

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

February 23, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

## Of Note:

**U.S. and Taiwan Reach Agreement:** As reported by Hannah B. Kreinik in Barnes Richardson's [Global Trade Law](#), Taiwan and the U.S. have reached an [agreement](#) committing both parties to limiting tariffs and strengthening trade ties. The fact sheet on the deal is [here](#).

**The World's Largest Free Trade Agreements:** Citing IMF data, the [Visual Capitalist](#) reports the World's Largest FTAs by total intra-bloc trade flows in 2024. The European Union remains the world's largest free trade bloc reflecting decades of deep economic integration, common regulations, and dense supply chains across member states.

**Lower Freight Shipments Weigh on World Container Rates:** [Freight Waves](#) reports the [Drewry World Container Index](#) (WCI) fell 1% to \$1,933 per forty-foot container (FEU), the fifth consecutive weekly decline, as rates continue to weaken on benchmark trade routes from Asia to the United States and Europe.

**AI Fueled Massive Surge in Fraud Losses Last Year, Study Finds:** Artificial intelligence-driven fraud skyrocketed last year, fraud detection company [Pindrop](#) found in a recent study, with overall attacks against its major U.S. customers rising 1,210% and combined losses reaching an estimated \$1 billion. As reported in [Supply Chain Dive](#), this research comes on the heels of similar findings from Paris-headquartered Trustpair, a software vendor focused on payment fraud prevention.

**CFIUS Seeks Comment on Known Investor Program and Streamlining the Foreign Investment Review Process:** As reported by [Wiley Rein LLP](#), the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which chairs the Committee Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), recently published a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) seeking public comment on CFIUS's Known Investor Program and how the Committee can further streamline the foreign investment review process.

**EXIM Advances Buy American, Build the Future Framework with Uzbekistan:** Building on the landmark 'Buy American, Build the Future' Agreement signed in November, Export-Import Bank of the United States ([EXIM](#)) Chairman John Jovanovic joined U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) CEO Ben Black, Uzbekistan President Mirziyoyev, and other senior Uzbek government officials on February 19 to sign a Heads of Terms agreement that translates Uzbekistan's commitment to prioritize American equipment and technology into concrete financing solutions for major industrial and infrastructure projects.

**India: From Ambition to Action:** McKinsey has assembled a [compendium](#) of insights about the world's fastest growing economy, particularly useful as the U.S. and India have inked a new [trade deal](#).

**Legislation Introduced to End First Sale:** Barnes Richardson's Marvin E. McPherson summarizes the widely reported [Congressional move](#) to [make first sale impossible](#) under the law. This bill reflects growing congressional interest in customs valuation and enforcement reforms.

**How FTAs Unlock Trade Opportunities:** In this Hinrich Foundation [White Paper](#), Jia Hui Tee writes “to strategically maximize the use of FTAs, businesses must first assess the distinct advantages offered by each agreement” and consider broader factors such as costs of input, supply chain resilience, and regulatory and geopolitical risks. The White Paper includes an example of using FTAs for exporting processed foods.

**Press Releases from the Office of the USTR announcing new actions affecting trade:**

- USTR Greer Issues Statement on Framework for [Agreement on Reciprocal Trade with North Macedonia](#)
- USTR Greer Oversees Signing of [U.S.-Taiwan Agreement](#) on Reciprocal Trade
- USTR Greer Signs the [United States-Bangladesh Agreement](#) on Reciprocal Trade
- USTR Greer Issues Statement on Joint Statement for a [Trade Deal with India](#)
- USTR Greer Signs the [United States–Argentina Agreement](#) on Reciprocal Trade and Investment
- USTR Greer Announces [Critical Minerals Cooperation](#) with the European Union and Japan
- USTR Greer Announces [U.S.-Mexico Action Plan](#) on Critical Minerals
- Statement from USTR Greer on the [Reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act](#)
- USTR Statement on [WTO Report](#) Faulting U.S. Actions to Reindustrialize Our Economy
- USTR Signs the [United States-Guatemala Agreement](#) on Reciprocal Trade

**Cato Launches IEEPA Informational Site:** The Cato Institute has created a dedicated [website](#) compiling IEEPA background materials, scholar statements, past blogs, and press releases to help inform coverage as news develops.

