

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

June 1, 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 PROGRAMS

- Jun. 3 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.*** Event sponsored by the European chambers and allied organizations including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. This event 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., Twenty-Six Chicago Rooftop, 2 West Erie Street, Chicago. Members - \$55; Non-members & Walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-twenty-six-chicago-rooftop>.
- Jun. 11 ***FROM HONG KONG TO CHICAGO: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL LOGISTICS.*** Lunch roundtable sponsored by the: Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest; Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals; **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Benjamin Wong**, Head of Transport, Logistics & Industrials at Invest Hong Kong, who will share perspectives from one of the world's leading logistics and trade hubs. Benjamin will provide insights into the region's latest logistics initiatives, supply chain trends, and its strategic role connecting global markets – particularly U.S. companies looking to expand into Asia. This session will be conducted as an interactive roundtable, beginning with brief remarks followed by an audience discussion. Moderated by **Scott Case**, Founder, Position: Global, the conversation will offer attendees a unique opportunity to engage directly, ask questions, and explore practical implications for their businesses. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$25; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: https://cscmp.org/CSCMP/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=CHI260611.

Jun. 18 **HOW TO BENEFIT FROM AI IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMPLIANCE.** Third in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Instructor: **Scott Case**, Founder and Chief Storyteller (and LCB), Position: Global. Session overview: Trade professionals are inundated with advertisements and pitches to use artificial intelligence (AI) to make international trade and compliance quicker and easier. In a fast-paced, ever-changing environment these pitches can be attractive, but also hard to evaluate. This session will equip trade professionals to understand what different AI models do, their potential benefits and pitfalls, and generally how to evaluate those endless pitches. This session will *not* endorse specific products or models. Included: A certificate of attendance for each participant. 2.0 CCS/LCB credits applied for. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Office Evolution - Chicago O'Hare, 8745 West Higgins Road, Suite 110, Chicago, IL. ITA/GC Members & Affiliates - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-benefit-from-ai-in-international-trade-compliance-tickets-1990528246569>.

Of Note:

Trump's Tariff Revenue Tracker: How Much Is the US collecting? Which Imports Are Hit?: The [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#) monthly tariff tracker measures tariff revenues in practice over time, including the effective impact of tariffs on a given class of goods or an individual country's goods. Notably, tariff revenues from January 2025 to September 2025 are still only 3.5 percent of the projected total federal revenue in fiscal year 2025 of \$5.2 trillion.

The United States and Mexico Announce Series of Bilateral Negotiating Rounds Related to the First Joint Review of the USMCA: The [Office of the USTR](#) has announced a series of three bilateral negotiating rounds related to the first Joint Review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Of Note: Canada is not mentioned; see below.

North American Trade Deal at Risk as U.S., Canada Exchange Barbs: As reported by [Axios](#), the mandatory joint review of the USMCA — which requires the three countries to decide by July 1 whether to extend the agreement for another 16 years — has taken an adversarial turn, exposing a deepening rift between Washington, D.C., and Ottawa. One core dispute: Washington wants to prevent China from using Mexico or Canada as a back door into the North American market — a particular flashpoint for Canada, which recently struck a limited tariff truce with Beijing.

Monitoring Global Trade by Products, Using Big Data: This [OECD Working Paper](#) develops a novel methodology to derive timely, experimental estimates of trade by commodity with global coverage using messages from the Automatic Identification System (AIS). By transforming high-frequency vessel movements into trade proxies, the approach makes it possible to monitor global cross-border flows in near real time for 23 commodity groups worldwide, covering 97.8% of existing berths across 3534 ports.

The Top 100 Countries for Foreign Investment: This graphic from [Visual Capitalist](#) ranks the top 100 countries for foreign investment in 2024, based on foreign direct investment inflows tracked by UN Trade and Development. U.S. FDI inflows in 2024 reached almost \$279 billion; Singapore ranked second with roughly \$143 billion in inflows, while Hong Kong and China followed closely behind.

