

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

**March 16, 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.**

## 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:

**US Launches Unfair-Trade Probes to Rebuild Trump's Tariff Pressure:** [Reuters](#) reports the Administration is launching [two trade investigations](#) into excess industrial capacity in 16 major trading partners and into forced labor, hoping to rebuild tariff pressure after the Supreme Court tore down much of Trump's tariff program last month. China, the European Union, India, Japan, South Korea and Mexico are among partners that could face new tariffs by this summer under the investigation of unfair trade practices, said U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

**2025 Trade Growth Was the Fastest since 2021:** The [Progressive Policy Institute](#)'s Ed Gresser speculates that the recent pace of trade growth may be due to the steady decline in communication and logistics costs as physical infrastructure improves. Even over the last two years, it's become noticeably cheaper and easier to move information and goods around the world.

**10,000 Ships Crews Trapped by Strait of Hormuz Blockade:** [American Shipper](#) reports more than 10,000 merchant mariners and hundreds of ships are trapped in the Gulf with most operators unwilling to risk the safety of crews in a potentially deadly crossing of the strait. Shipping executives said reports of ships turning off their Automatic Identification System (AIS) tracking and forming convoys to exit the region were false.

**Ranked: The Top Buyers of U.S. Oil in 2025:** [Visual Capitalist](#) graphically demonstrates the destinations for U.S. global exports in 2025. The Netherlands imported 419 million barrels, making it the world's largest buyer of American crude; Mexico fell to second place, importing 398 million barrels. China's imports of U.S. oil declined 34% in 2025, while India's rose 35%, highlighting diverging demand trends between the world's two most populous countries.

**Mapped: The World's Oil Chokepoints:** In case you were wondering, only the Strait of Malacca, between Malaysia and Indonesia, is the world's busiest oil chokepoint, carrying about 29.1% of global maritime oil trade, according to the [Visual Capitalist](#). The Strait of Hormuz carries 26.2% of crude oil, 84% of which is destined for Asia. In total, about 73 million barrels per day of oil moved through major maritime chokepoints, representing the majority of globally traded seaborne oil.

**2026 German American Business Outlook:** This influential [annual survey](#) by the German American Chambers of Commerce captures how German subsidiaries in the U.S. view the current economic climate and what they anticipate for the year ahead. 82% expect sales growth in 2026, after only 64% saw growth and 23% experienced a decline in 2025.

**Tariff Uncertainty Expected to Weigh on U.S. Container Imports in First Half of 2026:** Imports at the nation's major container ports are projected to remain below year-ago levels through the first half of 2026 as retailers continue to navigate shifting trade policy and geopolitical risks, according to the latest *Global Port Tracker* report from the [National Retail Federation](#) (NRF) and Hackett Associates.

**DFC Announces Chubb as Lead Insurance Partner for Maritime Reinsurance Plan:** The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) announced March 11 that Chubb will serve as the lead partner for [DFC's \\$20 billion Maritime Reinsurance plan](#) designed to resume commercial shipping in the Gulf. DFC will continue to provide additional information as it becomes available. Businesses and financial institutions seeking access to DFC's Maritime Reinsurance product should contact DFC directly at [maritime@dfc.gov](mailto:maritime@dfc.gov).

**Guide to Doing Business with the Multilateral Development Banks:** The U.S. Department of Commerce has published this handy [guide](#), featuring sections on the: African Development Bank; Asian Development Bank; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Inter-American Development Bank; World Bank. These MDBs lend billions of dollars in developing countries for projects aimed at accelerating economic growth and social development by reducing poverty and inequality, improving health and education, advancing infrastructure development, and encouraging privatization, good governance and rule of law.

**Call for U.S. Buyers: Taiwan Trade Shows & Sourcing Programs (Spring–Summer 2026):** The Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago (TAITRA) invites U.S. companies, particularly those in manufacturing, technology, automotive, and food industries, to explore sourcing opportunities in Taiwan through upcoming trade shows and buyer programs. Eligible buyers may qualify for travel incentives (flight and/or hotel support), subject to availability. Companies planning to source from Taiwan are welcome to contact the Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago for more information and application details: Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago - [chicago@taitra.org.tw](mailto:chicago@taitra.org.tw).

