

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

March 2, 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](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.**

---

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

## FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAM

*HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE*

Apr. 8 **SOMETHING FOR EVERY STAKEHOLDER: AI ACROSS SUPPLY CHAINS.** Luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Scott Case**, Founder & Chief Storyteller, Position : Global, who will focus on the different types of AI, the major players in a number of different logistics industries, and the considerations companies should undertake before adopting one of these platforms. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/something-for-every-stakeholder-ai-across-supply-chains-tickets-1984087758897>.

### Of Note:

**State of U.S. Tariffs: February 20, 2026:** [The Budget Lab at Yale](#) analyzes Key Takeaways from the SCOTUS decision to vacate the IEEPA tariffs and provides detailed analyses of tariff rate impacts by country, product-specific impacts and more.

**Panama Wrests Control of Canal Terminals from China Operator:** On February 23 Panama took over operations of container terminals at the Panama Canal, ending more than three decades of management by China. As reported in [American Shipper](#), the takeover follows a ruling on January 29 by Panama's Supreme Court that Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison Holdings Limited's concession was unconstitutional.

**A Comprehensive List of Supply Chain Organizations:** *Supply Chain 24/7* has published a [comprehensive list](#) of major supply chain associations in the United States and globally. The list is organized by: General Supply Chain and Logistics Associations; Warehousing, Distribution, and 3PL Associations; Procurement and Sourcing Associations; Manufacturing and Operations Associations; Freight and Transportation Associations; Technology, Risk, and Automation Associations; Retail and Consumer Supply Chain Associations; Global Supply Chain Organizations.

**Study: Persistent Volatility Is 2026 Theme for Manufacturing and Supply Chain:** Manufacturing and supply chain companies are operating in persistent volatility and fundamentally redefining how products are designed, sourced, and built, according to the [11th Annual State of Manufacturing & Supply Chain Report](#), a survey of over 300 senior supply chain and manufacturing leaders conducted by Fictiv and MISUMI Global.

**Canadian Competition Law Outlook 2026: From Reform to Reality:** Blakes reports competition law in Canada is in the midst of a once-in-a-generation reset that carries significant implications for businesses. [Canadian Competition Law Outlook 2026: From Reform to Reality](#) examines the emerging contours of this new regime and identifies practical considerations for businesses. This guide provides timely insight into how Canada’s evolving competition law framework may affect your organization — and how to navigate risk while remaining competitive.

**The Mexico City Policy: Understanding the Latest Expansion of U.S. Foreign Aid Restrictions:** Winston & Strawn’s February 24 [Blog Post](#) reports the Trump administration’s “historic expansion” of the Mexico City Policy, a longstanding U.S. rule restricting foreign aid funding related to abortion. The expansion extends the policy beyond abortion to include activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and gender-affirming care. The change represents the most significant revision to the policy in its 40-year history and could substantially reshape the distribution of U.S. foreign assistance worldwide.

**Rewiring Global Value Chains in a Changing Global Environment:** In a [Data Blog](#) by the WTO Secretariat, the author examines in depth the recently released [Global Value Chain Development Report 2025](#), asserting global value chains (GVCs) have remained resilient and indispensable to the functioning of the world economy. Although GVCs are under strain, they still account for 46.3 per cent of global trade. GVCs are adapting by becoming more digital and more regional. They are also increasingly shaped by security concerns, with potentially important implications for sustainability and inclusiveness.

**How South Africa Can Unlock its Economic Potential:** In a recent [IMF Country Focus](#), the author claims that to help unlock South Africa’s significant economic potential, they should pursue policies that focus on low and steady inflation, a sound financial system, and healthy government finances, while stepping up reforms supporting stronger economic growth.

**Ranked: The World’s 50 Largest Economies, Including U.S. States:** This graphic from [Visual Capitalist](#) compares countries and U.S. states side by side, revealing just how economically powerful America’s largest states have become. In 2025, 19 U.S. states place within the top 50 largest economies globally, according to IMF projections and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data. California (\$4.30T) is now the world’s 4th-largest economy, ahead of Japan and India. Texas (\$2.94T) is larger than Italy and Russia; Florida’s economy is bigger than Australia’s.

**USTR Seeks Public Comment on the Design of a Plurilateral Agreement on Trade in Critical Minerals:** The [USTR](#) invites public comment on the design of a plurilateral Agreement on Trade in Critical Minerals and policy actions to enhance the resilience of critical mineral supply chains and the downstream industries that depend on them. The deadline for submission of comments is March 19, 2026. To view the Federal Register Notice, click [here](#).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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

