented commitment will strengthen U.S. economic resilience, create high-paying jobs, and bolster national security.” The agreement establishes a strategic economic partnership between the United States and Taiwan to decisively strengthen U.S. domestic semiconductor supply chains and secure America’s technological and industrial leadership.

DFC and IHC Forge New Investment Partnership to Drive Strategic Capital: The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) [announced](#) a landmark collaboration on January 14 with International Holding Company (IHC) aimed at accelerating private-sector investment in strategic markets and projects of mutual interest. This collaboration focuses on priority sectors such as critical minerals, energy infrastructure, logistics, pharmaceuticals and healthcare manufacturing, information and communication technology, food security, and other advanced technologies.

Who Has the World’s Oil, and Who Can Actually Produce It: Following the U.S. President’s escapade in Venezuela, [Visual Capitalist](#) compiled a chart comparing proven oil reserves and daily production across the world’s top oil producers, revealing stark contrasts between output-heavy producers and those sitting on vast untapped resources. The U.S. produces oil at almost twice the rate of major competitors Russia and Saudi Arabia, thanks to its booming shale industry.

Chicago 2050: A Plan for Economic Growth & Jobs: World Business Chicago has just released this updated report from its 2012 version, laying out an updated set of priority industries and strategies for growth, backed by rigorous analysis that helped identify industries based on economic impact and job density. The report is available for free download [here](#).

CBP Mandates Electronic Refunds Effective February 6: As reported in Barnes Richardson’s [Trade Express Highlights](#), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will [issue all refunds electronically](#), effective February 6, 2026, except where a valid waiver applies. The transition away from paper checks applies to all importers, brokers, filers, sureties, service providers, facility operators, foreign-trade zone operators and carriers, and any designated third parties listed on CBP Form 4811 as outlined in the [interim final rule](#).

NOW OPEN: Registration for EXIM 2026 Annual Conference: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) has officially opened [registration](#) for their 2026 Annual Conference, taking place on April 29-30 in Washington, D.C. This year’s program will center on the Bank’s “Buy American, Build the Future” initiative, and the four strategic priorities to carry out President Trump’s vision of America’s reindustrialization: Bringing EXIM Back to Basics to put American Jobs First; American Energy Dominance; Supply Chain Security; Industries of the Future.

Beyond the Headlines: How Trade Agreements Are Reshaping Business: A recently released [McKinsey article](#) notes that while the recent proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements are moderating the impact of U.S. tariffs, they are also reducing non-tariff barriers and altering trade flows. The agreements, combined with industrial-policy measures, create significant opportunities for companies to access new markets.

All of the World’s Oil Reserves by Country: This visualization ([Visual Capitalist](#)) ranks countries by the size of their proven oil reserves at the end of 2024. The data comes from OPEC’s [Annual Statistical Bulletin 2025](#). Just four countries control more than half of the world’s proven oil reserves. Despite the energy transition, fossil fuels still account for [nearly 70% of global energy demand](#).

McKinsey’s Most-read Geopolitics Articles in 2025: The world’s business landscape has entered an age of strategic complexity. In 2025, [McKinsey’s most-read Geopolitics articles](#) reflected how tariffs, trade realignments, and regionalization are rewriting the rules of global business. Success now depends on agility, diversification, and the ability to see opportunity in uncertainty.

20,000 Employees Left USDA in First Half of 2025: Reuters' Leah Douglas [reported](#) that "more than 20,300 employees left the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the first five months of the administration of President Donald Trump, about a fifth of staff, according to a report from the agency's inspector general." "Losing nearly 20% of all USDA staff weakens the department's ability to respond to challenges facing our farmers, leaves our food supply chains more vulnerable to threats like New World Screwworm and avian flu, and undermines efforts to drive the rural economy forward," said [Senator Amy Klobuchar](#), the top Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

USMCA/NAFTA: The Peterson Institute for International Economics has conducted extensive research on the costs, benefits, and opportunities of trade among the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It has published a [Guide](#) to explain why the USMCA remains at the core of the three countries' relationship, what's at stake in many different aspects of their interdependence, and possible paths forward for negotiators to try to resolve. Concomitantly, it has a [page](#) that provides updates on the negotiations.

Country Commercial Guides Updated: The U.S. Department of Commerce's [Country Commercial Guides](#) have been updated. For each country, the Guide includes current information on: Doing Business in; Leading Sectors for US Exports & Investment; Customs, Regulations & Standards; Selling US Products & Services; Digital Economy; Business Travel; Investment Climate Statement. There is no charge to access & download the report(s).