CFIUS Expansion Bill Targets Foreign Adversary Purchases of US Agricultural Land and Real Estate: This [ArentFox Schiff](#) article analyzes the [Protecting U.S. Farmland and Sensitive Sites From Foreign Adversaries Act](#) (the "Moolenaar bill") that would significantly expand federal review of certain real estate, agricultural land, and agriculture-related transactions involving foreign adversaries and related parties. The Moolenaar bill aims to substantially broaden the category of land transactions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which would impact agricultural landowners, agribusinesses, lenders, developers, and real estate investors.

U.S. Port Import Values Drop Faster than Tonnage after Liberation Day Tariffs: The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association has published the [Top 20 Port rankings](#) for the First Quarter of 2026 for both containerized imports and exports by both tonnage and value.

Survey: Port Leaders Call for \$6.7 Billion Cargo Equipment Spending: [DC Velocity](#) reports U.S. ports face the need for \$6.7 billion in cargo equipment investment over the next five years in order to maintain their efficiency and global competitiveness, according to a survey of 25 senior port and terminal executives conducted by the National Association of Waterfront Employers (NAWE). But in order to commit to that spending, ports need better clarity on the Trump Administration's tariffs on material handling equipment, NAWE said.

The Panama Canal & Mexico's Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (CIIT): Mexico may have a commercially viable alternative to the Panama Canal becoming fully operational by June 2026, writes [Barnes Richardson's](#) Pietro Bianchi. The CIIT is described as a multimodal "dry canal." It involves modern ports on the Pacific and Gulf coasts and three main rail lines. Mexico is also building a pipeline and refineries parallel to the rail lines. This energy infrastructure is being built primarily to supply the needs of the industrial corridor and also for LNG exports.

USTR to Host G20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: On May 19 USTR Greer [announced](#) he will host the G20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from Wednesday, September 30 to Thursday, October 1.

Atlas of Global Development 2026: Across the global development landscape, which countries are moving the fastest, and which are losing ground? The 2026 edition of the [World Bank's](#) *Atlas of Global Development* puts progress at its center. Looking at how fast countries are moving toward better outcomes and facing different challenges, from their own individual starting points, this edition introduces a new framework to track development over the past 75 years, revealing how countries have advanced across key dimensions.

The 2026 Kearney FDI Confidence Index®: World Recalibrating: Kearney's Global Business Policy Council's [latest research](#) reveals a global investment landscape in transition, where confidence remains strong, but decision-making is becoming far more selective. Despite rising geopolitical tensions and policy complexity, 88 percent of global executives still plan to increase foreign direct investment over the next three years.

The fDi Report 2026: *FT Locations* has just released (May 6) this [report](#), documenting how digital technologies are redrawing the global FDI map. The ICT and electronic cluster accounted for more than 40 per cent of global greenfield FDI in 2025. This new wave of FDI comes with distinctive features: capital intensive, concentrated, and still able to generate jobs.

Follow the Money: How FDI Is Redrawing the Global Economy: Today, massive capital commitments into areas like AI, semiconductors, and clean energy are signaling which industries will scale, where supply chains will land, and which regions will dominate. In this episode of [The McKinsey Podcast](#), McKinsey Senior Partners Nick Leung and Olivia White explain why FDI has become a critical early indicator of competitive advantage—and what leaders should be watching now.

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.

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.

Jun. 1 ***KOBE ENGINE FORUM 2026.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the importance of Japan's main international business convention for aero engines, gas turbines, and propulsion and power generation technologies, bringing together OEMs, Tier 1 suppliers, and contract manufacturers through prearranged one-on-one meetings. 5:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/ebbb018b-efd0-42bd-8c11-74dfb2a53855@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780/registration>.