**USMCA Forward 2026: Navigating the Joint Review for a More Secure and Competitive North America:** As the USMCA agreement prepares for its first-ever joint review, the Brookings Institution has issued their [2026 USMCA Forward](#) report to offer expert analyses and viewpoints from business, government, and civil society on which parts of the agreement are working and where improvements are needed to achieve a more secure and competitive North America.

**The United States and Mexico Launch Review Process of the USMCA:** USTR Greer and his Mexican counterpart on March 5 announced the [first round of bilateral discussions](#) in preparation for the Joint Review of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA). Ministers expect negotiators to hold the first meeting the week of March 16 and meet regularly thereafter as part of the Joint Review.

**2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report:** On March 2 USTR Greer delivered President Trump's [2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report](#) to Congress. The Report includes a comprehensive account of USTR's actions to support President Trump's America First Trade Policy, including negotiations with key trading partners to secure strong disciplines and expand market access for U.S. exporters.

**China No Longer Buys US Exports: Drawing the Right Lessons for the Next Trump-Xi Deal:** Writing in the Peterson Institute for International Economics' [Realtime Economics](#), Chad P. Bown writes that US exports to China have fallen sharply, largely due to Trump's trade wars combined with China's economic problems and policies. Without Trump's trade wars since 2017, US exports to China would have been nearly 60 percent higher in 2025, or roughly \$90 billion annually.

**The New FDI Map: The Rise of Investment Blocs in a Fragmenting World:** This *FT Locations* [blog](#) describes how geopolitical rivalries are causing the global economy to increasingly fragment into competing blocs. But rather than retreating, foreign direct investment is being reshaped – revealing how capital is adjusting to a more divided, strategically driven world.

**Iran Conflict Triggers Global Supply Chain Setbacks:** The *CSCMP Smart Brief*, citing the [Associated Press](#), reports the Iran war has significantly disrupted global supply chains, halting oil tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz and affecting the shipping of pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and oil-derived products. About 4% of global ship tonnage is idle in the Persian Gulf, causing congestion and delays.

**Heads of WTO, EIB Sign Landmark Agreement to Boost Trade and Investment:** The WTO Secretariat and the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) on March 4 to enhance sustainable trade and investment worldwide. The agreement marks the beginning of a partnership that will leverage the EIB's financial resources and investment facilitation tools developed under the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement concluded by a large number of WTO members to improve the regulatory environment, unlock investment and expand opportunities for developing countries.

**USTR Releases 2025 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy:** On March 3 the Office of the USTR released the findings of its [2025 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy](#) (the Notorious Markets List). The Notorious Markets List highlights online and physical markets that reportedly engage in or facilitate substantial trademark counterfeiting or copyright piracy.

**TradeStats Express – National and State Trade Data:** Updated through 2025, this is the free official [U.S. trade data](#) updated through 2025. It includes Annual Data and Year-to-Date Data.

**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.

**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.

**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](#).

**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.

## **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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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. 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.



- Mar. 16 ***WIN AT THE WORLD BANK.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss how to compete successfully for World Bank–funded contracts, including the updated procurement framework, real-world examples, and practical strategies to help you position, bid, and win with confidence. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/h32egn2>.
- Mar. 17 ***WTO MATTERS: MC-14 AND WHAT COMES NEXT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, explores the core functions of the WTO, reforms needed to keep the institution effective and relevant, and the key policy issues shaping debates. Keynote speaker: Dr. **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Director-General, World Trade Organization. Panelists include: **Jake Colvin**, President, National Foreign Trade Council; Executive Director, Global Innovation Forum; **Cecilia Malmström**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics; former European Commissioner for Trade; **Penny Naas**, Senior Vice President, Innovation and Competitiveness, German Marshall Fund of the United States; Ambassador **Tan Hung Seng**, Singapore Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO and WIPO, Permanent Mission of Singapore; **Angela Ellard** (Moderator), Senior Advisor (non-resident), Center for Strategic and International Studies; former Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_lxYLehNLTji-eqBhnaSpfg#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lxYLehNLTji-eqBhnaSpfg#/registration).
- 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 ***INVESTING FORWARD: PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND LAUNCH OF THE U.S. BUSINESS MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES.*** Program, sponsored by the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, in partnership with the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Chicago, is to invite business principals, investors and entrepreneurs across the U.S. Midwest to join the [multi-sectoral Business Mission to the Philippines](#) on July 6-15. You can expect to: *Learn about the Mission; Gain insights into macroeconomic trends, policy reforms, and priority investment sectors; Hear from government officials, economists, and experienced investors; Network with executives, investors, and decision-makers.* 4:30 p.m., Harbor Point, South Function Room, 155 North Harbor Drive, Chicago. For information, please see: [https://www.canva.com/design/DAHB3xuZ588/KHwqpvYg9F6iBJRGm2kJg/view?utm\\_content=D4AHB3xuZ588&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=uniqueLinks&utm\\_id=hc417f20e57](https://www.canva.com/design/DAHB3xuZ588/KHwqpvYg9F6iBJRGm2kJg/view?utm_content=D4AHB3xuZ588&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueLinks&utm_id=hc417f20e57). For registration, please see: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7RSK0lmlZCaysZKmsDBDFcJW74pOu4g6QhNJR9Ar1AbpCWQ/viewform>.
- Mar. 17 ***MARKET BRIEFING – MANUFACTURING WORLD TOKYO, JAPAN 2026.*** Informational webinar, sponsored by the Illinois Trade Office, to provide insight into market trends and manufacturing sector updates in Japan in advance of Manufacturing World Tokyo, July 1-3, where Illinois will have a booth (See below for details). 6:00 – 6:50 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For webinar information & registration, please see: <https://bit.ly/4r1avTr>.