WTO Issues Updated Compendium of WTO Agreements: An update of the WTO's legal compendium has been published bringing together all of the WTO's agreements into one volume. The book, titled [The WTO Agreements: The Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and its Annexes](#), includes for the first time the text of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which entered into force on 15 September 2025.

SIDO Announces New-to-Export Training: The State International Development Organization (SIDO) has announced a practical approach to export training that will provide you with expert advice, guidance and resources to develop a strategy and plan to begin exporting. SIDO's program is flexible in addressing your needs and intentional in maximizing your time commitment. It includes 10 hours of virtual training over four weeks. Details are [here](#).

Jan. 19 OPERATING IN U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics including how FTZs work, and the benefits and rules for operating in an FTZ, helping your company evaluate the costs and benefits. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/vwjwnva>.

Jan. 20 TRADE IN 2026: ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGES AND REFUND OPPORTUNITIES. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will equip you with actionable insights to navigate heightened enforcement and the evolving landscape of U.S. import policy. Key topics: *2025's major tariff and policy changes; Actions to take now to protect against fines and penalties; Ambiguities that may warrant protests leading to duty refunds.* 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/trade-in-2026-enforcement-challenges-and-refund-opportunities>.

Jan. 20 SECTION 232 TARIFFS: STRATEGIC COMPLIANCE IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE - PART 2. Webinar, sponsored by the Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association, dives deep into the latest developments surrounding Section 232 tariffs, focusing on new enforcement trends, high-profile investigations, and their impact on businesses across various sectors. Expert panelists will examine recent policy shifts, discuss anticipated changes in tariff regulations, and explore how evolving international trade dynamics are influencing U.S. trade law. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.lacbfra.org/events/section-232-tariff-landscape-enforcement-investigations-and-best-practices-1>.

Jan. 21 EXAMINING MAJOR ELEMENTS DRIVING INVESTMENT UNCERTAINTY IN THE 2026 USMCA REVIEW. Webinar, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, will examine how double taxation and Mexico's judicial reform intersect with the USMCA review process, exploring their short- and long-term implications for investors, policymakers, and regional economic integration. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/examining-major-elements-driving-investment-uncertainty-2026-usmca-review>.

Jan. 21 *EXPORT GROWTH IN A TARIFF-DRIVEN WORLD: MANAGING RISK WITHOUT LOSING MOMENTUM.*

Webinar, sponsored by the Wisconsin Agricultural Export Advisory Council, outlines why global revenue growth remains essential, how to mitigate tariff exposure in the short term, and what strategic shifts are required if trade barriers persist. Presentation by **Roxanne Baumann**, a nationally recognized global business strategist who advises CEOs and boards on international growth, trade risk, and export strategy. 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/d376d99d-46c0-40e7-805c-c62e2bc63570@f4e2d11c-fae4-453b-b6c0-2964663779aa>.

Jan. 21 *ENGAGE IN TRADE: GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2026.* Virtual program, sponsored by World Trade Center St. Louis, features **Terry Toland**, Principal, Global Business Policy Council, Kearney, who will assess the global economic outlook through 2028, covering GDP trends at the global, regional, and country levels. He will examine prospects for inflation, public debt, trade fragmentation, and the role of AI, as well as the findings and implications of Kearney's latest economic scenarios, providing a better understanding of emerging risks and opportunities. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/events/wtc-engage-in-trade-jan-2026/>.

Jan. 21 *CRITICAL MINERAL AND MINING PROJECTS IN PERU: OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. BUSINESSES.* Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features U.S. Commercial Service and U.S. Embassy officials describing mining opportunities in Peru and a market overview. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3ad836aa-c77f-40de-a00f-0cc6c9b3e4fe@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

Jan. 21 *BRAZIL AEROMEDICAL MARKET UPDATE.* Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will include expert insights from ABOA, Brazil's leading aeromedical association, and will highlight current market trends, regulatory considerations, and practical strategies for doing business in the country. 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/BrazilAeromedicalWebinar2026-9884-1765919186/login.php?redirect=%2Fen%2FTradeGov%2FBrazilAeromedicalWebinar2026-9884-1765919186%2Fpurchase.php%3F>.

Jan. 21 *26TH ANNUAL GLOBAL TRADE OUTLOOK: YOUR OPINION MATTERS.* Special Open Forum Luncheon Discussion sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. We think it's time for Chicago's international business community to have an open forum to share their respective Global Trade Outlooks and solution(s) for the year ahead. You are invited to share yours with your colleagues and peers. This discussion forum will be held under the Chatham House Rule. 12:00 – 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/26th-annual-global-trade-outlook-your-opinion-matters-tickets-1980140158518>.

