

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

**March 23, 2026**

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

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

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

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

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

## 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>.
- Apr. 16 ***TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.*** First in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by **THE International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Instructor: **David Forgeue**, LCB, Partner, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, LLP. Session overview: In today's high-risk importing environment, getting tariff classification right is more important than ever. Incorrect classifications can increase duty costs and expose companies to compliance risk. This workshop offers a clear foundation for those new to classification—and a focused refresher for experienced professionals. Included: A certificate of attendance for each participant. CCS/LCB credit has been requested. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., 1701 Golf Road, Building 3. Suite 300, Rolling Meadows, IL. ITA/GC Members & Affiliates - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-trade-essentialstm-workshop-series-tariff-classification-tickets-1985515186371>.

### Of Note:

**New U.S. Maritime Administrator Advocates for Complete Rebuild of U.S. Shipping Complex:** “Today, the United States produces less than 1% of global commercial ships, we have not built a ship for exports since 1960 so in terms of the international market, we produce exactly...zero,” Marad Administrator Stephen Carmel told the Association of American Port Authorities, as reported by [Freight Waves](#). “Shipbuilding flows from cargo, and cargo follows logistics networks. So, I want to rebuild the American maritime capability.”

**Jones Act Suspended for 60 Days:** President Donald Trump issued a 60-day waiver of a longstanding U.S. shipping law in an attempt to stabilize oil markets amid the Iran war, the White House confirmed to [CNBC](#) on March 18. The temporary suspension of the Jones Act “will allow vital resources like oil, natural gas, fertilizer, and coal to flow freely to U.S. ports for sixty days,” said a White House spokesperson.

**USTR Seeks Industry Advisors for Trade Policy:** The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), in coordination with the U.S. Department of Commerce, has opened applications for membership on the Industry Trade Advisory Committees (ITACs) for the 2026–2030 charter term. These committees provide direct policy and technical advice to the U.S. government on trade negotiations, implementation of trade agreements, and broader U.S. trade policy. Applications are open until **April 2, 2026**. The opportunity allows representatives from U.S. industries—including small and medium-sized exporters—to contribute expertise that shapes trade policy decisions affecting global market access. Interested applicants can submit materials through the official [application portal](#).

**US & Mexico Announce Next Steps in Bilateral Discussions in Advance of the USMCA Joint Review:** [USTR Jamieson Greer](#) and Mexican Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard met on March 18 to kick off bilateral technical discussions in advance of the USMCA Joint Review on July 1. Technical teams discussed gaps in key North American supply chains and policy options to address those gaps, including through increased cooperation on economic security, rules of origin, and complementary trade actions.

**Ranked: The Top Crude Oil Producers in 2025:** Led by the United States pumping 13.58 million barrels per day (mb/d), Russia (9.87 mb/d) and Saudi Arabia (9.51 mb/d) round out the top three. The rest aren’t even close, according to this graphic by [Visual Capitalist](#). Oh, five of the world’s top 10 crude oil producers are in the Middle East.

**Heartland Connect & U.S. - China Ag Roundtable – Applications Now Open:** [Heartland Connect](#) is an exclusive gathering specifically designed for local and business leaders from both the U.S. and China to explore new partnerships and opportunities. The 2026 program offers U.S. participants a first-hand opportunity to engage with Chinese provincial and national stakeholders, and identify opportunities for future collaboration across agriculture, food, healthcare, and related industries. This year’s Heartland Connect will include the U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable, held in Henan Province from June 15–17, followed by a Think Tank Dialogue in Beijing on June 18, organized in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Interested in attending or participating? Click [here](#).

**New Trade Secret Protection Rules in China:** Writing in his private blog, [Mark Cohen](#) reports the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) issued new Trade Secret Protection Rules (商业秘密保护规定) (Order No. 126) (the “Rules”) on February 24, 2026, with an effective date of June 1, 2026. In addition to a lengthy discussion of the intricacies of China’s IPR regulations, Cohen also includes a Timeline of the Evolution of China’s Trade Secret Protection Framework.

**MIPIM 2026: The New Rules of Global Investment:** For those working in FDI attraction, MIPIM offers a useful snapshot of current market sentiment and the priorities shaping investment decisions. This year, conversations during the [FT Locations’](#) Investment Impact Awards 2026, alongside discussions with investment promotion agencies (IPAs), investors and economic development professionals throughout the week, highlighted three themes shaping location competitiveness and investment attraction.