Jun. 2 ***SMARTER ENTRY, STRONGER VALUE: LEVERAGING AI TO BUILD YOUR HONG KONG MARKET ENTRY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest, will explore how AI, enterprise valuation, and governance strategy are reshaping international market entry into Hong Kong and the broader Asia-Pacific region. Presentation by **Paul Johnson**, Founder & CEO of Highliner Group Asia, Ltd. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/faUHNiWTR9Wq7VayhU48fw#/registration>.

- Jun. 2 ***AI OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will feature market briefs delivered by U.S. Government Tech Trade Experts from across the region. As part of the registration process, participants will also have the opportunity to schedule complimentary one-on-one consultations with market-specific Tech Trade Experts. These sessions will allow participants to discuss targeted market opportunities and explore available U.S. Government support to help them connect with those opportunities. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/4f2e3263-01c4-40c1-90fd-6544ac05d54a@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Jun. 3 - ***GLOBAL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE.*** Event sponsored by the North Dakota Trade Office. Industry leaders, trade specialists, and international business experts gather to share insight into the state of global business. **June 3**, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: Awards Dinner. **June 4**, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Conference program. Holiday Inn Fargo, 3803 13th Avenue South, Fargo, ND. NDTO Members – No fee; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://ndto.com/events/gbc2026/>.
- Jun. 3 ***GOING GLOBAL: HOW SMART TRANSLATION EXPANDS YOUR BUSINESS REACH.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Susanne Evens**, Founder & CEO, AAA Translation. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2026/05/13/going-global-how-smart-translation-expands-your-business-reach/?mc_cid=1103a0c2e1&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Jun. 3 ***3,2,1, GO! eFILING IS 1 MONTH AWAY.*** Last of three webinars, sponsored by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, will highlight the 1-month mark until the full implementation date of eFiling for most regulated products. The topics will include a general overview, what to expect, certification resources, and updates to the Product Registry. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/e72a7710-c51f-4eed-8108-aed66344e800@7f5de26c-a63d-475c-9b6c-4126a914e132?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=20260330
- Jun. 3 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.*** Event sponsored by the European chambers and allied organizations including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. This event 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., Twenty-Six Chicago Rooftop, 2 West Erie Street, Chicago. Members - \$55; Non-members & Walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-twenty-six-chicago-rooftop>.
- Jun. 4 ***NAVIGATING THE EVER-CHANGING TARIFF LANDSCAPE - WHAT SWISS COMPANIES NEED TO KNOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Swiss American Business Council and Swiss Machine Tool Society with Barnes & Thornburg, will provide an overview of existing U.S. tariff actions under the current administration, including tariffs affecting Swiss products. We will feature practical insights and guidance on key trade topics, including IEEPA refunds, the simplification of steel and aluminum tariffs, the USMCA review process, and ongoing Section 301 investigations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/5353857/555F6367E3E2D4E61F0B321FE73C78EC>.
- Jun. 4 ***PATTERNS, PANELS, AND PARTNERS: INSIDE LATVIA'S DESIGN PUSH INTO THE US.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Latvian American Chamber of Commerce, will address how Latvian design is making serious waves in the US and how Latvian firms are scaling from a local workshop to the US market. Hear from inspiring entrepreneurs and US industry experts who are successfully bridging the gap between Latvian innovation and American demand. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://latvianchamber.wildapricot.org/event-6693466>.