Jan. 21 *INTERNATIONAL VALUE ADDED TAX - UNDERSTANDING VAT IN GLOBAL TRADE.* Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explore VAT trends in markets around the world, equipping you with practical knowledge to effectively plan for these taxes. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/q39e2uq>.

Jan. 21 *MADE IN AMERICA: BUILDING SUPPLY CHAINS WITH U.S. MANUFACTURING PARTNERS.* Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will transform how you source, connect, and grow your supply chain network. This exclusive session is your gateway to: *Learn proven strategies for identifying and vetting top-tier U.S. manufacturers; Navigate the challenges of local sourcing with expert insights; Build mutually beneficial partnerships that drive growth and innovation; Discuss real-world success stories from businesses that have mastered domestic supplier networks.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3450f59a-a325-4cb1-ad33-9ca72efb7e6e@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

Jan. 21 *CONFIDENTLY EXPORT FUEL TO MEXICO: COMPLIANCE, SECURITY & INCENTIVES PROGRAMS.* Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, invites U.S. fuel producers, marketers, distributors, logistics providers, and financial institutions to join this program. It will focus on compliance requirements, security considerations, and new incentives programs that affect U.S. companies and financial intermediaries supporting Mexico's energy trade. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ConfidentlyExportFueltoMexicoCompliance/>.

Jan. 21 *BOOK LAUNCH | CHINA'S WEAPONIZATION OF TRADE: RESISTANCE THROUGH COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE.* Hybrid event sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies Korea Chair and the Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Department. This book explores the weaponization of economic interdependence and its implications for the international order through a wealth of new and original data on China's economic statecraft. CSIS' **Will Todman** will moderate a conversation among Dr. **Victor Cha**, author of the new book, Dr. **Melanie Hart**, former senior advisor for China in the Office of the Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment at the U.S. Department of State, and **Bethany Allen**, author of the book *Beijing Rules: How China Weaponized Its Economy to Confront the World* and Head of ASPI's China Investigations and Analysis. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/book-launch-chinas-weaponization-trade-resistance-through-collective-resilience>.

Jan. 22 *"PARTNERING FOR COMPLIANCE™" CUSTOMS/IMPORT BOOT CAMP 2026.* Thirteenth Annual Virtual Program sponsored by Partnerships International, Inc. and Braumiller Law Group, PLLC. Topics include: *Introduction to CBP; HTS Classification, Duty and Fees; Valuation for Customs and other requirements; Customs Programs, remedies & enforcement.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST. Fees vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.partneringforcompliance.org/pfcimp26.pdf>.

Jan. 22 *USMCA UNDER REVIEW: EARLY TAKEAWAYS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND THE YEAR AHEAD.* Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will look at what we've learned so far from the USTR hearings and stakeholder engagement, how key sectors are positioning themselves ahead of the review, and what the review process could mean for companies, consumers, workers, and the North American economy. Speakers include: **Everett Eissenstat**, Partner, Public Policy Practice Group, Squire Patton Boggs; former Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director, National Economic Council; former Assistant USTR for the Americas; **Nancy Martinez**, Director of Public Policy, National Corn Growers Association; **Tiffany Melvin**, President, North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO); **Mayur Patel**, Partner, Hogan Lovells; former Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Republican Staff. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/usmca-under-review/>.

Jan. 22 EBRD IN UKRAINE: UPDATES FROM THE GROUND ON THE PROJECT PIPELINE. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features a discussion with EBRD's Resident Office in Kyiv to learn more about the Banks's footprint in Ukraine and its upcoming project pipeline opportunities in energy, municipal infrastructure, agribusiness, mining, rare minerals, and more. 10:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.inevent.com/en/TradeGov/EBRDinUkraine/>.

Jan. 22 TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE. One in a series of webinars, sponsored by Baker Tilly, provides regular insights on trade policy and tariff developments. Presentation by **Pete Mento**, Director, Global Customs and Trade Advisory, Baker Tilly Advisory Group. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1e1b7ee3-d369-4666-bd66-b4f7f5f2f64f@619363bf-5bd8-4047-b094-587dd7327392?utm_source=INV1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_01.08.26&utm_id=701Po00001P41EkIAJ.

Jan. 22 UNDERSTANDING THE BROKER-IMPORTER RELATIONSHIP IN TODAY'S TARIFF ENVIRONMENT. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will describe the responsibilities of both importers and brokers regarding entry, classification of merchandise, valuation of merchandise, complying with other government agency requirements, and recordkeeping. It will also discuss potential pitfalls including penalties for noncompliance for both brokers and importers and how changes to 19 CFR 111 have affected and complicated this relationship. It will also discuss how implementation of IEEPA and Section 232 tariffs have affected the broker-importer relationship and best practices for both parties. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-the-broker-importer-relationship-in-today-s-tariff-environment>.