**Ambassador Greer Signs the United States-Ecuador Agreement on Reciprocal Trade:** On March 13 USTR Greer joined Ecuadorian Minister of Production, Foreign Trade and Investment Luis Alberto Jaramillo in signing the United States–Ecuador [Agreement on Reciprocal Trade](#). To read the text of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Ecuador on Reciprocal Trade, click [here](#). To read the tariff schedule, click [here](#). To read the Joint Statement on Framework for United States-Ecuador Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, click [here](#).

**Coal and Mining Connect Directory for U.S. Exporters:** Sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, [Coal and Mining Connect Directory for U.S. Exporters](#) is an exclusive online platform designed to link U.S. exporters, manufacturers, and service providers with qualified international buyers, partners, and distributors across the global coal and mining industry. It is complemented by a *Directory for International Buyers, Distributors and Partners*.

**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.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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- Mar. 23 ***REALITY OF A REFUND: NAVIGATING THE SCOTUS IEEPA RULING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, will help you understand the path to refunds and how to position your claims for success. Speakers include **Caleb Hall**, Director, US Customs Brokerage, Scarborough Global and **Ashley Coxe**, Director, US Customs Brokerage, Laufer Group. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6614372>.
- Mar. 24 ***WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法).*** Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues' behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture; Case Studies: Communicating with Americans; Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction; Specific Cultural Challenges; Blending American and Japanese Styles; Key Skills for Effective Communication.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1788708979709?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1788708979709?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true).
- Mar. 24 ***BISHOFTU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BIA) MATCHMAKING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss how your company can position for upcoming subcontracting opportunities and leverage the BIA Virtual Matchmaking Portal to connect directly with prime contractors and international partners. 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/BishoftuInternationalAirportBIAMatchmakingWebinar-/hotsite.php>.
- Mar. 24 ***THE EUROPEAN APPROACH TO DEALING WITH TRADE UNCERTAINTY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will discuss developments in European trade policy and regulatory trends that shape the global business environment. Featured Speakers: **Anna Jerzewska**, Founder, Trade & Borders; **Kate Kalutkiewicz**, Senior Managing Director, McLarty Associates; **Eveline Kolk**, Managing Director, World Trade Center The Hague and Rotterdam; **Atli Stannard**, Special Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP Brussels; **Penny Naas** (Moderator), Senior Vice President, Innovation and Competitiveness, German Marshall Fund of the United States. 8:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/wtca-europe/>.
- Mar. 24 ***INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION & COST EFFICIENCY IN THERMAL PROCESSES.*** Business Breakfast sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest. Illinois-based manufacturers, energy experts, and industry stakeholders are invited to join. This event will bring together innovative German technology providers and U.S. industry leaders to discuss practical solutions for industrial transformation, energy efficiency, and cost reduction in thermal processes. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., 150 North Michigan Avenue, Floor 35, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6qpf5y8/lp/1ebdb695-e381-436d-bcb6-3c69ec425d07?source\\_id=b289a43e-54d9-4d22-a238-61eba37b0cc3&source\\_type=em&c=jOaN4kcs11LnD-EuwwxgYHxC0qb44r13O2H2pU3chpmM\\_euBWKArBw==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6qpf5y8/lp/1ebdb695-e381-436d-bcb6-3c69ec425d07?source_id=b289a43e-54d9-4d22-a238-61eba37b0cc3&source_type=em&c=jOaN4kcs11LnD-EuwwxgYHxC0qb44r13O2H2pU3chpmM_euBWKArBw==).
- 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. AAEI Members – No fee; non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/2JFznjwS3CNCz>.
- Mar. 24 ***BUILDING STRONG COMPLIANCE FOUNDATIONS: HOW IMPORTERS AND BROKERS CREATE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Deringer, breaks down the foundational elements importers need to get right in order to minimize risk, reduce delays, and maintain full regulatory control, including: *What import compliance looks like in today's evolving trade environment, and why we should care; Importers and Brokers' legal obligations and responsibilities; How to structure a true partnership between importer and broker; The role of documented SOPs in ensuring consistency, transparency, and predictable outcomes.* 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/hub/events/010a971b-92cd-4727-bab5-77f2c1dc63a2/landing?environment=P2>.
- 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=4gOUiUbFk61B0CuCNWhAyyHEQ0EV3FmJNpIOJlJv9CBvXIywB2uTMO==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/p6cyuet?source_id=3331292c-1dc2-424f-9eb8-1c103cd5a565&source_type=em&c=4gOUiUbFk61B0CuCNWhAyyHEQ0EV3FmJNpIOJlJv9CBvXIywB2uTMO==).
- Mar. 26 ***US-CHINA TRADE UPDATE: IMPORTS, EXPORTS, FENTANYL FLOWS, AND BEYOND.*** Virtual **POSTPONED** The Peterson Institute for International Economics just ahead of the anticipated **POSTPONED** 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. **Speakers include: Meredith Bond**, Director CS Omaha, U.S. Department of Commerce; **Steve Sampson**, Vice President of Operations, TSL; **Adam Hill**, President & CEO, Scarbrough Global. 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 ***FROM PROMO TO PIPELINE: USING AI TOOLS TO DRIVE LEADS AND GLOBAL VISIBILITY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils and IBT Online, will demonstrate how to generate more qualified leads, improve targeting, and accelerate deal cycles, using AI across marketing and sales workflows. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/from-promo-to-pipeline-using-ai-tools-to-drive-leads-and-global-visibility>.