- Jun. 4 ***THE LONG GAME: CHINA, AMERICA, AND THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL ORDER.*** Hybrid event sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Speakers include: **Raymond C. Kuo**, Vice President of Research for Geostrategy and Diplomacy; Marshall M. Bouton Senior Fellow, Asian Studies, CCGA; **Evan Medeiros**, Penner Family Chair in Asia Studies, Georgetown University; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asia, National Security Council; Distinguished Nonresident Fellow, China, CCGA; **Leslie Vinjamuri**, President & Chief Executive Officer, CCGA. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. CDT, Chicago Council Conference center, 130 East Randolph Street, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://globalaffairs.org/events/long-game-china-america-and-future-global-order?utm_source=promo&utm_campaign=events&utm_medium=email.
- 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=oddttdcreator>.
- Jun. 9 ***NAVIGATING U.S. MARKET ENTRY IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY.*** First of three webinars, sponsored by Plante Moran, features specialists across Plante Moran state and local tax and international tax practices, global mobility tax practice, and commercial real estate advisors practice, offering a wide range of perspectives for international businesses. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/mr/6747227/5487142FE69FDC33E17C9A7699413665?partnerref=EMAILSEG2&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhwY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJOQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVu12b.
- Jun. 9 ***CUSTOMS BONDS: WHY REQUIREMENTS ARE CHANGING AND HOW TO PREPARE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will explore how customs bond requirements are changing, driven by tariffs, enforcement shifts, and evolving import activity. This session breaks down why these requirements are shifting, what to expect when securing or increasing a bond, and how to prepare in advance of renewal or underwriting. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/june2026/>.
- Jun. 11 ***FROM HONG KONG TO CHICAGO: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL LOGISTICS.*** Lunch roundtable sponsored by the: Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest; Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals; **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Benjamin Wong**, Head of Transport, Logistics & Industrials at Invest Hong Kong, who will share perspectives from one of the world’s leading logistics and trade hubs. Benjamin will provide insights into the region’s latest logistics initiatives, supply chain trends, and its strategic role connecting global markets – particularly U.S. companies looking to expand into Asia. This session will be conducted as an interactive roundtable, beginning with brief remarks followed by an audience discussion. Moderated by **Scott Case**, Founder, Position: Global, the conversation will offer attendees a unique opportunity to engage directly, ask questions, and explore practical implications for their businesses. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$25; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: https://cscmp.org/CSCMP/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=CHI260611.
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- Jun. 16 **NAVIGATING THE EVOLVING U.S. TRADE ENFORCEMENT ENVIRONMENT.** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association, will address the three major pillars defining the landscape: *Section 232 tariffs; Section 301 investigations; De minimis eliminated.* 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/bbd58cbf-1766-4104-b783-7def97cb5e81/summary>.
- Jun. 17 **DOING BUSINESS IN VENEZUELA: BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OIL & GAS SECTORS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is the second in a series that will help U.S. firms better understand emerging business opportunities in Venezuela across several critical sectors, which may include: oil and gas, electrical equipment, information and communication technologies (ICT), healthcare, and mining. Attendees will hear from U.S. diplomats, U.S. and Venezuelan government officials, and private sector experts to help them better assess market opportunities and craft a market entry strategy. 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/DoingBusinessinVenezuelaWebinarSeries-9884-1773262/>.
- Jun. 18 **HOW TO BENEFIT FROM AI IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMPLIANCE.** Third in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Instructor: **Scott Case**, Founder and Chief Storyteller (and LCB), Position: Global. Session overview: Trade professionals are inundated with advertisements and pitches to use artificial intelligence (AI) to make international trade and compliance quicker and easier. In a fast-paced, ever-changing environment these pitches can be attractive, but also hard to evaluate. This session will equip trade professionals to understand what different AI models do, their potential benefits and pitfalls, and generally how to evaluate those endless pitches. This session will **not** endorse specific products or models. Included: A certificate of attendance for each participant. 2.0 CCS/LCB credits applied for. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Office Evolution - Chicago O'Hare, 8745 West Higgins Road, Suite 110, Chicago, IL. ITA/GC Members & Affiliates - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-benefit-from-ai-in-international-trade-compliance-tickets-1990528246569>.
- Jun. 23 - **AAEI'S 105TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE DAY.** Comprehensive 2+-day program
25 sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers. For information & registration, please see: <https://aaei.org/2026-annual-conference-trade-day/>.
- Jun. 23 **GLOBAL TRADE: CURRENT & NEW GLOBAL OPS – UPDATES ON MEXICO.** Half-day program as part of the 2026 Rail & Maritime Summit. Presentation by **Bernardo Ayala**, CEO, Ferromex, U.S. and CEO, Florida East Coast Railway. Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fee: \$1,030. For information & registration, please see: <https://mep-associates.com/2026-registration/>.
- Jun. 24 **SECURING SEMICONDUCTOR FDI: NAVIGATING THE NEW SEMICONDUCTOR INVESTMENT WAVE.** Webinar, sponsored by FT Locations, will provide a focused, data-led view of global semiconductor investment trends and what they mean for economic development and investment attraction professionals. Topics: *Global semiconductor FDI trends shaping investment attraction strategies; Segment - and market-specific investment patterns across the semiconductor value chain; Critical location factors driving investment decisions: incentives, talent, infrastructure, and ecosystem readiness; Strategic implications and actionable takeaways for investment promotion agencies and economic development organizations.* 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://semiconductorfdi.ftlocations.com/?xnpe_tifc=b.h.huxpbDeN4Fblxu4uxMpsafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJakpWa_BWEke9bZ8vVuES4uQ_xf4LxuQ.xDopbdHdbzTT&utm_source=exponea&utm_campaign=FTL%20-%20Fortnightly%20Marketing%20-%20Email%20-%202028.05.26%20%28I%26O%29%20-%20Control&utm_medium=email.

