

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

March 30, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

FEATURED ITA/GC 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>.

May 13 **FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY RISK MANAGEMENT.** Luncheon program sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Currency volatility has reached near all-time highs amid ongoing geopolitical conflicts and uncertainty surrounding global tariffs. Associated Bank's **Angie Kappel**, CTP and **Mike Sankowski** will provide an overview of the foreign exchange market, introduce key currency risk management tools, and walk through a practical best-practices scenario. Their presentation will also touch on the evolving role of stablecoins and their potential implications for international payments and treasury management. 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/foreign-exchange-and-currency-risk-management-tickets-1985959511359>.

Of Note:

Tanks for the Chips, Taiwan: The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association [reports](#) Taiwan has lately been an avid customer for American tanks, with purchases in the last two years dwarfing their previous imports. In the two decades between 2003 and 2023, Taiwan imported \$593.047 million worth of tanks from the United States. In just the last two years, its imports totaled \$731.459 million. AS a result, Taiwan has leapt from fifth to third place – ahead of Japan & China – among California's export markets. In return, the \$63.465 billion in Taiwanese imports to California was exceedingly heavy in computer chips and other electronic equipment.

U.S. Government Seen as Increasingly Corrupt – Transparency International: Since 1995 Transparency International has published its [Corruption Perception Index](#). [Ed Gresser](#) of the Progressive Policy Institute points out that the U.S. ranked 15th in 1995; last year it ranked 29th among 182 countries & territories. This CPI edition covers 182 governments, and puts Denmark, Finland, and Singapore at the top with respective “scores” of 89, 88, and 84. Venezuela, Somalia, and South Sudan are at the bottom, with 10, 9, and 9; South Africa, Trinidad, and Vietnam define the middle at 41.

EU Council and Parliament Agree on Landmark Customs Reform: On March 26 the Council and the Parliament [agreed](#) to overhaul the EU customs framework, giving the Union a more modern toolbox to deal with trends such as huge increases in trade volumes, especially in e-commerce, a fast-growing number of EU standards that must be checked at the border and challenging geopolitical realities.

Chicago's Competitive Edge – Now in One Place: World Business Chicago has just released a new data-driven tool that reveals where Chicagoland leads across industries. Each of 12 profiles distills what matters most: Market size and momentum; Talent and workforce pipeline; Industry strengths and competitive advantages. General description is [here](#); download date profiles [here](#).

FMC's DiBella: Ports are Key to U.S. Economic Security and Stability: Calling it “a very critical moment”, new Federal Maritime Commission Chair Laura DiBella told a ports conference that the Trump administration is making “the strongest push in decades to support the industry.” [FreightWaves](#) quotes her: “I can say, with absolute certainty, that economic development, economic security and economic stability would not exist without seaports, period, full stop. There are not enough planes, trains or trucks to support the amount of cargo moved by ship. The critical infrastructure that our seaports function as are as indispensable hubs for logistics supply and consumer goods, energy and raw materials while driving economic growth, generating jobs, serving as powerful innovation centers, and acting as strategic national security assets.”

EXIM Chairman Testifies before Senate Banking Committee on Reauthorization: President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) John Jovanovic [testified](#) before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on March 26 during a hearing examining oversight of the Bank and the importance of reauthorizing EXIM. The discussion focused on importance of ensuring the Bank can continue putting American made equipment, technology, molecules, and services first—all to support American jobs.

The Fastest-Growing Countries by GDP per Capita by 2030: Using IMF data, the [Visual Capitalist](#) ranks the countries projected to see the fastest GDP per capita growth between 2026 and 2030. It also highlights the economies expected to add the most per person in absolute dollar terms. Moldova is projected to see the fastest GDP per capita growth between 2026 and 2030, rising 53%.

U.S. – Japan Action Plan on Critical Minerals: On March 19 USTR Greer [announced](#) the enactment of the [U.S.-Japan Action Plan on Critical Minerals](#). Under this Action Plan, the United States and Japan will develop strategic trade policies and border mechanisms to mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities and protect the downstream industries that depend on critical minerals imports.

MC14 opens in Yaoundé with Call to Reinvigorate WTO in Time of Crisis: The WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, [opened](#) on March 26 with concerns about geopolitical strife and the future of the organization weighing on WTO members. Nevertheless, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said she was hopeful the gathering of trade ministers would find the political will to overcome differences and advance work on important topics on the MC14 agenda.

OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report March 2026: This [report](#) projects global growth of 2.9% in 2026 and 3.0% in 2027, with important differences across countries and regions. Inflation pressures will persist for longer with G20 inflation now expected to be higher in 2026 than previously projected, reflecting the surge in global energy prices. Headline inflation in G20 countries is projected to be 4.0% in 2026, easing to 2.7% in 2027.