**Develop An Export Plan:** The International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce has published a how-to video on export plans and written sections on [Steps To Develop Your Export Plan](#), including: Key Tips; Elements of an Export Plan; Product or Service; Pricing Considerations; Promotion; Management Issues; Experience; Personnel; Production Capacity; Financial Capacity.

**Tariffs as Fiscal Policy:** The Cato Institute has just released the newest issue of [Research Briefs in Economic Policy No. 470](#). Authors Kimberly A. Clausing and Maurice Obstfeld conclude: “The Trump tariffs have already raised substantial revenue, but our research finds that they entail substantial efficiency losses. Today’s tariffs increase compliance costs, reduce investment, create serious tax administration problems, and encourage corruption and wasteful lobbying efforts. Moreover, such broad tariffs will reduce production and increase prices, with an ambiguous effect on the trade deficit.”

**Procurement Anxiety Hits Two-Year High, CIPS Survey Finds:** Procurement teams are once again raising red flags about cost volatility and supply chain risk, according to [new data](#) from the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS). Respondents cited rising prices, fragile supplier networks, and ongoing global trade uncertainty as key drivers of unease across global supply chains.

**Which Countries Rely Most on Imports:** Globally, imported goods and services are equal to 28% of GDP. Despite importing \$3.4 trillion of goods, the U.S. has one of the lowest import-to-GDP ratios because of its massive and diverse economy. Several small island economies have extremely high import-to-GDP ratios, including Cuba (82%) and Taiwan (49%), given limited domestic production. *Visual Capitalist* captures [Import Reliance by Country](#) in one graphic.

**Council of the EU Gives Final Green Light to New Customs Duty Rules for Small Parcels:** The Council of the EU on February 11 formally approved [new customs duty rules](#) for items contained in small parcels entering the EU, largely via e-commerce. The agreement abolishes the threshold-based customs duty relief for parcels valued at under €150 entering the EU. Customs tariffs will therefore start applying to all goods entering the EU once the EU customs data hub – under discussion as part of a broader fundamental reform of the customs framework – is operational, likely in 2028.

**Nearshoring Without Growth: Why Investment Uncertainty Is Holding Mexico Back:** In this [Commentary](#) for the Center for Strategic & International Studies, Diego Marroquín Bitar and Ryan C. Berg argue that Mexico does not lack assets, market access, or strategic relevance. What it lacks is sufficient certainty to unlock sustained investment growth. In the end, Mexico will either reap the rewards of a drive toward economic and supply chain security not by relying on geography—and even less by believing that geography is destiny—but by virtue of sound institutions, fiscal credibility, transparency, and predictable rules.

**Port Tracker Report Calls for U.S. Import Declines over the First Half of 2026:** [Logistics Management](#) reports United States-bound retail container import volumes are expected to see annual declines over the first half of the year, according to the new edition of the Global Port Tracker report, which was issued February 9 by the National Retail Federation (NRF) and maritime consultancy Hackett Associates.

**China Exit Bans for Foreign Executives: The Commercial Dispute Risk Nobody Plans For:** China Law Blog's Dan Harris's article explains [how exit bans work](#), who is most at risk, what to do if it happens, and how to reduce exposure before you board the plane. In China, exit bans can arise from civil disputes, not just criminal or national security matters. They can also arise in regulatory contexts, where the pressure to fix an issue can quickly become personal.

**Supply Chain Resource Hub for Manufacturing:** The International Trade Administration's [Supply Chain Resource Hub](#) connects U.S. and international businesses with tools, programs, and partners to strengthen American manufacturing through domestic sourcing. This resource toolkit supports both U.S. and foreign businesses with resources to help guide sourcing of U.S. made materials, parts, and components. By using American-made inputs, companies can strengthen the economy, ensure supply chain resilience, and meet regulatory standards.

**Why U.S. - China Relations Matter to the Heartland:** [Annual Report](#) from the U.S. - Heartland China Association examines the benefits of the U.S.-China relationship at the state level and provides an easy-to-access resource for Heartland states all on one platform. The Report is meant to be a resource for business leaders, state and local politicians, higher education professionals, and anyone else who wants to understand key data of the Heartland's cultural, educational and business ties to China.

**Ranked: Countries Spending the Most on Research and Development:** The *Visual Capitalist* demonstrates how [China's share of global R&D](#) has surged from 4.0% in 2000 to 27.4% in 2024. China's R&D spend in 2024 – \$785.9 billion – surpassed the U.S. (\$782 billion) for the first time ever.