- Mar. 18 **EXPORT FINANCE ROUNDTABLE - EXIM & SBA.** Event sponsored by EXIM and SBA. Officials from EXIM and the SBA Office of International Trade will discuss resources and tools to expand financing opportunities for US companies who want to grow their exporting capacity and revenues. Learn how: *EXIM guaranteed loans help your customers increase their export capacity; EXIM's export credit insurance helps your customers get paid by foreign customers; SBA's Working Capital Pilot Program now supports both domestic and international contracts under one line of credit; SBA's working capital program can turn a purchase order into working capital before shipment; How SBA and EXIM work together to turn foreign accounts receivable into collateral that can be used to increase a working capital line of credit.* 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., SBA Chicago Office, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 600, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://grow.exim.gov/chicago-exim-sba-lender-roundtable?utm\\_campaign=37124125-FY26-Webinars&utm\\_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--HyMkwSQklrYD-tl6u6lp5gwsU8NXY26WJ25vBYhCrtbb80x7pMRZZ1G9RTYwk8FtbfOwLWp3PUyn3M5YjzpDqOlbvA&hsmi=406956291&utm\\_content=406956291&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://grow.exim.gov/chicago-exim-sba-lender-roundtable?utm_campaign=37124125-FY26-Webinars&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--HyMkwSQklrYD-tl6u6lp5gwsU8NXY26WJ25vBYhCrtbb80x7pMRZZ1G9RTYwk8FtbfOwLWp3PUyn3M5YjzpDqOlbvA&hsmi=406956291&utm_content=406956291&utm_source=hs_email).
- Mar. 18 **DOLLAR LIQUIDITY AND GLOBAL DEBT: NAVIGATING THE NEXT PHASE OF FINANCIAL RISK.** Webinar, sponsored by the Economist Intelligence Unit, offers a clear assessment of the emerging pressures on the financial landscape. We will move beyond the headlines to examine global debt levels, liquidity risks and the potential impact on investors and policymakers. This session provides an independent view of where the next financial risks are likely to emerge and what they mean for the global economy. 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://eiu-enquiries.zoom.us/webinar/register/3617715933988/WN\\_sbh-icI5Q4yBvKLuQAcBYw?utm\\_campaign=MA00009252&utm\\_medium=email-owned&utm\\_source=eiu-marketing-cloud&RefID=&utm\\_term=20260310&utm\\_id=2172239&sfmc\\_id=003WT000004UQCyYAO&utm\\_content=cta-button-1&id\\_mc=275936850#/registration](https://eiu-enquiries.zoom.us/webinar/register/3617715933988/WN_sbh-icI5Q4yBvKLuQAcBYw?utm_campaign=MA00009252&utm_medium=email-owned&utm_source=eiu-marketing-cloud&RefID=&utm_term=20260310&utm_id=2172239&sfmc_id=003WT000004UQCyYAO&utm_content=cta-button-1&id_mc=275936850#/registration).
- Mar. 18 **UNLOCKING DIGITAL TV 3.0: OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES IN BRAZIL'S BROADCAST TRANSFORMATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide an update on Brazil's adoption of the ATSC 3.0 standard. Presentations will cover the regulatory framework, current implementation status, and technical roadmap for nationwide deployment. The program will also outline emerging commercial opportunities for U.S. companies as Brazil accelerates its transition to TV 3.0, including demand linked to major international events such as the FIFA World Cup. 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/UnlockingDigitalTV30OpportunitiesforUSCompanies/>.
- Mar. 19 **KAZAKHSTAN'S MINING HORIZON: EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN COAL AND MINING.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will bring together industry leaders and government officials to explore emerging opportunities in Kazakhstan's coal and mining sectors. This session will highlight market trends, upcoming projects, and partnership pathways. Learn about upcoming opportunities including the U.S. business delegation to the Astana Mining and Metallurgy Congress. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/e7a63c4f-5b4a-4982-8936-c7df204d02a5@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- 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 **SUPREME COURT SHAKES TARIFFS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR U.S. MANUFACTURERS.** Webinar sponsored by East West Associates. Presentation by Kyle Sullivan, Vice President, US-China Business Council, who will help you anticipate the immediate implications of the Supreme Court tariff decision for your business. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6751348194462334816>.