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](#).

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

- Mar. 30 - **2026 CÔTE D’IVOIRE - GHANA TRADE MISSION.** Sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa, Apr. 2 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>.
- 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 **TARIFFS AND TRANSATLANTIC TRADE: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR US-EU TRADE.** Webinar sponsored by the Swedish American Chambers of Commerce USA. **Anders Leissner** (Expert, International Trade, Advokatfirman Vinge) and **Nancy Fischer** (Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP) will unpack the latest developments in US–EU trade relations. Nancy will discuss recent updates on tariffs and potential refunds, while Anders will provide insight into the EU’s broader response, including the pause of the Turnberry deal, how Swedish companies are reacting, and how the EU’s parallel trade agreements with other countries are being used in today’s geopolitical landscape. 8:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tariffs-and-transatlantic-trade-challenges-and-solutionsthe-state-of-useu-tickets-1984572158750?aff=oddtcreator>.
- 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 **CHINA 2026 POLICY OUTLOOK: IMPLICATIONS FOR INVESTMENT, RISK, AND MARKET ENTRY.** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, will unpack how China's 2026 policy agenda translates into practical business implications, so you can adjust 2026 plans with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4178565752291480151?source=flyer&utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=dsa_invitation&utm_medium=email.
- 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>.
- Mar. 31 **USMCA: ARE YOUR FOOTWEAR & APPAREL IMPORTS ALIGNED?** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, is designed to help retailers, brands, sourcing teams, and trade compliance professionals identify risk areas before sourcing changes, design modifications, or supplier shifts create costly downstream consequences. Topics include: *Classification Accuracy & Tariff Engineering Risks; Country-of-Origin Rules & Marking Requirements; Managing Rapid Style & Sourcing Changes Without Compliance Gaps*. 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/nvFQ06vhECNCZ>.
- Apr. 1 **INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT.** Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Drawing on a new World Bank report, report authors **Tristan Reed** and **Ana Fernandes** deliver remarks outlining the report's key findings and practical guidance on policy design, targeting, and implementation across 15 distinct tools. They then join PIIE experts **Chad P. Bown** and **Mary E. Lovely** in a moderated discussion to explore the implications for economic development, global trade, and policy choices in today's uncertain environment. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/industrial-policy-development>.
- 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 **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND RULES OF ORIGIN EXPLAINED.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, participants will learn how country of origin is determined for duty assessment, government procurement, and preferential trade programs. Whether you work in export compliance, importing, or supply chain management, this webinar will give you the clarity and confidence to make defensible country-of-origin determinations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/mvfc3bz>

- 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. 2 ***THE TRADE REPORTERS: ONE YEAR SINCE “LIBERATION DAY.”*** Virtual event sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association. Since the world of trade turned upside-down a year ago, we welcome back the Trade Reporters to discuss this monumental year in trade. Speakers include: **Shawn Donnan**, Senior Writer, *Bloomberg*; **David Lynch**, Global Economics Correspondent, *The Washington Post*; **Ana Swanson**, Trade and International Economics Correspondent, *New York Times*; **Michael Smart** (Moderator), Managing Director, Rock Creek Global Advisors; former Director for International Trade and Investment, National Security Council, The White House. 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A1ST2gY8Rjep4do_Ok8m_A#/registration.
- Apr. 2 ***UN PROCUREMENT EXPLAINED: HOW COMPANIES CAN COMPETE AND WIN.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will share insights into the organization's demand for goods and services. The presentation will explain how to get started with UN procurement, give tips for winning UN tenders, and provide resources for support. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/wtfwxb7>.
- 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.
- Apr. 7 ***DUTIES AND TAXES: UNDERSTANDING THE FULL LANDED COST.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will show you how to figure out the HS Codes for your products and will provide resources for calculating the duties, taxes, and other fees that might apply to your international shipment. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/zskp3gt>.
- Apr. 7 ***CHINA TOWN HALL.*** Webcast, sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, is a program that provides a snapshot of the current U.S.-China relationship and examines how that relationship reverberates at the local level – in our towns, states, and nation – connects people around the country with U.S. policymakers and thought leaders on China. It features two veteran senior diplomats discussing the current state and future trajectory of the U.S.-China relationship: **Stephen Biegun**, former U.S. deputy secretary of state, and **Sarah Beran**, former deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and former senior director for China and Taiwan affairs at the White House National Security Council. 5:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TcFwMpr5TxO0lhdZ_Q8G2w#/registration.