**The Great Trade Realignment: Asia Rising:** An article in McKinsey & Company [Insights](#) discusses how trade flows worldwide are reconfiguring as geopolitical alignments fragment and future-shaping industries grow in importance, potentially leading to a generational shift in global trade patterns. Although global trade enjoyed a decade of robust growth from 2014 to 2024, expanding from \$24 trillion to \$33 trillion, an unpredictable geopolitical landscape put this resilience to the test last year.

**Countries Expected to Grow the Most in 2026:** From Venezuela (-3.0%) to Guyana (+23.0%), the *Visual Capitalist* chart depicts [global GDP growth forecasts](#). Global real GDP growth is projected to be 3.1% in 2026, slightly lower than the 3.2% forecast for 2025.

**Cambodia vs. Guatemala for Manufacturing:** Writing in the [China Law Blog](#), Dan Harris opines: “For U.S. companies making labor-intensive products and looking to exit China, Cambodia and Guatemala come up repeatedly as lower-cost alternatives. I am bullish on Guatemala, but cautious on Cambodia. This is not because Cambodia cannot manufacture. It can. The issue is control. Cambodia's risk profile is harder to manage and more likely to create problems during investor due diligence, bank due diligence, or an acquisition.”

**The America First Investment Pledges: How Are They Structured and Are They Realistic?:** In [Policy Brief 26-2](#), the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) examines closely the Trump administration's “America First” agenda and bi-lateral negotiations with allies and partners to encourage them to invest in US industrial and infrastructure projects. The [White House investment tracker](#), which records both private and official investments, shows a total figure of \$9.6 trillion. In a recent [briefing](#), President Trump used a figure of \$18 trillion; the basis for this claim is not clear.

**U.S. Population Growth Slows Due to Historic Decline in Net International Migration:** Population growth in the United States has slowed significantly with an increase of only 1.8 million, or 0.5%, between July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, according to the new Vintage 2025 population estimates released today by the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). The slowdown in U.S. population growth is largely due to a historic decline in net international migration, which dropped from 2.7 million to 1.3 million in the period from July 2024 through June 2025, according to the assistant division chief for Estimates and Projections at the Census Bureau.

**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.

**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.

**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).

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- Feb. 23 - **2026 WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE.** Hybrid event, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, brings together leaders in international trade from across the U.S. and around the world to explore the trade landscape and look toward the future of trade. Topics include: *Trump Trade 2.0; The New Frontier in Critical Minerals Policy: Negotiating Trade Agreements; USMCA Performance and Priorities; U.S. Trade Leadership in the Age of AI: Obstacles and Opportunities in Digital Trade; Manufacturing 4.0: Trade, AI and Automation; Investment Security is National Security; Western Hemispheric Trade Integration.* WITA Members in- person - \$200; virtual - \$150. Non-members in person - \$300; Non-members virtual – 250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/2026-witc-february/>.
- Feb. 23 **GLOBALIZE YOUR WEBSITE.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide you with many tools and resources for updating your website and increasing your international sales. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bcv24hv>.
- Feb. 24 **VENEZUELA IN TRANSITION: THE EVOLVING INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE.** Webinar, sponsored by Winson & Strawn, will examine the challenges and opportunities of foreign investment in Venezuela amid evolving regulatory and geopolitical dynamics. A panel will provide expert insights into Venezuela's evolving investment landscape, restrictions and regulations, and potential future scenarios and opportunities. 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us.nexl.cloud/email\\_marketing/access/campaigns/85ab5cee-f176-4967-ab56-281c65371f17?ems\\_user\\_token=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.Lk9Bakc2SUwzckdSS3hleWJzVGJtRTBGcGpFbHdlb0lvMnFwMDlWak3RHB1Z0dSTm9qWk1TRldObUxIVkxwTkVheGovM20rTHlXczVhREdpM2dNV0xNeTluKzLU2c0a01RZ0U4aDezR1AydjJSY1FWNFBHVtGuaXo3Rkx1MXVndUhoTXFEUHVuKzdaeDRMc2p3OXBDUIBCLy9QZl1hHK3R6ZU1BcExabm9vRythY3JTeG54NFF4S0FHcCs5Y3QzRINOMGxlZmEzbUt2cFdXRHhwrI9hRGJtR2ptaGlicmZkZlBlbjl3N1piMUUp6Z2VEandjTEFiUG92b3FNPS0rTS9rQko1d1Rtc05UWHd1cC0tMTZMRmErQi9uaGIFRUF3NEdq0hEUT09lg.8hUB\\_eCqqrqk4xiKfHZb1owGXf7m3austFdxRBi4xOQ](https://us.nexl.cloud/email_marketing/access/campaigns/85ab5cee-f176-4967-ab56-281c65371f17?ems_user_token=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.Lk9Bakc2SUwzckdSS3hleWJzVGJtRTBGcGpFbHdlb0lvMnFwMDlWak3RHB1Z0dSTm9qWk1TRldObUxIVkxwTkVheGovM20rTHlXczVhREdpM2dNV0xNeTluKzLU2c0a01RZ0U4aDezR1AydjJSY1FWNFBHVtGuaXo3Rkx1MXVndUhoTXFEUHVuKzdaeDRMc2p3OXBDUIBCLy9QZl1hHK3R6ZU1BcExabm9vRythY3JTeG54NFF4S0FHcCs5Y3QzRINOMGxlZmEzbUt2cFdXRHhwrI9hRGJtR2ptaGlicmZkZlBlbjl3N1piMUUp6Z2VEandjTEFiUG92b3FNPS0rTS9rQko1d1Rtc05UWHd1cC0tMTZMRmErQi9uaGIFRUF3NEdq0hEUT09lg.8hUB_eCqqrqk4xiKfHZb1owGXf7m3austFdxRBi4xOQ).
- 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=oddtcreator>.
- Feb. 24 **SCHEDULE B AND HTS CODES - CLASSIFYING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the details of these codes and the general rules of interpretation to give you confidence in classifying your products for export or import. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k9h22bs>.