- Mar. 19 ***EXPANDING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed to provide actionable insights, reduce barriers to global expansion, and equip companies with the tools needed to compete and win in international markets. Speakers representing the U.S. Commercial service, Exim Bank and S&P Global will discuss: how their respective agencies help U.S. businesses compete globally; how they provide financing options that help U.S. exporters; the global oil landscape, supply, demand, geopolitics, and the role of the U.S. barrel: how they connect regional companies with federal and global resources that support international growth. 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f799e5d6-37f3-47a9-80a8-97f72beadc31@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Mar. 19 ***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. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm\\_source=inv2&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Webinar\\_GTA\\_TPTU\\_03.05.26\\_hBT](https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=inv2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_03.05.26_hBT).
- Mar. 19 ***DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA 2026 - WHY CHINA REMAINS A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE INVESTMENT DESTINATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, will share a practical and balanced view of doing business in China in 2026. The session will highlight key regulatory trends, emerging opportunities, and areas of focus for international companies looking to operate with confidence and clarity. Key topics: *Establishing and Running a Business; Tax, Audit, and Accounting; Human Resources and Payroll; Emerging Compliance Obligations for 2026.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4924285324574998101?source=flyer&utm\\_source=brevo&utm\\_campaign=dsa\\_invitation&utm\\_medium=email](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4924285324574998101?source=flyer&utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=dsa_invitation&utm_medium=email).
- Mar. 19 ***BRAZIL'S \$68B WATER & WASTEWATER EXPANSION: FROM REFORM TO IMPLEMENTATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will explore the growing opportunities for U.S. suppliers in Brazil's expanding water and wastewater market. Speakers will provide an overview of current and upcoming projects, priority technology needs, procurement and concession models, and key challenges shaping the sector's development. 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/brazilwaterinfrastructurewebinar/>.
- Mar. 19 ***THE STATE OF FREIGHT: GLOBAL DISRUPTION AND THE FREIGHT MARKET RESET.*** Webinar, sponsored by FreightWaves, will cover: How the escalating conflict involving Iran is impacting global supply chains; The latest signals around the long-awaited freight market flip; How trucking, ocean, rail and air cargo markets are responding; What the latest data is telling us about capacity, pricing and demand. 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.freightwaves.com/freightwaves1/the-state-of-freight-global-disruption-and-the-freight-market-reset>.
- 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.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. 20 ***CRITICAL DETAILS OF CUSTOMS VALUATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the finer details, rules, and terminology of customs valuation, which is especially important for unusual sales contracts, to help traders meet reasonable care obligations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nt9zpu4>.
- Mar. 24 ***ESTABLISHING A MANUFACTURING PLANT & 3P CONTRACT MANUFACTURING AGREEMENTS IN THAILAND... THE WHY & THE HOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will address such issues as: *How Thailand compares with China & Vietnam; Industry sectors that succeed in Thailand; Sight selection in Thailand; Thailand's financial & operational incentives in Thailand; Thai/U.S. trade relations & policies.* 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5383069745433721179>.
- Mar. 24 ***CAN'T TRAVEL RIGHT NOW? IDENTIFY OVERSEAS BUYERS FROM YOUR OFFICE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will demonstrate how digital marketing can help you identify overseas buyers, test new markets, and build international demand, without leaving your office. This session explains how digital marketing can strengthen export development and how U.S. companies can access government funding to support international growth. 12:00 – 1:20 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/IdentifyOverseasBuyers/>.
- Mar. 24 ***USMCA & AUTOMOTIVE TRADE IN 2026: RULES OF ORIGIN, TARIFFS, AND ENFORCEMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, aims to move beyond the technical rules discussion to examine the broader strategic landscape impacting automotive imports including evolving Rules of Origin interpretations, Section 232 tariff exposure, supplier certification risk, and audit preparedness across multi-tier supply chains. Featuring insights from policy experts and industry leaders, this discussion will provide a forward-looking view of where regulators are focused, how companies should respond, and what import programs must do now to mitigate further risk. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. AAIE Members – No fee; non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/2JFznjwS3CNCz>.
- Mar. 24 ***FULL STEAM AHEAD: AUKUS, ITAR, AND THE KEYS TO AUSTRALIA'S NAVAL SUPPLY CHAIN.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide a practical overview of the new AUKUS-related ITAR exemptions, explain eligibility requirements and compliance considerations, and outline how these changes interact with other export control regulations governing defense and dual-use technology exports to Australia. Designed for U.S. defense and advanced manufacturing suppliers, this session will equip participants with the knowledge needed to pursue Australian opportunities confidently and compliantly under the AUKUS regulatory landscape. 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AUKUSFullSteamAheadITAR/hotsite.php>.