Jan. 22 GLOBAL MARKET ENTRY STRATEGIES. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will detail the different strategies companies can use in foreign markets to help you decide on the best one for your company. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/qbssqzj>.

Jan. 22 NAVIGATING COMPLIANCE IN TIMES OF CHANGE. Webinar sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters and Importers. Presentation by **Hayley Jung**, Director, BPE Global, who will provide an overview of how to build an effective compliance program amid global uncertainty. She will cover: *Regulation recap from 2024 and where things stand today; Potential regulatory shifts on the horizon and how to prepare; Managing “rescinded” regulations; Recovery and repair – how do we put it all back together after regulations are overturned?; How to update and communicate risks to Leadership; Case studies from other importers and exporters.* 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CST. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.paei.org/paei-events/navigating-compliance-in-times-of-change/>.

Jan. 27 UNDERSTANDING CBP ENFORCEMENT THROUGH EAPA INVESTIGATIONS. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will provide an overview of EAPA investigations, how U.S. Customs and Border Protection conducts them, and how they can affect importers. It will also provide helpful tips and tools for businesses subject to EAPA investigations. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-cbp-enforcement-through-eapa-investigations>.

Jan. 27 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA: THE MARITIME AND DEFENSE SECTOR OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. COMPANIES. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, has been designed for American suppliers of advanced manufactured finished products and advanced manufacturing solutions. It will present practical steps for U.S. firms on doing business in Australia and partnering with Australian companies that are seeking to build innovation and resilience in critical industries. 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/AdvancedManufacturinginAustralia/hotsite.php>.

Jan. 28 INVESTING IN THE CARIBBEAN: A STRATEGIC DESTINATION FOR GROWTH. Webinar, sponsored by FT Locations in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, speakers across both government and industry will highlight unique avenues for new investors in the region's evolving economic landscape. 8:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://investcaribbean.ftlocations.com/home?xnpe_tfc=bD1phkb8xDHJbfod4DYDx9psafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJakpWa_BWEke9bZ8vVuEShfnJOk4LhFQNxh_bD_pOnTT&utm_source=exponea&utm_campaign=FTL%20-%20Webinar%3A%20Investing%20in%20the%20Caribbean%3A%20A%20strategic%20destination%20for%20growth%20-%20Email%201%20-%20All&utm_medium=email.

Jan. 28 TEMPORARY IMPORTS TOOLS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITORS. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed for both first-time and experienced exhibitors and will explain how to temporarily export samples, demos, tools, and equipment using the right export tools. Learn how to move your trade show materials across the border efficiently, avoid delays, and stay in compliance. 10:00 – 11:20 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/TemporaryImportsToolsforInternationalExhibitors/>.

Jan. 28 STRENGTHEN YOUR ENERGY BUSINESS IN CANADA: MARKET ACCESS, SUPPLY CHAINS & CROSS BORDER OPPORTUNITIES. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will focus on market access, regulatory considerations, and cross-border supply-chain opportunities relevant to U.S. companies operating in or entering the Canadian energy market. American energy producers, service companies, equipment manufacturers, technology providers, logistics firms, and supply-chain partners are invited to attend. 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f8bd6f6a-2e34-43a9-82c6-f84a3ff6cc89@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

Jan. 28 EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover key tips to selling into the region, avoiding pitfalls, and taking advantage of selling duty-free with FTAs. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/c99a88x>.

Jan. 28 EXPORTING MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO BRAZIL. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the basics of Customs import clearance processes and tariffs in Brazil. You will: *Explore the fundamentals of Brazilian Customs; Receive guidance on export documentation; Save time and money by learning tips to avoid common and expensive mistakes; Understand how duties and taxes are calculated and get a better idea on how much your product could cost to buyers in Brazil; Learn about exceptions for certain types of machinery; Be introduced to market opportunities, resources and tools.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportingAdvancedManufacturingProductstoBrazil-988/>.

Jan. 28 HOW TO APPLY FOR A VETERINARY SERVICES PERMIT. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will introduce U.S. importers to the USDA's VS permitting process. Topics include: *USDA's role in U.S. imports; How to determine if a VS permit is needed; How to apply for a VS permit; What to do once a VS permit is issued; VS Permit Compliance and Best Practices.* 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$125. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/an-overview-of-the-usda-s-veterinary-services-import-permitting-process>.

Jan. 28 STAYING AHEAD: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN EXPORT TRADE COMPLIANCE. Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils, will help exporters, compliance officers, and international sales teams understand emerging risks, new requirements, and practical steps for maintaining a strong compliance posture. Topics include: New Regulations; New Enforcement Initiatives; Market-specific Updates; Managing an Effective Export Compliance Program. 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o4b8JxrKSgupdz4I7nq5og#/registration.