- Feb. 25 ***MCC & CÔTE D'IVOIRE'S ENERGY COMPACT: INVESTING IN BUSINESS & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, will discuss accessing business opportunities created by the MCC - Côte d'Ivoire's Regional Energy Compact. Participants will: *Learn how U.S. companies can access projects and procurement opportunities under the MCC Compact; Understand the specific energy, infrastructure, and regional market initiatives open to private-sector participation; Hear directly from MCC and government experts about eligibility, procurement processes, and timelines; Connect with Embassy, MCC, and regional experts to support business development and advocacy.* 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/aaf78503-a802-4dc9-b53b-81267dfe34fd@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Feb. 25 ***SAMPLES, PROTOTYPES, AND REPAIRS - TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR SHIPMENTS THROUGH CUSTOMS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide tips for getting these shipments through Customs in the U.S. and other countries. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/zr5zug9>.
- Feb. 25 ***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/>.
- Feb. 25 ***BRAZIL MEDICAL MARKET UPDATE - OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. HEALTHCARE COMPANIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, offers U.S. healthcare companies a practical briefing on real market opportunities, regulatory considerations, and commercial strategies for entering or expanding in Brazil's fast growing healthcare sector. It highlights trends, sector specific insights, and upcoming initiatives relevant to medical device makers, pharma and biotech firms, digital health companies, service providers, and innovators targeting Latin America. 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For registration, please see: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25lF8vMbP3gE5u2jDQQfVMi22dsYRRyrFUMUMxSFZXVDZQNTQzWVR0ME9CTzI4RjlGOS4u&route=shorturl>.
- Feb. 25 ***USMCA IN 2026: WHAT INDUSTRIES NEED TO KNOW AHEAD OF THE REVIEW.*** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, is designed to provide a forward-looking, practical discussion that helps companies prepare well in advance of any formal developments. Speakers will focus on: *The macro-level USMCA review process and policy dynamics; Key issues and signals industries should be watching; Practical compliance considerations and risk mitigation strategies for companies operating under USMCA.* 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. CST. AAEI Members – No fee; Non-members – \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://aaei.org/usmca-in-2026-what-industries-need-to-know-ahead-of-the-review/>.
- Feb. 25 ***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-february-monthly-update>.
- Feb. 25 ***DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH KOREA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Arkansas District Export Council and Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions, will show you how to navigate regulations, understand Korean business culture, and build successful partnerships. Ideal for companies and professionals exploring trade, investment, or expansion opportunities in South Korea. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-in-south-korea-tickets-1979743171118?aff=oddtcreator>.