- Jun. 25 **WIN-WIN TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA: FIVE YEARS OF THE USMCA.** Hybrid policy forum sponsored by the Cato Institute. Event will feature a fireside chat with Rep. **Adrian Smith** (R-NE), chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, and the Cato Institute's **Scott Lincicome**. They will discuss the benefits of the USMCA over the last five years, followed by a panel of regional business and economic policy experts discussing the future of the agreement and trilateral economic relations. 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.cato.org/events/win-win-trade-north-america-five-years-usmca?utm_campaign=Event_Invitation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Cato_Email.
- Jun. 25 **CHICAGO DOGS GAME.** Networking event sponsored by the International Air Cargo Association of Chicago. 6:00 – 9:30 p.m., 9800 Balmoral Avenue, Rosemont, IL. IACAC Members - \$45; Non-members - \$55. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/chicago-dogs-game-networking-event/>.
- Jun. 28 - **CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 2026**
 Oct. 18 **EXAMINATION.** Remote Platform Cloud Based Virtual Online Training sponsored by The World Academy with The Alston Group. This course will assist you in the development of test taking reference familiarization, time management, Customs Regulations reference and Harmonized Tariff Schedule determination that will result in positive results in the development of each participant's test taking ability towards a passing grade. Our instruction is detailed and consists of: Live lectures – Remote platform; Five-month instruction and help desk assistance; Group format with one-on-one tutoring options and Customs Examination preparation skills for positive results. Classes will be held on alternate Sundays, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$1,895 + materials. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course>.
- 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.
- Jun. 30 **OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES.** Second of three webinars, sponsored by Plante Moran, features specialists across Plante Moran state and local tax and international tax practices, global mobility tax practice, and commercial real estate advisors practice, offering a wide range of perspectives for international businesses. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/mr/6747227/5487142FE69FDC33E17C9A7699413665?partnerref=EMAILSEG2&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhWY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJOQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.
- Jul. 1 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MANUFACTURING WORLD (TOKYO, JAPAN).** The
 3 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. 6 ***INTELLIGENCE AT SCALE: HONG KONG'S AI-POWERED FUTURE.*** CHINA CONFERENCE: HONG KONG 2026 – Hybrid event sponsored by the South China Morning Post and others. With hundreds of senior policymakers, business executives and academics gathered for a transformative day, the conference offers unparalleled insights into the forces shaping Hong Kong's competitiveness – from AI industrialization and cross-border finance to healthcare innovation, SME resilience and the bold infrastructure bets that will define the city's future. 7:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: varies. For information & registration, please see: <https://chinaconference.scmp.com/home>.
- Jul. 9 ***ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT.*** Event sponsored by the Chicago Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders. Proceeds provide support for college expenses for CCBFA members' students. 7:30 a.m., Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club, 1400 Poplar Creek Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://chicago-custom-brokers-and-freight-forwarders-annual-sc-924.perfectgolfevent.com/>.
- Jul. 11 ***MONGOL NAADAM – CHICAGO 2026.*** One of Mongolia's most cherished festivals and recognized on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, it focuses on three traditional competitions: wrestling, archery and horse racing. In addition to the competitions, the festival features: Traditional and modern music, song and dance; Equestrian show and traditional costume show; Mongolian cuisine and community celebration. 12:00 p.m., 20102 Busse Woods Picnic Grove 30, Elk Grove Village, IL. For information & registration (by July 4), please contact: info@mongolianconsulate.us.
- Jul. 14 ***FROM MISTAKES TO MASTERY: LESSONS FROM A VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will include: *A real-world voluntary self-disclosure case from start to finish; What triggers risk and how issues are discovered; The impact of violations on a company.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/july2026/>.
- Jul. 15 ***M&A TRENDS AND INTEGRATION BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES.*** Last of three webinars, sponsored by Plante Moran, features specialists across Plante Moran state and local tax and international tax practices, global mobility tax practice, and commercial real estate advisors practice, offering a wide range of perspectives for international businesses. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/mr/6747227/5487142FE69FDC33E17C9A7699413665?partnerref=EMAILSEG2&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhWY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJQQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.
- 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.
- Jul. 30 ***SWISS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION 2026.*** The Swiss American Business Council proudly continues this tradition of bringing together the Swiss-American community in the Midwest for networking, exchanging ideas, and celebrating together. 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. SABC Members (+ one guest) – no fee; Non-members - \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://sabcnow.com/product/swiss-national-day-reception-2026/>.
- Aug. 13 ***IACAC GOLF OUTING.*** The International Air Cargo Association of Chicago invites you to their golf outing. Single golfers - \$160 (by July 1; \$175 thereafter); Foursomes - \$640 (by July 1; \$700 thereafter). 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., St. Andrews, West Chicago. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/iacac-golf/>.