- 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%2AMzQ1MTYzY3NzA1JG01OSRsMCRoMA..%2A\\_ga\\_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA1JG01OSRsMCRoMA..%2A\\_ga\\_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA0JG02MCRsMCRoMA..](https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/NavigatingRiskInMexico/index.php?_gl=1%2Aw8jk9g%2A_ga%2AMzQ1MTYzY3NzA1JG01OSRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA1JG01OSRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzI2NjE4OTUkbzIyJGcxJHQxNzcyNjY3NzA0JG02MCRsMCRoMA..)
- Mar. 26 ***GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS IN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. EXPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils, will explore the evolving political and economic dynamics in Colombia and Venezuela, and how these shifts may reopen and expand U.S. export markets. Experts will discuss how changing diplomatic relations, regulatory environments, and regional security issues are influencing trade and investment opportunities. 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xXn\\_wLYkTm2h\\_802sECyTA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xXn_wLYkTm2h_802sECyTA#/registration).
- 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. 26 **CONGRESS, THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AND TARIFF REFORM.** Hybrid event sponsored by the Cato Institute. This policy forum will feature a fireside chat with Representative **Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA) and the Cato Institute's **Clark Packard** on Section 122 and congressional tariff authorities, followed by an expert panel discussion on the legality of Section 122, whether its conditions exist today, and the role of Congress in reforming executive branch tariff authority. 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.cato.org/events/congress-balance-payments-tariff-reform?utm\\_campaign=Event\\_Invitation&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Cato\\_Email](https://www.cato.org/events/congress-balance-payments-tariff-reform?utm_campaign=Event_Invitation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Cato_Email).
- 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 **ENERGY TO POWER U.S. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide investors with strategic insights into the evolving energy landscape and the scalable solutions necessary to power the future of AI in the United States. Speakers include: **Adrienne Schweer**, Head of Government Affairs, Oklo; **David Young**, Head of U.S. Federal and Americas, Public Policy and Government Affairs, EQUINIX; **Erica Fitzgerald**, Director of Federal Government Relations, Schneider Electric; Dr. **Femi Elegbede** (Moderator), Senior Economist, SelectUSA, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/EnergytoPowerUSArtificialIntelligence-9884-1770678/>.
- Mar. 31 **2026 ECONOMIC SUMMIT: U.S. OUTLOOK - HOPE, REALITY, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES.** Program sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. Speakers include: **Jeffrey Korzenik**, Chief Economist, Fifth Third Bank; **Pierre Wellhoff**, BusinessFrance Agency, North America; **Gabriel Mendoza**, Consulate General of Mexico, Chicago; **Margaux McDonald**, Consulate General of Canada, Chicago. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Polsinelli PC, 150 North Riverside Plaza, Suite 3000, Chicago. ITCC Members & affiliated organization members - \$40; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6603775>.
- 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 **JORDAN DEFENSE MARKET UPDATE FOR SOFEX 2026.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will offer firsthand insights into security and defense export and investment opportunities, strategic priorities, and how international partners can engage with Jordan's security and defense ecosystem. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/1cc7bb40-9ac3-4946-a276-5cfaa25e0003@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>,
- 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. 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. 7 **MANAGING TARIFF & VAT EXPOSURE.** Webinar, sponsored by the North Dakota District Export Council, U.S. Commercial Service and others, will walk you through real-world approaches to legally reduce the value of commercial invoices, making your business subject to lower taxes and your products more affordable to international customers. The focus will be on actionable strategies that can be implemented to improve margins, reduce prices, and strengthen trade compliance. 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$75 (by March 24; \$85 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-tariff-vat-exposure-tickets-1983973065847?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-tariff-vat-exposure-tickets-1983973065847?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true).
- 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. 9 **NORTH AMERICAN TRADE FORUM: USMCA INSIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN MEXICO.** Program, sponsored by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Holland & Knight, will provide companies with North American operations with timely legal, policy, and business insights to support strategic planning in an evolving trade environment. The program will feature cross border perspectives from Holland & Knight attorneys based in Washington, D.C., Mexico, and Canada, covering tariffs, compliance risk, supply chain impacts, and cross border deal activity. 8:30 – 11:45, Instituto Cervantes, 31 West Ohio Street, Chicago. ICC Members - \$25; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8jw4hqt?source\\_id=f4391c6d-989b-4685-880d-da746c3c3c0e&source\\_type=em&c=axeCZf9GG0u5BUtJsGkaTDqLRYrkmW3xLLx48ybk5fQ5hI-nbwAqzw==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8jw4hqt?source_id=f4391c6d-989b-4685-880d-da746c3c3c0e&source_type=em&c=axeCZf9GG0u5BUtJsGkaTDqLRYrkmW3xLLx48ybk5fQ5hI-nbwAqzw==).