- Mar. 25 **INDIA MARKET OVERVIEW: CRITICAL MINERALS AND MINING.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will showcase India's renewed Critical Minerals and Mining sector ecosystem and opportunities for American companies to create strategic technology partnerships. 9:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/IndiaCriticalMineralsandMiningWebinar/>.
- Mar. 25 **GLOBAL TRADE WITHOUT THE GUESSWORK: INCOTERMS 2020.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the fundamentals and key 2020 updates so you can apply Incoterms with clarity and confidence. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3sr37ws>.
- Mar. 25 **HOW CRITICAL ARE CRITICAL MINERALS IN THE BRAZIL-US ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP?** Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Policymakers and experts discuss the role of critical minerals in shaping the Brazil-US economic partnership, examining Brazil's economic situation, the importance of critical minerals to both Brazil and the United States, supply chain dependencies, and bilateral opportunities to secure sustainable, resilient access to essential minerals that underpin energy transition technologies and advanced manufacturing. The event assesses the risks and policy levers for deepening commercial cooperation while safeguarding environmental and social standards. Speakers include: **Monica de Bolle**, Senior Fellow, PIIE; **Pedro Guerra**, Chief of Staff to the Vice-President and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services (MDIC), Brazil; **Bruna Santos**, Director, Brazil Program, Inter-American Dialogue; **Cullen S. Hendrix** (Moderator), Senior Fellow, PIIE. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/how-critical-are-critical-minerals-brazil-us-economic-relationship>.
- Mar. 25 **DOING BUSINESS IN MEXICO: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SME EXPORTERS.** Webinar, sponsored by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions and the Arkansas District Export Council, provides the essentials to enter and succeed in Mexico, covering market entry options, legal and tax basics, logistics, payments, and the most common exporter mistakes. Ideal for companies new to Mexico or ready to scale, this session delivers practical insights to help you move faster, avoid pitfalls, and trade with confidence. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-in-mexico-a-practical-guide-for-sme-exporters-tickets-1983089353640?msocid=2899c6ccbb6667f73775d030bab96627>.
- Mar. 25 **EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – LM STUDIO.** Event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest and other European Chambers, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., LM Studio, 808 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. Chamber & ITA/GC members - \$45; Non-members - \$55. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-lm-studio>.
- Mar. 25 **MARCH HAPPY HOUR.** Event sponsored by the British American Business Council Chicago. 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant, 111 West Adams Street, Chicago. No fee. For information & registration, please see: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/p6cyuet?source\\_id=3331292c-1dc2-424f-9eb8-1c103cd5a565&source\\_type=em&c=4gOUiUbFk61B0CuCNWhAyyHEQ0EV3FmJNpIOJlJv9CBvXlYwB2uTMO==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/p6cyuet?source_id=3331292c-1dc2-424f-9eb8-1c103cd5a565&source_type=em&c=4gOUiUbFk61B0CuCNWhAyyHEQ0EV3FmJNpIOJlJv9CBvXlYwB2uTMO==).
- Mar. 26 **US-CHINA TRADE UPDATE: IMPORTS, EXPORTS, FENTANYL FLOWS, AND BEYOND.** Virtual briefing sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics just ahead of the anticipated high-level summit between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. This session provides a clear, evidence-based update on the broader state of US-China economic and technology relations, drawing on the latest data and analysis from PIIE experts. **Chad P. Bown** presents fresh 2025 trade flow insights from his upcoming and recently published blogs on US imports from and exports to China; **Marcus Noland** offers updates on fentanyl flows; **Mary E. Lovely** discusses her ongoing work on trade dynamics, and **Martin Chorzempa** provides an update on US and China export control policies and developments, for a briefing that separates fact from narrative and highlights issues likely to shape the upcoming Trump-Xi conversation. 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/us-china-trade-update-imports-exports-fentanyl-flows-and-beyond>.