- Feb. 25 ***FIRESIDE CHAT: INDYCAR RACER, TOBY SOWERY AND ROB JOHNSON.*** Event sponsored by the British-American Business Council, features an exclusive fireside chat with **Toby Sowery**, IndyCar driver and class winner of the 2026 Rolex 24 at Daytona, in conversation with **Rob Johnson**, former television reporter and communications expert. This live discussion goes beyond lap times and podiums. Together, they'll explore the business of motorsport, the realities of building a career in one of the most competitive global sports, and what it truly takes, on and off the track, to succeed at the highest level. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, 320 South Canal Street, Chicago. BABC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$65. For information & registration, please see: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/j9ngcmw?source\\_id=feb44162-10fa-47c9-8afd-3d129cb76a5c&source\\_type=em&c=Dhh1PWS58Tz3n2ruSM9G2giGBhaqIv3JgkKbC71wGAvr-1PoKsAUUg==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/j9ngcmw?source_id=feb44162-10fa-47c9-8afd-3d129cb76a5c&source_type=em&c=Dhh1PWS58Tz3n2ruSM9G2giGBhaqIv3JgkKbC71wGAvr-1PoKsAUUg==).
- Feb. 26 ***TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Baker Tilly, discusses geopolitical developments, evolving trade agreements and increased enforcement activity. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, global customs and trade directors at Baker Tilly, provide an ongoing trade policy and tariff update for this webinar series. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.mossadams.com/events/2026/02/trade-policy-and-tariff-updates-series?utm\\_source=INV1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Webinar\\_GTA\\_TPTU\\_02.05.26&utm\\_id=701Po00001T2O0MIAV](https://www.mossadams.com/events/2026/02/trade-policy-and-tariff-updates-series?utm_source=INV1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_02.05.26&utm_id=701Po00001T2O0MIAV).
- Feb. 26 ***INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE: GETTING PAID.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the range of payment methods used in international transactions to reduce risk. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/jx3mx46>.
- Feb. 26 ***MALAYSIA IN FOCUS: OPPORTUNITIES, INCENTIVES AND STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR US BUSINESSES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, will introduce the Malaysian market and provide practical guidance on how and where to enter the country. Whether you are at an early exploration stage or actively planning your market entry, this session will equip you with clear strategic context and applicable guidance for entering and operating in Malaysia. Speakers: **Jaibalan Harirajan**, Director, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) Chicago and **Kyle Freeman**, Partner, Dezan Shira & Associates. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7168152160938328924?source=3rd>.
- Feb. 26 ***29TH ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER AND CELEBRATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE.*** Traditional Chinese dinner sponsored by the United States of America-China Chamber of Commerce. Special Remarks by The Honorable **Wang Baodong** (Invited), Consul General, Chinese Consulate in Chicago; Performance by **Kede Lu**, Award Winning Artist. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., The Phoenix Restaurant, 2131 South Archer Avenue, Chicago. USCCC Members - \$65; Non-members - \$85. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.usccc.org/\\_files/ugd/1817b4\\_31a9b4e419c240369048b7fee67336ee.pdf](https://www.usccc.org/_files/ugd/1817b4_31a9b4e419c240369048b7fee67336ee.pdf).
- Feb. 27 ***GLOBAL TRADE IN 2026: BETWEEN TARIFFS, GEOPOLITICS, AND AI.*** Event sponsored by the International Business Council of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Join expert economists, industry leaders, and global partners for a high impact program examining the forces reshaping trade—and what they mean for your organization. Keynote: **Phil Levy**, Lead Economist, World Bank and Former Senior U.S. Trade Official. 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Instituto Cervantes - Chicago, 31 West Ohio Street, Chicago. IBC Members - \$75; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tet58bz?source\\_id=570009ff-1f83-46a4-8e7f-f8bcdfe6c1e7&source\\_type=em&c=4YEXdVF3lItPyROu4ZTdOeaBeyb6lJK3RoFxxO-PnCsv8tvPp3aADQ==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tet58bz?source_id=570009ff-1f83-46a4-8e7f-f8bcdfe6c1e7&source_type=em&c=4YEXdVF3lItPyROu4ZTdOeaBeyb6lJK3RoFxxO-PnCsv8tvPp3aADQ==).
- Feb. 27 ***THE U.S.-PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Global Trade Research Institute, will explain the details of the agreement and how you can take advantage of these opportunities. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3e9uswm>.