- 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.
- Apr. 8 **SCHEDULE B AND HTS CODES - CLASSIFYING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the details of these codes and the general rules of interpretation to give you confidence in classifying your products for export or import. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/sytzwad>.
- Apr. 8 **BUILD AND LEAD A GLOBAL BUSINESS WITH INFLUENCE.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Divya Behl**, Founder and CEO, BKV Holdings and CEO, President, and Owner, PMA Friction Products, who will address: *How a company is a family-built organization grounded in people, relationships, and uncompromising standards; How a true company value extends beyond financial metrics, living in its people, expertise, and enduring legacy; How to always lead with values first, letting principles guide every decision.* 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneurgrowglobal.org/2026/03/19/build-and-lead-a-global-business-with-influence/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=build-and-lead-a-global-business-with-influence&mc_cid=8c9fffa81&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- 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==.
- Apr. 9 **GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS: SPRING 2026.** Webinar sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. **Karen Dynan** will assess how the evolving conflict in the Middle East and heightened energy price volatility are complicating growth, inflation, and policy decisions globally, with a deeper dive into the implications for the US economy. **Jed Kolko** examines how recent developments in immigration, artificial intelligence (AI), and other trends are showing up in US labor market data. **Tianlei Huang** discusses China's growth outlook in the wake of the country's property sector downturn, with a focus on the macroeconomic and fiscal implications and potential spillovers to the global economy. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/global-economic-prospects-spring-2026>.

- Apr. 10 ***SAMPLES, PROTOTYPES, AND REPAIRS - TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR SHIPMENTS THROUGH CUSTOMS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide tips for getting these shipments through Customs in the U.S. and other countries. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k6yerqp>.
- 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.
- Apr. 13 ***CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Mid-America Chapter, will focus on the operational systems supporting North American trade and how companies are addressing infrastructure limitations, regulatory frameworks, supply chain risk, and technological innovation. Topics include: *Compliance requirements affecting transportation; Supply chain resilience and operational challenges; Technology in cross-border logistics; North America's role as a global trade corridor; Practical insights and recommendations for binational operations.* 2:00 – 3:10 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.usmccocma.org/event-details/cross-border-transportation-and-logistics?utm_campaign=58e216b9-f28a-4b69-ab4a-082fa6797a16&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=cdf94de5-ebce-4770-93ea-f436e642cc93.
- Apr. 14 ***ONE YEAR LATER: THE YEAR TARIFFS TOOK OVER TRADE.*** Virtual program sponsored by Star USA. In this practical session, our trade compliance experts go beyond policy to focus on real-world application. You'll see how tariffs interact, where companies get caught off guard, and how to approach decisions with more confidence and control so your team can move from reacting to planning. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starus.org/events/april2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Q2%2026%20Newsletter&utm_content=Q2%2026%20Newsletter+CID_b4f24a71ab4597b44e97939b3f427ab0&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software.
- Apr. 14 ***EXPORT CONTROLS & COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover export controls from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State, including Export Administration Regulations, ITAR, and Trade Sanctions. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2m77t37>.
- 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=y2Ekg9nu6EKgpLLiTAExVkHm1tvQmk9IsvPyurz3gXZUREM0TUplME1aMTdTNjICUINPR1pPUEE4MC4u>.

- Apr. 15 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE: GETTING PAID.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will describe the range of payment methods used in international transactions to reduce risk. This information will help you evaluate which is best for your business. You'll also learn how to take advantage of U.S. government support for exporters through export credit insurance and loan guarantees. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/zvz2fx5>.
- 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. 16 **NEXUS49 HAPPY HOUR.** Join Nexus49 for an informal happy hour to connect, unwind, and engage with fellow executives working across the U.S.–Canada and global marketplace. 5:00 p.m., 22 North Clinton Street, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://nexus49happyhourapril16.rsvpify.com/>.
- Apr. 17 **GLOBAL MARKET ENTRY STRATEGIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will detail the different strategies companies can use in foreign markets to help you decide on the best one for your company. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/a99b4ef>.
- 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. 21 **EXPORTING TO KOREA DUTY-FREE.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the benefits of the KORUS FTA and how they can help increase your international sales; it will also cover qualification and documentary requirements. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ukv5jni>.