**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 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.

**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).

\*\*\*\*\*

Mar. 2 - **JAPAN UAS AND C-UAS DEFENSE INDUSTRY PROGRAM 2026.** The U.S. Department of  
3 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. 2 **CHINA'S GREAT TECH LEAP FORWARD AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES.** Virtual event, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, features the release of the report, *The Power of Innovation: The Strategic Value of China's High-Tech Drive*. The report evaluates China's high-tech drive in general and with respect to specific industries. It then analyzes the effect of these developments on China's military capabilities and its role in shaping international technical standards. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/chinas-great-tech-leap-forward-and-implications-united-states>.
- Mar. 3 **THE FUTURE OF AGOA: BUILDING AMERICAN PROSPERITY THROUGH AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP.** Hybrid event, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies Africa Program, will include keynote remarks and a fireside chat with the Members of Congress, followed by a panel discussion with leading experts. Together, the dialogue will explore bipartisan pathways to examine how a modernized trade framework could deepen U.S.–Africa economic ties, strengthen supply chain resilience, and position the United States and African states to compete more effectively in an increasingly contested global economy. Speakers include Senator Reverend **Raphael Warnock** (D-GA), Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness, and Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade Representative **Adrian Smith** (R-NE). 8:00 – 9:45 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/future-agoa-building-american-prosperity-through-african-partnership>.
- 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%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODEyMTI4%2A\\_ga\\_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A\\_ga\\_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJHQxNzZcwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...](https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BermudaWebinar/index.php?_gl=1%2A50y51e%2A_ga%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODEyMTI4%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJHQxNzZcwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...)
- 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 ***WTO MATTERS: TRADING WITH INTELLIGENCE – UNLOCKING THE BENEFITS OF DIGITAL TRADE, AI AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.*** Virtual program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will discuss how the WTO can help promote trade and development through the use of AI and digital technologies; the WTO’s Work Programme on E-Commerce; and the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions (the “e-commerce Moratorium”). 8:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pRMymPkqQkSSbnwhTBSrW#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pRMymPkqQkSSbnwhTBSrW#/registration).
- Mar. 5 ***THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S AMERICA FIRST INVESTMENT PLEDGES.*** Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. The Trump administration portrays its America First investment initiative as proof that US economic, military, and diplomatic leverage can be turned into financial gains. But these unprecedented deals raise key questions: How are they structured and enforced? Can partners realistically finance their commitments? And which parts of the US economy stand to benefit? PIIE’s **Gregory Auclair** and **Adnan Mazarei** discuss what these agreements could mean for the United States and the global economy. 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. CST. NO fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/trump-administrations-america-first-investment-pledges>.
- Mar. 5 ***PARTNERING WITH EBRD IN 2026: CORPORATE CONSULTANCY.*** First of a three-part series (Mar. 12, 19) on engaging with EBRD procurement and on approaching EBRD for trade/project financing. 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/PartneringWithTheEBRDin2026/>.
- 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%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJH0xNzZwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...](https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Suriname-OilandGas/index.php?_gl=1%2A50y51e%2A_ga%2AMTM0MDUxNjcyNy4xNzU4ODEyMTI4%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE3MiRnMSR0MTc3MDM5NTkyMyRqMTUkbDAkaDA.%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzAzOTM0MjMkbzE0JGcxJH0xNzZwMzk1OTIzJGoxNSRsMCRoMA...)
- 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/pfcc26.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. 10 ***11TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EVENT.*** Program, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, celebrates bold leadership, global vision, and the women shaping what’s next. Cocktails and dinner, followed by a keynote from **Kay Barnes**, the first woman to serve as Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri—and one of the most influential leaders in the city’s modern history. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, 30 West Pershing Road, Suite 301, Kansas City, MO. Fee: varies. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6517601>.
- Mar. 12 ***WINNING ADB CONTRACTS: SUCCESS STORIES AND EXPERT GUIDANCE – CENTRAL ASIAN OPPORTUNITIES.*** Webinar sponsored by the: Asian Development Bank jointly with the American–Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce (AUCC), the U.S.–Kyrgyzstan Business Council (USKGZBC), and the U.S.–Tajikistan Business Council (USTJBC). This program is designed for U.S. companies seeking to expand into Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and the broader Central Asian region. The session will provide practical guidance on navigating ADB procurement processes, insights into priority sectors and upcoming projects, and lessons learned from companies that have successfully secured ADB-funded contracts. 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_WZ\\_G6OGjSaKHv1A9WENfpg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WZ_G6OGjSaKHv1A9WENfpg#/registration).
- Mar. 12 ***PARTNERING WITH EBRD IN 2026: PROJECT PROCUREMENT.*** Second of a three-part series (Mar. 5, 19) on engaging with EBRD procurement and on approaching EBRD for trade/project financing. 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/PartneringWithTheEBRDin2026/>.
- 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 ***PARTNERING WITH EBRD IN 2026: TRADE & PROJECT FINANCING***. Last of a three-part series (Mar. 5, 12) on engaging with EBRD procurement and on approaching EBRD for trade/project financing. 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/PartneringWithTheEBRDin2026/>.
- 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=oddtcreator>.

- 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.hububloIEuhFxDOFzpxMpsafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJakpWa\\_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.hububloIEuhFxDOFzpxMpsafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJakpWa_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. 8 ***SOMETHING FOR EVERY STAKEHOLDER: AI ACROSS SUPPLY CHAINS.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Scott Case**, Founder & Chief Storyteller, Position : Global, who will focus on the different types of AI, the major players in a number of different logistics industries, and the considerations companies should undertake before adopting one of these platforms. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/something-for-every-stakeholder-ai-across-supply-chains-tickets-1984087758897>.
- 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. 14 ***APPAREL CLASSIFICATION SERIES: KNIT TOPS.*** Webinar sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg. Second in a series of five, this has updated content to take into consideration the HS2022 changes and will review US Customs interpretation of the different types of knit upper body garments. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/apparel-classification-series-knit-tops>.
- Apr. 19 - 29 ***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 - May 1 ***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 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/>.
- May 14 ***APPAREL CLASSIFICATION SERIES: EVERYTHING BUT KNIT TOPS.*** Webinar sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg. Third in a series of five, this will review a variety of apparel examples and discuss the specific features that U.S. Customs and Border Protection focuses on when determining the correct classification and duty rate. This will cover the classification of many different knit and woven garments. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/apparel-classification-series-everything-but-knit-tops>.
- 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).

---

---

## 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).