- Mar. 2 - ***JAPAN UAS AND C-UAS DEFENSE INDUSTRY PROGRAM 2026***. The U.S. Department of Commerce is proud to present the Japan UAS and C-UAS Defense Industry Program 2026 in Tokyo. This program is curated for U.S. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and counter-UAS manufacturers exporting their products for defense use. U.S. participants can expect: Curated briefings, policy discussions, and roundtable sessions hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo; In-depth market overview of Japan's defense policy and industry priorities from U.S. Embassy personnel; Direct insight into the Japanese defense market, including key opportunities and challenges; Invitation-only U.S. Embassy reception; Engagement with senior procurement officials; On-site U.S. Embassy support throughout the program, providing market intelligence and logistics assistance. Fee: \$1,850++. For information & registration please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/JapanUASandC-UASDefenseIndustryDayConference-9884/>.
- Mar. 3 ***UNLOCK BERMUDA: MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide: *Practical guidance on doing business in Bermuda; Insights on current import needs and market trends; Information on rare duty-free export opportunities for U.S. companies; Access to U.S. Government export assistance resources*. 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BermudaWebinar/index.php?\\_gl=1%2A50y51e%2A\\_ga%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODUyMTI4%2A\\_ga\\_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A\\_ga\\_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJHoxNzcxwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...](https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BermudaWebinar/index.php?_gl=1%2A50y51e%2A_ga%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODUyMTI4%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJHoxNzcxwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...)
- Mar. 4 ***THE STATE OF US-JAPAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ECONOMY***. Webinar, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines the evolving economic relationship between the United States and Japan. As global trade patterns shift and geopolitical tensions reshape the Indo-Pacific region, this discussion brings together leading economists and policy experts to assess current trade and investment dynamics, supply chain resilience, and emerging areas of cooperation and competition. Panelists include: **Leila Aridi Afas**, Director, Global Public Policy, Toyota Motor North America; **Mary E. Lovely**, Anthony M. Solomon Senior Fellow, PIIE; **Shujiro Urata**, Chairman Emeritus, Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI); Professor Emeritus, Waseda University; **Marcus Noland** (Moderator), Executive Vice President and Director of Studies, PIIE. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/state-us-japan-economic-relations-changing-global-economy>.
- Mar. 4 ***HOW ARE BUSINESSES CREATING VALUE WITH AI AROUND THE WORLD AND USING AI IN ECOMMERCE?*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Speakers: **Kati Suominen** is the Founder and CEO of Nextrade Group that helps governments, leading technology companies, and multilateral development banks enable trade and private sector development through technology; **Fabian Stachelin** is the Founder of e-traid and has dedicated his career to developing e-commerce in emerging markets, notably as the driving force behind the partnership between eBay and the International Trade Centre (ITC). 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7637503988205130078?mc\\_cid=3370535e6f&mc\\_eid=6499c7d108](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7637503988205130078?mc_cid=3370535e6f&mc_eid=6499c7d108).
- Mar. 4 ***UNDERSTANDING THE U.S. EXPORT FILING PROCESS***. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will help exporters feel more comfortable with the U.S. export filing process and understand when and how to make a disclosure when inaccurate data is found. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-the-u-s-export-filing-process>.