- 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. 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. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm\\_source=inv2&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Webinar\\_GTA\\_TPTU\\_03.05.26\\_hBT](https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=inv2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_03.05.26_hBT).
- Mar. 26 ***PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ABROAD.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Indiana District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service, will cover: *The different types of intellectual property (“IP”); The relationship between the types of IP and exports; and Protections, pitfalls, and other issues associated with IP in markets abroad.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protecting-intellectual-property-abroad-tickets-1984673271180?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Mar. 26 ***OPERATING IN MEXICO: PRACTICAL RISK INTELLIGENCE FOR U.S. EXPORTERS AND INVESTORS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide a practical, executive-level program designed to help U.S. companies assess risk, strengthen compliance frameworks, and operate confidently in Mexico. Experts from Control Risks will share real-world insights drawn from on-the-ground experience supporting multinational firms throughout Mexico. The session will examine state-level security dynamics, third-party and distributor due diligence, public procurement integrity, supply-chain risk exposure, crisis preparedness, and emerging cyber and regulatory trends. 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/NavigatingRiskInMexico/index.php?\\_gl=1%2Aw8jk9g%2A\\_ga%2AMzQ1MTYzMjg0LjE3NzA3MzkyMjE.%2A\\_ga\\_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA1JGo1OSRsMCRoMA..%2A\\_ga\\_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA0JGo2MCRsMCRoMA..](https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/NavigatingRiskInMexico/index.php?_gl=1%2Aw8jk9g%2A_ga%2AMzQ1MTYzMjg0LjE3NzA3MzkyMjE.%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA1JGo1OSRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA0JGo2MCRsMCRoMA..)
- Mar. 26 ***GLOBAL TRADE CONTROLS: NATIONAL SECURITY ENFORCEMENT TRENDS SHAPING COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters and Importers, will discuss defensive strategies you can put in place to maintain compliance with every new regulation that drops without notice or guidance. Topics include: *Inside look at the DOJ’s newest criminal and civil enforcement priorities; Economic sanctions and export controls—where enforcement is headed next from Commerce, State, and Treasury; The newly expanded whistleblower program’s reach into trade violations; The newly created Trade Fraud Task Force—and what industries should watch out; False Claims Act in action: major trade enforcement cases and lessons learned; Step-by-step compliance strategies.* 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.paei.org/paei-events/global-trade-controls-national-security-enforcement-trends-shaping-compliance/>.
- Mar. 27 ***EXPORTING TO AUSTRALIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss key market opportunities in Australia, the practical advantages of exporting under the Australia – US Free Trade Agreement, and how to leverage the agreement to reduce costs and increase sales. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/t47nmgn>.