Jan. 28 U.S. - VIETNAM PARTNERSHIP ON MODERN MINING, COAL EFFICIENCY, AND CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss Vietnam's high-potential mining, coal and critical minerals sectors. Discover opportunities in a modernizing sector and how U.S. firms can align proposals with Vietnam's energy transition and industrial policies. It will provide: Market Insights; Regulatory Guidance; Export Strategy; Coal and Critical Minerals Projects; Expert Insights. 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/US-VietnamPartnershiponModernMiningCoalEfficiencya/>.

Jan. 29 - VIRTUAL CUSTOMS BROKER EXAM PREP COURSE - APRIL 2026 EXAM. Sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, this virtual course is 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. 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. Sessions are Monday and Thursday nights from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$1,150. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/virtual-customs-broker-exam-prep-course-april-2026-exam>.

Jan. 29 WTO MATTERS: CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE WTO. Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will explore the core functions of the WTO. Speakers include: **Eugenio Lizano**, Chief of Section-Trade Policy Review, Americas, World Trade Organization; **Roy Santana**, Secretary of the Council for Trade in Goods, World Trade Organization; **Santiago Wills**, Director – General Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, World Trade Organization; **Angela Ellard** (Moderator), Senior Fellow (non-resident), Center for Strategic and International Studies; former Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization. 8:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UM3Te0WGQEmx7ddu3NpHGQ#/registration.

Jan. 29 CRITICAL DETAILS OF CUSTOMS VALUATION. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the finer details, rules, and terminology of customs valuation, which is especially important for unusual sales contracts, to help traders meet reasonable care obligations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/cyzevmd>.

Jan. 29 TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE. One in a series of webinars, sponsored by Baker Tilly, provides regular insights on trade policy and tariff developments. Presentation by **Pete Mento**, Director, Global Customs and Trade Advisory, Baker Tilly Advisory Group. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/8a7eaf0a-c018-4174-be3a-2c6a52c602ff@619363bf-5bd8-4047-b094-587dd7327392?utm_source=INV1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_01.08.26&utm_id=701Po00001P41EkIAJ.

Jan. 29 MEXICO: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RAIL & PORT SECTORS. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed to help U.S. companies expand internationally & secure high-value deals. The government of Mexico announced ambitious plans to invest more than \$1.6 billion USD to upgrade, modernize and expand six strategic ports. This program will help you: Explore export opportunities in ports, maritime infrastructure, and adjacent sectors; Gain market insights from U.S. Embassy trade experts and in-market decision-makers; Learn how to navigate global business environments and access key resources for success. 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/WhistleStopTour/purchase.php?selectedTickets=W3sidGlja2V0SUQiOiI1Mjg3MyIsImFtb3VudCI6MX1d>.

Jan. 29 **GLOBAL TRADE IN 2026: KEY SIGNALS, SHIFTS, AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS.** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, will provide actionable strategies to help you maintain supply chain agility and compliance, even as conditions evolve. You will learn how to: *Identify the most influential regulatory, economic, and sustainability trends impacting global trade; Maintain agility and compliance amid tightening enforcement and geopolitical volatility; Strengthen your compliance program with practical, future-ready approaches.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.zoom.us/ev/AjcFQY7GIFamzN_ZCmUKNItUEhKUpfxus021gvtcx12xnkAuGH33~AvIIIEYk92p0TTvMEmU-VYY9jKE6yxu51OvTWKDerSafouQ4CclqhVUrIw.

Jan. 29 **TARIFFS AND TRADE IN TURMOIL [MONTHLY UPDATE].** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the latest trade policy developments and offer predictions on what may happen in the near future. Presentation by **J. Nicole Bivens Collinson**, Managing Principal, Operating Committee; International Trade & Government Relations Practice Leader. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/tariffs-trade-in-turmoil-january-monthly-update>.

Jan. 30 **UN PROCUREMENT EXPLAINED: HOW COMPANIES CAN COMPETE AND WIN.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explain how to get started with UN procurement, give tips for winning UN tenders, and provide resources for support. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ag922t8>.

Feb. 3 - 5 **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT EXPO MANUFACTURA, MONTERREY, MEXICO.** The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at Expo Manufactura 2026. With over 500 exhibitors and 19,000 visitors, Expo Manufactura is the most important meeting place for the manufacturing and processing industry in Mexico. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive the following: *Exhibit space; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs in accordance with ISTEP guidelines; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics; Optional pre-qualified and scheduled B2B matchmaking; Interpreter services during the show and meetings.* Participation Fee: \$1,000. Application Deadline: December 12, 2025. For information & application, please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.