- Mar. 5 ***DISCOVER NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN SURINAME'S OIL AND GAS SECTOR.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will help you: *Learn where U.S. companies fit into Suriname's primary oil and gas value chain; Identify opportunities in supporting sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, food, and travel and tourism; Understand market entry considerations and regulatory landscape; Hear directly from experts on how to position your company for success.* 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Suriname-OilandGas/index.php?\\_gl=1%2A50y51e%2A\\_ga%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODEyMTI4%2A\\_ga\\_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A\\_ga\\_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJHQxNzcwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...](https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Suriname-OilandGas/index.php?_gl=1%2A50y51e%2A_ga%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODEyMTI4%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJHQxNzcwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...)
- Mar. 5 ***FORCED LABOR IN MY SUPPLY CHAIN? UNDERSTANDING THE LAW AND RESPONDING TO CBP DETENTIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will discuss the general statutory framework on forced labor imports, how businesses can prepare for a potential inquiry or detention, and best practices in responding to CBP. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/forced-labor-in-my-supply-chain-understanding-the-law-and-responding-to-cbp-detentions>.
- Mar 10 - 12 ***MARCH 2026 IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL "PARTNERING FOR COMPLIANCE™" EXPORT CONTROL TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.*** In-person & virtual program sponsored by Partnerships International. Speakers include: DDTC (Licensing & Enforcement); BIS (Licensing & Enforcement); DTSA/DoD; OFAC (Licensing & Enforcement)/Treasury; Census Bureau, Imports: **Adrienne Braumiller**, Esq., Founder & Managing Partner/Braumiller Law Group PLLC, Dallas, TX; and **Sue Gainor**, President/CEO, Greypoint Consulting – ITAR issues; After-hours workshops led by: **Arthur Shulman**, VP International Trade Compliance, General Atomics (ITAR), and **Adam Stein**, BIS Trade Analyst (EAR). 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$950 in-person; \$650 virtual. For information & registration, please see: <https://partneringforcompliance.org/pfec26.pdf>.
- 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. 10 ***TRADE OPPORTUNITIES & TRENDS FOR IN-HOUSE LEGAL COUNSEL.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will provide an overview of the current US customs legal and regulatory framework and the trends, traps and opportunities that you should be aware of to maximize compliance and duty savings for your company. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/trade-opportunities-trends-for-in-house-legal-counsel>.
- Mar. 10 ***GERMAN AMERICAN BUSINESS OUTLOOK – ILLINOIS.*** Program, sponsored by the German American Chambers of Commerce, reports the results of an annual survey of German-American business relations directed at German subsidiaries in the US assessing current economic developments and trends in transatlantic business. Conducted by the German American Chambers of Commerce, this US-wide survey is one of the most important economic indicators of German American business relations. 6:00 p.m., HARTING Americas, 1370 Bowes Road, Elgin, IL. GACC Midwest Members - \$50; Non-members - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/german-american-business-outlook-gabo-illinois2>.

- Mar. 12 ***APPAREL CLASSIFICATION SERIES: THE BASICS.*** First of a 5-part webinar series, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review a variety of apparel examples and discuss the specific features that US Customs and Border Protection focuses on when determining the correct HTS classification and duty rate. The first webinar in the series will cover the basics of Apparel Classification. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/apparel-classification-series-the-basics>.
- Mar. 14 ***THE U.S. AND C5+1.*** Breakfast discussion sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center Wisconsin Team. 8:30 a.m., Jimmy's Restaurant, 104 Leffler Street, Dodgeville, WI. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please contact: [hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com](mailto:hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com).
- 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. 17 ***NAVIGATING THE WAVES OF TUMULTUOUS TRADE COMPLIANCE.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association. MITA's annual trade compliance event features experienced trade compliance experts who will cover the latest in policy updates and share how companies are taking a proactive approach to minimizing disruptions to supply chains and their businesses. Speakers: **Chris Young**, Principal, KPGM US; **Mollie Sitkowski**, Trade Compliance Partner, Faegre Drinker; **Poonam Arora**, Director of Global Trade Compliance and Government Contracts, Arnold Magnetic Technologies. 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Fluno Center, 601 University Avenue, Madison, WI. MITA Members - \$50 (by March 10; \$60 thereafter); Non-members - \$75 (by March 10; \$85 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/navigating-the-waves-of-tumultuous-trade-compliance-1618819?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Mar. 17 ***EXPORT JURISDICTION AND CLASSIFICATION BASICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will help exporters understand issues related to jurisdiction and product classification and the impact these have on export licensing requirements and export compliance generally. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/export-jurisdiction-and-classification-basics>.
- Mar. 19 ***HONG KONG SPRING RECEPTION.*** Annual event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in New York. This event brings together professionals who see Hong Kong as a dynamic gateway for global business. Expect an upbeat atmosphere perfect for meeting new people, reconnecting with colleagues, and exploring opportunities tied to Hong Kong and the broader Asia Pacific region. Appetizers and drinks will be served all evening, including a lion dance performance! 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. HKBAM & ITA/GC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hong-kong-spring-reception-tickets-1982899919036?aff=oddttdcreator>.