- 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 ***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?msocid=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=y2Ekg9nu6EKgpLLiTAExVkHm1tvQmk9IsvPyurz3gXZUREM0TUplIME1aMTdTNjlCUINPR1pPUEE4MC4u>.
- 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. 16 ***TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.*** First in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Instructor: **David Forgue**, LCB, Partner, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, LLP. Session overview: In today's high-risk importing environment, getting tariff classification right is more important than ever. Incorrect classifications can increase duty costs and expose companies to compliance risk. This workshop offers a clear foundation for those new to classification—and a focused refresher for experienced professionals. Included: A certificate of attendance for each participant. CCS/LCB credit has been requested. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., 1701 Golf Road, Building 3. Suite 300, Rolling Meadows, IL. ITA/GC Members & Affiliates - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-trade-essentialstm-workshop-series-tariff-classification-tickets-1985515186371>.
- 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>.

- Ap. 23 ***GROWING WISCONSIN CHEESE EXPORTS GLOBALLY.*** Event sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and collaboration with Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) and Schreiber Foods. Speakers from government, industry, and research will share how Wisconsin's unique collaboration, spanning global promotion, innovation, export programs, and industry leadership, continues to expand the state's presence in international markets and strengthen demand for Wisconsin cheese worldwide. 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Global Water Center, 247 West Freshwater Way, Milwaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/growing-wisconsin-cheese-exports-globally-1660543?sourceTypeld=Website>.
- 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>.

- May 19 **EXPORT READY: OPPORTUNITY, REALITY, ACTION.** Wisconsin World Trade Day event, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association (MITA) with the WI District Export Council (DEC) and Wisconsin International Credit Executives. Plenary Session topics include *Fast-Tracking Success in Global Markets* and *Experienced Voices: Real-World Insights from Global Exporters*. Breakout Session topics include: *Financial Considerations for Global Trade*; *Legal Structures Supporting Global Trade*; *Logistics & Compliance - Moving Products Globally*; *Sales & Marketing – Go to Market Planning & Strategies*. 8:00 – 5:30 p.m., Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Stret, Pewaukee, WI. For information & registration, please see: <https://mita.mitatrade.org/events/Details/export-ready-opportunity-reality-action-1640187?sourceTypeId=EmailInvitation>.
- 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>.
- Jun. 30 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法).** Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues’ behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture*; *Case Studies: Communicating with Americans*; *Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction*; *Specific Cultural Challenges*; *Blending American and Japanese Styles*; *Key Skills for Effective Communication*. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1790580276809?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1790580276809?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true).
- Jul. 1 - 3 **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 - 24 **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT THE FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW.** 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).

Sep.29 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法)**. Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues' behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture; Case Studies: Communicating with Americans; Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction; Specific Cultural Challenges; Blending American and Japanese Styles; Key Skills for Effective Communication*. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1795564063449?aff=oddttdcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1795564063449?aff=oddttdcreator&keep_tld=true).

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## About the ITA/GC

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

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

Follow the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago on LinkedIn:



## About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (<http://www.barnesrichardson.com>) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

## About KSM

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