- 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. 1 **MONEY BEYOND BORDERS - PART 2: THREATS TO THE US DOLLAR.** Virtual program sponsored by the National Association of Business Economics. Dr. **Barry Eichengreen** will focus on how a 2,500-year history of international currencies shows that the same factors that encourage their widespread use eventually lead to their abandonment. 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. 6 **U.S.-VIETNAM PARTNERSHIP ON MODERN MINING, COAL EFFICIENCY, AND CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY CHAINS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide: Market Insights; Regulatory Guidance; Export Strategies; Coal and Critical Minerals Projects; Expert Insights; Promotion Opportunities. 7:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/US-VietnamPartnershiponModernMiningCoalEfficiencya/purchase.php>.
- Apr. 8 **MASTERING EXPORT COMPLIANCE: TRAINING AND UPDATES.** Program sponsored by the Wisconsin District Export Council. Topics include: *ITAR and BIS Export Controls; OFAC Sanctions, FCPA, Antiboycott and other miscellaneous Laws/Regulations*. 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Husch Blackwell LLP, 511 North Broadway, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI. Fee: \$85. For information & registration, please see: [https://widistrictexportcouncil.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=4091&club\\_id=425702&item\\_id=2877562](https://widistrictexportcouncil.org/content.aspx?page_id=4091&club_id=425702&item_id=2877562).

- 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.capr@gmail.com](mailto:hlepinske.capr@gmail.com).
- Apr. 14 ***CHICAGO PROPELLER CLUB EVENING WITH JOHN U. BACON AUTHOR GALES OF NOVEMBER.*** Program and networking event sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club. Presentation by **John U. Bacon**, author of New York Times best seller *Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald* in conversation with **Tom Wiater**, President of Central Marine Logistics. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Guinness Open Gate Brewery, 901 West Kinzie Street, Chicago. CPC Members - \$75; Non-members - \$95 (fee includes free bar and food). For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-propeller-club-evening-with-john-u-bacon-author-gales-of-november-tickets-1981959487179?msockid=24dd54e4f8a5694d3b464633f90d6894>.
- Apr. 14 ***CHICAGO CUSTOMER APPRECIATION RECEPTION - PORT OF MONTREAL.*** Annual Reception, sponsored by the Port of Montreal alongside valued industry partners for an evening of networking and insightful discussions. 5:30 p.m., The Drake Oak Brook, 2301 York Road, Oak Brook, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=y2Ekg9nu6EKgpLLiTAExVkJHm1tvQmk9IsvPyurz3gXZUREM0TUplIME1aMTdTNjlCUINPR1pPUEE4MC4u>.
- Apr. 16 ***STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING AND ENFORCING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN CHINA.*** Hybrid event, sponsored by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, about protecting and enforcing your intellectual property in China and the United States. Hear from U.S. government experts, IP attorneys, and local businesspeople as they share their insights on how U.S. rights holders can protect and enforce their IP in both countries. Topics include: *IP developments in China: Challenges and opportunities in a shifting IP environment; Enforcing IP rights in the United States against Chinese infringement; IP and China: The Mid-Atlantic perspective.* 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/protecting-IP-in-china-mid-atlantic-businesses>.
- 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 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT SIAL CANADA 2026.*** The Illinois Department of  
May 1 Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at the SIAL Canada 2026 trade show in Montreal. Covering every aspect of the Canadian food & beverage industry, SIAL Canada provides the perfect platform for Illinois exporters servicing institutional foodservice, restaurants, and grocery stores. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: Exhibit space; Matchmaking assistance; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$1,000. For information & an application, please contact: [Chris.Sedgwick@Illinois.gov](mailto:Chris.Sedgwick@Illinois.gov).
- Apr. 29 ***DOING BUSINESS IN CANADA: UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING NORTH.*** Webinar, sponsored by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions and the Arkansas District Export Council, will provide expert tips on market opportunities, regulations, and strategies for business success. Experts will break down the key steps to launching or scaling your business in Canada, including market opportunities, regulatory requirements, tax considerations, and strategic entry options. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-in-canada-unlock-opportunities-for-expanding-north-tickets-1984567988276?aff=erellivmlt>.
- 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 answers 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=oddtcreator>.

- Jun. 16 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is designed to offer answers 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-1790257641799?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Jul. 1 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MANUFACTURING WORLD (TOKYO, JAPAN).** The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois booth at the Manufacturing World trade show in Tokyo. Illinois companies specializing in industrial machinery, automation, precision components, and advanced manufacturing are encouraged to apply for this unique opportunity for financial and technical assistance showcasing your products and services in one of the world's most dynamic and technologically advanced markets. Eligible Illinois companies will receive the following benefits: • Complimentary exhibit space; Interpreter services; 50 - 75% reimbursement for travel costs for up to two travelers (in accordance with guidelines); Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Participation fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: March 27. For information & an application, please contact: [kevin.kim@illinois.gov](mailto:kevin.kim@illinois.gov).
- 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; 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).

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## **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).