Feb. 3 - 5 **USKGZBC BUSINESS DELEGATION TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC.** The US-Kyrgyzstan Business Council's business delegation to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan is organized in Partnership with: The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic; The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the United States of America; and The Embassy of the United States of America in the Kyrgyz Republic. This delegation is designed for U.S. companies seeking informed engagement and actionable insight into one of Central Asia's most open and reform-oriented markets. Participants will engage policymakers, business practitioners, U.S. Embassy leadership, and the international business community in a focused, time-efficient program structured to support concrete trade and investment outcomes. The delegation will prioritize sectors of strategic importance to both the Kyrgyz Republic and the U.S. business community, including critical minerals, information and communications technology, banking, agriculture, healthcare, energy, transportation, education, and related industries. The program is intended as a practical entry point for companies evaluating near-term opportunities or seeking to advance existing interests in the Kyrgyz market and the wider region. Application (<https://pci.jotform.com/form/253444040242142>) is due **January 9**.

Feb. 3 **SUPPLY CHAIN STRATEGIES IN THE NEW AGE OF TARIFFS.** Hybrid event, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas, will address: *A global trade update — how we got here and what's driving the latest tariff actions; What's been working (and what hasn't) in tariff mitigation strategies, nearly a year into the current trade cycle; How technology is helping companies adapt, forecast, and strengthen supply chains amid volatility.* 3:30 p.m. CST. Keystone CoLAB, 800 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. ITC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6425275>.

Feb. 4 WTO MATTERS: WTO REFORM - PART 1. Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will examine the reforms needed to keep the institution effective and relevant. Speakers include: Ambassador **Joseph Barloon**, Deputy United States Trade Representative and Chief of Mission for the Permanent Mission of the United States to the World Trade Organization; Ambassador **Petter Ølberg**, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Norway to the World Trade Organization; Ambassador **Matthew Wilson**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative-Designate of Barbados to the World Trade Organization; **Angela Ellard** (Moderator), Senior Fellow (non-resident), Center for Strategic and International Studies; former Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization. 8:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6xfBuRG0TfqYjvRxt-BT3A#/registration.

Feb. 4 FROM IDEA TO MARKET: BUILDING Ms. JETSETTER BEYOND THE IDEA STAGE. Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Tracey McGhee**, Founder and CEO, Ms. Jetsetter, who will share: *Moving beyond the idea to action; Creating retail traction through relationships and readiness; Building a business to stand on its own.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3593901542464699736?mc_cid=f773903653&mc_eid=6499c7d108.

Feb. 4 BUYING DDP: PROTECTION AGAINST CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE LIABILITY? Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will explore some of the risks involved in purchasing on a DDP basis and how to minimize those risks. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/buying-ddp-protection-against-customs-compliance-liability>.

Feb. 5 INDONESIA OUTLOOK 2026: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UPDATE. Webinar, sponsored by the American Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council. Speakers from Castle Asia include **James Castle**, Founder & CEO, and **Ian Betts**, Research and Development Advisor. Discussion topics include: *Implications for the economy of possible changes to direct elections; Indonesia's foreign policy: Venezuela, US, Middle East, China; How Indonesia's trade agreements (recently concluded or in the works) will affect growth and employment; Tax policy review; Evaluation of policies and approaches of the new Finance Minister- especially deficit financing; Are US policies/practices pushing Indonesia more towards China's economic model; If so, what are the implications for US firms.* 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. CST. NO fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://app.associationsphere.com/Event/EventInfo?prm=fNMmmWacyv05sbM4j0450bbXNowdZhW0WUV80dbVOyWe5kr5WEDc4vStsmkwicdMacjVQFgAGOVCKLsvyRZ9w1QrDAZLKWDdOWG3y15fRKxFgcsG0bky8MUQ1ig2MeRJhUNKuwFRxONnoNTmReUqEXqvQEbbmxGezN3o_IThjLjF38dcvMdwOraC7kXhIMiheiJ3sc7TJQ1fU606-Aw2S_O16GKJAoOmQuqgaGBYYL60uUf6xAdGw8cMbxRuN9tFf0.

Feb. 5 2026 CONGRESSIONAL TRADE AGENDA. Virtual program sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association. In this off-the-record event, Congressional Trade Leaders share their perspectives at WITA's annual overview of the Hill's Trade Agenda. Speakers include: **Virginia Lenahan**, Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Democratic Staff; **Molly Newell**, Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Republican Staff; **Josh Snead**, Republican Chief Trade Counsel, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee; **Alexandra Whittaker**, Democratic Chief Trade Counsel, Staff Director, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee. 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. CST. WITA Members - \$40; Non-members - \$70. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-congressional-trade-agenda-tickets-1977103299190?aff=odddtcreator>.