- Sep. 17 ***DRIVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS, WHILE CONNECTING TODAY'S LEADERS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION.*** Gala & Awards Dinner sponsored by the Italian American Chamber of Commerce Midwest. Honorees include **Alexi Giannoulis**, Secretary of State, State of Illinois, and **John R. Colletti**, Managing Partner, Gibsons Restaurant Group. 6:00 p.m., CineCity Studios, 2429 West 14th Street, Chicago. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.iacc-chicago.com/gala>.
- 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.
- Oct. 20 ***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 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980001138706?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.
- Nov. 10 ***INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS.*** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on Managing Forwarders, brokers & carriers. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process—a comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. Coordinate your documents with transportation rules and procedures and gain a solid understanding of the critical components of logistics. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-nov-10-2026/?145944_grid_view=false.

- Nov. 11 **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, is for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information is not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. Shipments with incorrect classifications may not reach their destination, and/or you may be subjected to penalties. Join us for this interactive, in-person workshop. Registration includes a valuable reference book. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-nov-11-2026/>.
- Nov. 12 **IMPORTING PROCEDURES.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on the importance of accurate paperwork and timely reporting. Designed to help commercial importers become more aware of their regulatory obligations, learn your broker's responsibilities, and develop strategies for improving trade compliance within their organization. This course focuses on the import entry processes and the fundamental disciplines required for making an entry. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-procedures-chicago-nov-12-2026/>,
- Nov. 13 **IMPORTING 201.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, builds upon techniques presented in our Importing Procedures course and explains how to implement and strengthen your import controls. Course also describes what you should do to prepare for the eventuality of a CBP audit. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-201-chicago-nov-13-2026/>.

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.