- Apr. 23 **BASIC EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide a comprehensive review of the most commonly used documents and terms in international trade. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/au9edgx>.
- Apr. 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?sourceTypeId=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.
- Apr. 29 **OPERATING IN U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics including how FTZs work, and the benefits and rules for operating in an FTZ, helping your company evaluate the costs and benefits. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7smm4ce>.
- Apr. 29 **INTRODUCTION TO THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY (BIS) AND EXPORT BASICS.** First in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. This briefing will discuss the basics of exporting in accordance with the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). Topics include the mission of the BIS, agencies that control U.S. exports, the primary authority of BIS, Overview of the EAR, the Commerce Control List (CCL), Export Control Classification Number (ECCN), Determining your ECCN, determining license requirements, and how to submit a license application or commodity classification request. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/#about>.
- 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>.
- Apr. 30 **EXPORTING TO BRAZIL.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the opportunities and challenges that companies may face in Brazil and will include strategies for entering the market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ym9becn>.

- May 5 **COMPLYING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS (ITAR).** Second in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. The presentation will address: *Overview and scope of the ITAR; Determining What Is Subject to the ITAR; Complying with DDTC Registration Requirements; ITAR Licensing and Exemptions; Voluntary Disclosures, Enforcement and Penalties.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- 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 12 **OUTREACH VISITS, ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURES.** Third in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. The presentation will address: *An overview of coordinated, multi-agency export control and economic sanctions enforcement authorities; Considerations for handling site visits and conducting internal investigations involving potential export control or economic sanction violations; The evaluation process for determining whether to voluntarily disclose a potential or actual violation to the government.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 13 **FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY RISK MANAGEMENT.** Luncheon program sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Currency volatility has reached near all-time highs amid ongoing geopolitical conflicts and uncertainty surrounding global tariffs. Associated Bank's **Angie Kappel**, CTP and **Mike Sankowski** will provide an overview of the foreign exchange market, introduce key currency risk management tools, and walk through a practical best-practices scenario. Their presentation will also touch on the evolving role of stablecoins and their potential implications for international payments and treasury management. 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/foreign-exchange-and-currency-risk-management-tickets-1985959511359>.
- 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 14 **2026 GALA & BUSINESS AWARDS.** Event sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago celebrating the Power of Connection with a keynote insight from **Cécile Béliot**, CEO of Bel Group. 6:00 p.m., Ivy Room, 12 East Ohio Street, Chicago. Individual Ticket - \$370 (by April 5; \$470 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://facegala.carrd.co/>.
- May 15 **HOW TO DO BUSINESS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Luncheon program sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. Speakers include: Professor **Harry Lepinske**, CAPRC Charman; **Michael Kreyzston**, FX Frontier Investments LLC; **Jaibalan Harirajan**, Executive Director, Malaysia Investment Development Authority; **Effie Huang**, Director, Taiwan Trade Center. Wolf's Head Inn, 6937 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park, IL. CAPRC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please contact: lepinske@sbcglobal.net.
- 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 Street, Pewaukee, WI. Fee: \$100 (by May 8; \$125 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://mita.mitatrade.org/events/Details/export-ready-opportunity-reality-action-1640187?sourceTypeId=EmailInvitation>.
- May 19 **OFAC OVERVIEW.** Fourth in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. This presentation will address: *OFAC Basics*; *Comprehensive Sanctions Programs*; *Sanctions Compliance Strategies*; *OFAC Enforcement Overview*; *OFAC Sanctions Resources*. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 20 **DEVELOPING A CORPORATE EXPORT MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (EMCP).** Fifth in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Our presentation will indicate what points an EMCP should cover, best practices on how to roll out procedures on the ground, and how to make this document relevant in your company. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 26 **INTANGIBLE EXPORTS & AI - THE RISKS AND REWARDS.** Sixth in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. In this session, you'll learn key concepts like "deemed export", data classification, and data authorization. We'll explore intangible export control risks and explain how they manifest. We'll also look at the role AI plays in intangible export controls, to include AI export control risks and rewards. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 27 **LICENSE EXCEPTIONS.** Last in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. This will cover the definition of license exception, benefits of using license exceptions, license exception statistical data, restrictions, reporting requirements, specific license exceptions (LVS, TMP, RPL, TSU, STA), and AES filing. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.

Oct. 9 **THE 2026 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL GALA.** Hosted annually by World Business Chicago and Chicago Sister Cities International, the Gala welcomes members of the Chicago Consular Corps—one of the largest in the U.S., representing over 80 countries—as distinguished guests. This distinguished evening celebrates the international community that makes Chicago a true global city. In addition to funding WBC'S work, a portion of the proceeds funds the Chicago Consular Corp's annual International Student Professional Development Grant at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). 6:00 p.m., The Field Museum. Details forthcoming. Please see: https://worldbusinesschicago.com/gala/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gala&utm_content=savethedate&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Save%20the%20Date%3A%20The%20Chicago%20International%20Gala%20-%20October%209&utm_campaign=Gala%20initial%20std.

About the ITA/GC

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

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

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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.