Feb. 9 - *BCIU COMMERCIAL SPACE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO INDIA.* Certified Trade Mission organized by BCIU in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce will travel to Bengaluru and New Delhi. It is designed to advance U.S. space industry success in the Indian commercial space sector by exploring partnership opportunities with Indian government agencies and private firms in joint research and development, licensing, and co-development of space technologies. The delegation will be undertaken in conjunction with a senior-level interagency U.S. Government delegation visit, including the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, reinforcing the strategic importance of advancing bilateral space cooperation. For information & an application (deadline: January 16), please see: <https://bciu.zohobackstage.com/BCIUCOMmercialSpaceBusinessMissionIndia>.

Feb. 9 - *CHINA CONFERENCE: SOUTHEAST ASIA 2026.* Hybrid event, sponsored by SCMP, convenes leading diplomats, policymakers, business executives, technology innovators, and investors from Indonesia, China, and across Asean to examine the future of collaboration in an era of accelerating change. The conference will address the most pressing themes shaping Southeast Asia's future, from strategic equilibrium in the US-China rivalry to the evolution of the China+1 supply chain model, capital access, and the rapid expansion of the digital economy. Sessions will spotlight high-level dialogue on economic integration, sustainable investment, cutting-edge technologies, responsible mining, and the green transition – including the rise of EV industries and advanced digital finance. 7:00 p.m. CST Feb. 9 – 3:00 a.m. CST Feb. 10. Virtual fees vary: \$0 - \$85. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.chinaconference.asia/home>.

Feb. 9 - *BUSINESS MISSION TO AZERBAIJAN.* The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce, will lead its first-ever bilateral Business Mission to Azerbaijan. The delegation will spend two full days in Baku, meeting with Azerbaijani government and business leaders across various ministries and sectors. Chamber Members - \$2,500; Non-members - \$5,000. For information & registration, please see: <https://uschamberofcommerce.swoogo.com/baku-mission-2026>.

Feb. 10 *EXPORT COMPLIANCE ESSENTIALS 2: EXPORT COMPLIANCE MASTERCLASS.* Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will explore recent regulatory updates, risk management strategies, and how compliance can empower your business as you expand into new markets. Learn practical approaches to stay resilient and compliant while pursuing growth. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/export-compliance-essentials-2-export-compliance-masterclass/>.

Feb. 12 *GOING GLOBAL: INTERNATIONAL TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.* Webinar, sponsored by Plante Moran, will break down key considerations for global expansion, including payroll requirements, U.S. income tax disclosure obligations, and more. This session will provide a high-level roadmap to help you navigate tax and compliance challenges of building an international workforce. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/5174829/363B40A924B0154F6954D18A858211DC?partnerref=EMAIL&mkt_tok=OTQ2LNUUWS02MDEAAAGe0TdkChf5bJ0i4wKqp-D99vsgwBjJq17Uyv2UkfgVK3antVJZtfPJ0TRWaUppDLIfk1HJcL8-ICrOFB0mH7dxjmfZC0NV5NcF20t7cnwnZvdc.

Feb. 13 *ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON.* Year of the Horse program sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. Presentation by The Honorable Amb. **Wang Boadong**, People's Republic of China. 11:30 a.m., Evergreen Restaurant, 1411 South Wentworth Avenue, Chicago. CAPRC, HKBAM & ITA/GC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please see: hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com.

Feb. 19 **TAPPING INTO TRADE-PART 2: TRADE LOGISTICS.** Hybrid event sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. The core of the program features an overview of the tools needed to get your products where they need to be: *What is a freight forwarder and how can they help; What are Incoterms, why do they matter, and how do I figure out the correct one(s); What are some common shipping roadblocks, and how do you navigate them effectively.* 10:00 a.m. CST. Hallmark, (Room 8B-M3-43-E Connections A) 2501 MaGee Street, Kansas City, MO. ITC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6442738>.

Feb. 24 **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is focused on: Indirect communication; Ambiguous and context-dependent messaging; English as a non-native language. This in-depth seminar offers practical strategies for strengthening working relationships and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, subordinates, customers, and supervisors. By the end of the seminar, participants will be better equipped to: Interpret indirect or ambiguous messages more accurately; Communicate clearly and respectfully across language and cultural gaps; Reduce misunderstandings while preserving relationships; Increase confidence and effectiveness in day-to-day interactions with Japanese counterparts. 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1979996243063?aff=odddtcreator>.

