

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

May 11, 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

- 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 19 ***LOOKING AHEAD: A NEW U.S. – CHINA BUSINESS PARADIGM?*** Executive Roundtable sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with the Hong Kong Business Midwest. **UPDATED** The Honorable **Wang Baodong**, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago and **Ker Gibbs**, former President of the American Chamber of Commerce Shanghai and new author of *The Fragile Dragon: Trade, Trump and China's Vulnerabilities*, join us for a discussion, following the Xi-Trump Summit, of key business and political developments from Western and Chinese perspectives. As an American businessman of Chinese ancestry, Mr. Gibbs had extraordinary access to leaders on both sides, giving him remarkable insight into why tensions between the US and China have escalated so sharply, threatening global commerce and stability. We expect participants, Consul General Wang and Mr. Gibbs to have a robust roundtable conversation about the future Chinese business environment for Americans. 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC & Sponsors - \$75; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/looking-ahead-a-new-us-china-business-paradigm-tickets-1987842311866?>

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

- May 21** ***INCOTERMS® AND THEIR IMPACT ON CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE.*** Second in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Instructor: **Austin Eighan**, Associate, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, LLP. Session overview: In this era of high-risk importing, people are working harder than ever to mitigate tariff impacts. This has led to the use and abuse of Incoterms® to an extent not previously seen. This workshop will be a forum to learn both the legal impact of Incoterms® and the extent to which Incoterms® can implicate or insulate a company from Customs liability. If you're seeing more "DDP to avoid the tariffs" situations this is the workshop for you. This program qualifies for two CCS/MCS, LCB credits. 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/trade-essentialstm-workshop-incoterms-their-impact-on-customs-compliance-tickets-1988183883516>.
- May 22** ***MARITIME DAY LUNCHEON CRUISE.*** Sponsored by Chicago Propeller Club with City Cruises and the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, the two-hour cruise will commence following a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at Navy Pier, with attendees then embarking on the Chicago Elite for an afternoon of fine company, superb views, and a few drinks in the late spring sunshine. 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., Navy Pier and the Chicago Elite vessel. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$80; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maritime-day-luncheon-cruise-following-blessing-of-fleet-ceremony-tickets-1987993605389?aff=erelexpmlt>.

Of Note:

Court Strikes Down Trump's Global Tariffs: As widely [reported](#), a panel of federal judges on May 7 found President Trump had violated the law when he imposed a 10 percent tariff on most U.S. imports, dealing yet another legal setback to the White House in its efforts to wage a trade war without the express permission of Congress.

Xi-Trump Summit Unlikely to Revive Chinese Investment in US, Report Warns: Chinese investment in the US is unlikely to recover meaningfully from its mid-2010s collapse even if President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump reach a bilateral deal when they meet in Beijing next week, according to a Rhodium Group report. As reported in the [South China Morning Post](#), Chinese investment in the US had fallen 90 per cent from its 2014-2017 peak, steeper than the drop in investment from any other major economy and worse than the 57 per cent global decline.

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.

The Looming North American Trade Crisis: "Trade experts and lawyers can't rule out the possibility that the trilateral agreement [USMCA] implodes," write Neil Irwin and Courtenay Brown in [Axios Macro](#). The emerging core dispute: Washington wants to prevent China from using Mexico or Canada as a back door into the North American market.

Where the World's \$13T in Sovereign Wealth Is Held: Speaking of large sums, this [Visual Capitalist](#) graphic helps us envision the distribution of the world's sovereign wealth. Of note: Asia and the Middle East control the majority of the world's \$13 trillion in sovereign wealth; Norway alone holds over \$2.1 trillion, the largest sovereign wealth fund globally; Middle Eastern funds exceed \$5 trillion, built largely on oil revenues.

U.S. & EU Align on Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resilience: Writing in Barnes Richardson's [Global Trade Law](#), Chaney Finn provides background and context for the U.S. and EU's joint [Action Plan](#) to strengthen critical minerals supply chains. The initiative establishes a formal framework to coordinate trade policies to reduce market distortions associated with "non-market" practices, and advance toward a binding plurilateral agreement on critical minerals trade.

The \$126T Global Economy in One Giant Chart: This [Visual Capitalist](#) graphic demonstrates the dimensions of U.S. might, accounting for over a quarter of global output (\$32.4T) vs. China's \$20.9T. No other country is close.