- Mar. 20 **WHAT'S NEXT FOR FDI? LESSONS FROM 2025 INVESTMENT TRENDS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2026.** Webinar, sponsored by FT Locations, reviews the key FDI trends that shaped 2025 and explores what they mean for 2026. Drawing on the latest data and insights, the session will examine the implications for FDI in 2026 and discuss how investment promotion agencies (IPAs) can continue to build skills, strengthen capabilities and adapt their strategies in a changing global investment landscape. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://fdi26.ftlocations.com/home?xnpe\\_tifc=b.hububOIUhFxDOFzpxMpsafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJapWa\\_BWEke9bZ8vVuEShloZh.zZxuQsxfYphuxpxnTT&utm\\_source=exponea&utm\\_campaign=FTL%20-%20Webinar%20Solus%20-%20Email%20-%20%28I%26O%29%20-%20What%27s%20next%20for%20FDI%3F&utm\\_medium=email](https://fdi26.ftlocations.com/home?xnpe_tifc=b.hububOIUhFxDOFzpxMpsafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJapWa_BWEke9bZ8vVuEShloZh.zZxuQsxfYphuxpxnTT&utm_source=exponea&utm_campaign=FTL%20-%20Webinar%20Solus%20-%20Email%20-%20%28I%26O%29%20-%20What%27s%20next%20for%20FDI%3F&utm_medium=email).
- Mar. 26 **CRACK THE CODE: HS CLASSIFICATIONS, SMART STRATEGIES & DUTY DRAWBACK.** Breakfast workshop sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Tiburon Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members - \$50; Non-members \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/crack-the-code-hs-classifications-smart-strategies-duty-drawback/>.
- Mar. 30 - **2026 CÔTE D'IVOIRE - GHANA TRADE MISSION.** Sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa, this trade and investment mission to Abidjan and Accra will explore investment opportunities and strategic partnerships with high-level engagements with senior government officials and private sector companies. Participants will gain exclusive access to senior government leadership through private briefings with the Presidency and Ministers responsible for Energy, Mining, Finance, Infrastructure, and ICT, as well as participate in B2B matchmaking with vetted private-sector leaders in the energy, healthcare, and agrifood sectors. For information & registration (by March 16), please see: <https://events.corporatecouncilonafrika.com/WestAfricaTradeMission2026>.
- Apr. 2
- 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>.
- Mar. 31 **UNDERSTANDING U.S. CUSTOMS ORIGIN DETERMINATIONS IN THE BIOPHARMA AND LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, provides an overview of basic U.S. customs law origin principles and highlights specific areas for review relevant to the industry. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-u-s-customs-origin-determinations-in-the-biopharma-and-life-sciences-industry>.
- Apr. 1 **MONEY BEYOND BORDERS: THREATS TO THE US DOLLAR.** Virtual program, sponsored by the National Association for Business Economics Chicago, features Dr. **Barry Eichengreen** discussing his new book, *Money Beyond Borders: Global Currencies from Croesus to Crypto*. He will also discuss: *Is the US dollar now on the downside of the life cycle of global currencies?; Who will be the winners and losers if there is a flight away from the greenback?; Will the advent of today’s cryptocurrencies change the historical patterns?; What about central bank digital currencies of tomorrow—what are their possible impacts on the lifecycle of the US dollar?* 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. NABE Members – No fee; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://nabechicago.org/event-money-beyond-borders#!event-register/2026/4/1/april-1-threats-to-the-us-dollar-part-2>.
- Apr. 11 **THE CHINESE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE.** Breakfast discussion sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center Wisconsin Team. 8:30 a.m., Jimmy’s Restaurant, 104 Leffler Street, Dodgeville, WI. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please contact: [hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com](mailto:hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com).

- Apr. 19 - ***SOUTHEAST ASIA MARITIME TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA***. TMA BlueTech, 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 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](mailto:Chris.Sedgwick@Illinois.gov).
- May 1
- 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=oddtcreator>.
- May 14 ***GLOBAL TRADE AT A CROSSROADS: SECURITY, STRATEGY & THE MIDWEST ADVANTAGE***. 2026 World Trade Conference sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. 7:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Tiburon Golf Club & Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/2026-world-trade-conference/>.
- 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](mailto:Riccardo.Navon@Illinois.gov).

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## About the ITA/GC

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

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

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 [ksmpa.com](http://ksmpa.com).