Mar. 10 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is designed to offer answer to the many questions non-Japanese may have (e.g., “Why do Japanese take so long to make decisions?”; “Why don’t Japanese give clear instructions?”). The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities. 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-tickets-1788184350529?aff=erelpanelorg>.

Mar. 16 - 20 **SOUTHERN CONE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO CHILE, ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY.** As part of the Initiative for Improving Advanced Competitiveness through Trade (IMPACT), the U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration (ITA) is organizing an Energy Technologies Trade Mission to the Southern Cone region. This mission will introduce U.S. companies to the dynamic Southern Cone region, whose governments are investing heavily in energy technologies to diversify and develop their economies. Participating U.S. companies will gain market insight on how to increase their exports to the region, visit project sites, and engage with pre-screened buyers, agents, distributors, project developers and potential business partners. The mission will include meetings and networking receptions with chambers of commerce, business groups, and national and regional government officials that can address questions on procurements, projects, policies, regulations, tariff rates, and incentives. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/SouthernConeEnergyTechTradeMission/>.

Mar. 31 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is designed to offer answer to the many questions non-Japanese may have (e.g., “Why do Japanese take so long to make decisions?”; “Why don’t Japanese give clear instructions?”). The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-tickets-1789694126309?aff=erelpanelorg>.

Apr. 19 - **SOUTHEAST ASIA MARITIME TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA.** TMA BlueTech, 29 in collaboration with the International Trade Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, invites U.S. BlueTech companies to participate in the 2026 U.S. Maritime Technology Export Initiative. This federally supported program reduces the financial burden of international expansion and provides direct access to two of the most commercially active maritime markets in Southeast Asia. Participation in this delegation offers a rare opportunity to accelerate export growth, build long term partnerships, and engage directly with high level decision makers in Singapore and Indonesia. This mission builds on the strong results of last year's Singapore delegation and expands into one of the world's most dynamic emerging maritime markets. Up to eight U.S. companies will be accepted on a rolling basis. For information & an application, please see: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66ad63b7e4f2fd7ec698e46e/t/6941fe31a608bb7418b6dace/1765932593234/2026+Trade+Mission+%28Singapore-Indonesia%29+E-Brochure.pdf>.

Apr. 29 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT SIAL CANADA 2026.** The Illinois Department of May 1 Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at the SIAL Canada 2026 trade show in Montreal. Covering every aspect of the Canadian food & beverage industry, SIAL Canada provides the perfect platform for Illinois exporters servicing institutional foodservice, restaurants, and grocery stores. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: Exhibit space; Matchmaking assistance; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$1,000. For information & an application, please contact: Chris.Sedgwick@Illinois.gov.

May 5 **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is focused on: Indirect communication; Ambiguous and context-dependent messaging; English as a non-native language. This in-depth seminar offers practical strategies for strengthening working relationships and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, subordinates, customers, and supervisors. By the end of the seminar, participants will be better equipped to: Interpret indirect or ambiguous messages more accurately; Communicate clearly and respectfully across language and cultural gaps; Reduce misunderstandings while preserving relationships; Increase confidence and effectiveness in day-to-day interactions with Japanese counterparts. 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980000899992?aff=odddtcreator>.

Jun. 9 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is designed to offer answer to the many questions non-Japanese may have (e.g., “Why do Japanese take so long to make decisions?”; “Why don’t Japanese give clear instructions?”). The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-tickets-1790097432609?aff=erelpanelorg>.

Jul. 20 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT THE FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW.** 24 The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois booth at the Farnborough Airshow. The 2026 edition will spotlight five global industry themes: Global Security; Advanced Technology & AI; Supply Chain; Sustainability; and Future Workforce. Illinois companies who qualify for this Group Trade Mission will receive, in accordance with ISTEP program eligibility guidelines: Shared booth space in a high-visibility location; Business and government matchmaking; In-country briefing and networking; Pre-show market briefings and on-site support; Ground transportation to and from the fairgrounds; Partial reimbursement of travel costs for lodging and airfare between 25 and 75%. Fee: \$1,500. For information & an application, please contact: Riccardo.Navon@Illinois.gov.

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.

Follow the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago on LinkedIn:



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 KSM

KSM (Katz, Sapper & Miller) is one of the top 50 largest independent advisory, tax, and audit firms in the United States. Through our deep experience across multiple disciplines and industries, we provide clients with the inspiration, insight, and technical expertise they need to achieve great things. KSM's international team provides tax planning and consulting services to help businesses and individuals navigate all aspects of cross-border activity. Headquartered in Indianapolis, we operate multiple offices and serve an impressive roster of clients who count on us to be their trusted advisors. Learn more at ksmcpa.com.