2026 Small Business Exporter of the Year Nomination: [Nominations](#) are open for the American Association of Exporters & Importers Small Business Exporter of the Year Award recognizing a U.S.-based small business that demonstrates outstanding success and commitment to exporting U.S. products or services. Nominees should show strong business performance and measurable growth in U.S. exports over the past three years. Deadline: **May 29**.

USTR Seeks Public Comment on the Modernization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act: USTR [invites](#) public comments on the modernization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The deadline for submission of comments is May 15, 2026. To view the pre-publication version of the Federal Register Notice, click [here](#).

USTR Releases 2026 Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement: On April 30 USTR [released](#) this [report](#) on the adequacy and effectiveness of U.S. trading partners' protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. USTR identifies Vietnam as a Priority Foreign Country. Other changes in placement for this year's Special 301 Report include moving Argentina and Mexico from the Priority Watch List to the Watch List due to important improvements on IP policy, adding the European Union to the Watch List, and removing Bulgaria from the Watch List.

Trump Extends Jones Act Waiver for 90 Days: [American Shipper](#) reports President Trump has extended the Jones Act waiver for another 90 days, amid ongoing concerns over oil and gas supplies stemming from the effects of the Iran war. The original 60-day waiver granted in March was to expire May 17. The new extension begins May 18. Forty international vessels have used, or will use, the waiver, the White House said.

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.

Moving Production to Mexico: What U.S. Companies Get Wrong: Moving production to Mexico is more than just a sourcing decision. It is a legal and operational rebuild, according to Dan Harris in [China Law Blog](#). Companies that treat China/Mexico contracts, labor, IP, customs, and transition sequencing as afterthoughts often end up paying to fix avoidable mistakes.

China's High-Tech Drive in 10 Charts: Scott Kennedy, Senior Advisor and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business & Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, writes about [China's high-tech drive](#) that has made enormous yet uneven progress over the last few decades, both in general and within specific industries. The United States and like-minded countries need to respond pragmatically to maximize the opportunities and minimize the risks resulting from these developments.

Global Economy to Slow in 2026, and Outlook Clouded by War, Other Uncertainties: Summarizing an analysis earlier in April, the [Peterson Institute for International Economics'](#) Karen Dynan writes: The global economy continues to expand, supported by the artificial intelligence (AI) boom, even as high energy prices, trade tensions, policy uncertainty, and structural challenges weigh on activity. Real global GDP growth is projected to slow from 3.3 percent in 2025 to 3.0 percent in 2026 before picking up to 3.1 percent in 2027.

America Wants to Reshore Manufacturing—But Who Will Do the Work?: Supply Chain Management Review [reports](#) on the University of Tennessee Global Supply Chain Institute's white paper that concludes: **Reshoring is possible. But without the workforce, it will be expensive and unsustainable.** According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as of June 2025, there were 8 million job openings, but only 6.8 million unemployed workers. The fertility rate has dropped to 1.62—well below the replacement threshold—and labor force participation remains stuck below pre-2000 levels. Absent a major policy shift, immigration will be the only source of population growth by 2040.

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.

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.

- May 12 ***TURNING TARIFF INTELLIGENCE INTO PRACTICAL BUSINESS DECISIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will explore what organizations are seeing in real time, including tariff refunds already underway and the evolving role of the CAPE (Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries) system. As new guidance takes shape and refunds move through the process, importers need to respond with clarity and a well-defined plan. This discussion is designed to help you assess your position, align internal teams, and move forward with confidence. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/may2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=May%20Webinar%20From%20Insight%20to%20Action%20Building%20Your%202026%20Tariff%20Response%20Plan&utm_content=May%20Webinar%20From%20Insight%20to%20Action%20Building%20Your%202026%20Tariff%20Response%20Plan+CID_8a4139f59b77a90ff4b32a29b5745d18&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Register%20Here.
- May 12 ***INSIDE BANGLADESH’S EXPANDING LPG SECTOR.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed to provide U.S. LPG suppliers and exporters with a clear understanding of Bangladesh’s evolving LPG market and the key factors shaping current supply challenges and opportunities. Participants will gain valuable insights into current demand trends, the drivers behind recent supply disruptions, infrastructure and financing constraints, and emerging opportunities for international suppliers to strengthen Bangladesh’s expanding LPG market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7154a7d7-0309-44f6-b712-9e34c3f2d6e0@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 12 ***UNLOCK FAST-TRACK ACCESS TO DEFENSE FUNDING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss how the Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) is transforming access to U.S. defense opportunities. This session will show companies in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia how to connect directly with mission-critical needs, compete for live funding opportunities and scale within the global defense market. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/UnlockFast-TrackAccessToDefenseFunding-9884-177610/hotsite.php>.
- May 12 ***GLOBAL TRADE WITHOUT THE GUESSWORK: INCOTERMS 2020.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the fundamentals and key 2020 updates so you can apply Incoterms with clarity and confidence. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/rre2jfq/>.
- 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 12 **CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN & INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES IN COLOMBIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide market insights and export opportunities for U.S. companies. The U.S. Commercial Service Colombia, along with Colombian government leaders and industry guest speakers, will provide an overview of upcoming opportunities. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk251F8vMbP3gN8ZC1LhF4BGoZ-j2d50W4dUN09EMjBNOEdIRFJYNTc1RDM4SkRDR0pYOS4u&route=shorturl>.
- May 13 - **AES EXPORT COMPLIANCE SEMINAR.** Virtual program, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the U.S. Census Bureau, will give you the practical knowledge and real-world tools to strengthen your export operations and stay on the right side of U.S. export law. Learn: *How the U.S. Government oversees export controls and enforcement; Key provisions of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) — including classification, licensing, and enforcement; Navigating ITAR requirements and how they apply to your products and transactions; Best practices for AES filing and export documentation, including guidance directly from the U.S. Census Bureau; The most common compliance pitfalls – and exactly how to avoid them.* 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$125 (until April 4; \$150 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AESEExportCompliance-May2026/?_gl=1%2Ahf4lh7%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzc3JGcxJHQxNzc1MTYyOTcyJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzQyJGcxJHQxNzc1MTYyOTcyJGo2MCRsMCRoMA.
- May 13 - **118TH ANNUAL DINNER & GOLF OUTING.** Networking events sponsored by the Traffic Club of Chicago. **May 13:** *Golf Outing* – Cog Hill Golf Course. Members - \$275; Non-members - \$325. **May 14:** *Annual Dinner* – Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.traffic-club.org/ap/Events/Register/jKFGwy2fZCKCE>.
- May 13 **THE EU-MERCOSUR TRADE AGREEMENT IS FINALLY HAPPENING.** Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. After more than 20 years in the making, the interim trade agreement between the Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and the European Union finally applies provisionally as of May 1. A panel explores the deal: **Cecilia Malmström** (PIIE); **Nicolás Albertoni** (Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay; Georgetown Americas Institute; World Trade Institute); **Monica de Bolle** (PIIE); and **Rupert Schlegelmilch** (Former EU Chief Negotiator for EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement). 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/eu-mercosur-trade-agreement-finally-happening>.
- May 13 **HOW TO PREPARE, APPROACH, AND SELL YOUR PRODUCTS TO THE WORLD'S LEADING RETAILERS.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Jim DeBetta**, President, DeBetta Enterprises, who will address: *What you need to have to approach retailers including assets needed like sell sheets, pricing, marketing plans, and more; What to say to a retail buyer when you initially approach them; How to make sure your pricing and packaging of your product gets the buyers attention; How to get set up as a vendor if the retailer shows interest.* 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2026/04/08/how-to-prepare-approach-and-sell-your-products-to-the-worlds-leading-retailers/?mc_cid=3b40371ae2&mc_eid=6499c7d108.

- 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 13 ***ATA CARNET BASICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the United States Council for International Business, will describe how companies of all sizes and across industries use ATA Carnets to bring prototypes to trade shows, move production equipment for live events, transport machinery for short term projects, present commercial samples to customers worldwide, and more. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2f8e4cc8-5ff5-478e-afe7-0cd3fbccb6f7@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 13 ***NEARSHORING TO MEXICO: A STRATEGIC MANUFACTURING OPTION FOR U.S. COMPANIES.*** Luncheon program, sponsored by Mowery & Schoenfeld, will address current critical topics for U.S. companies considering manufacturing operations in Mexico, including corporate and contractual factors, trade-related concerns, and tax implications. Speakers include: **Ricardo Aramburo Williams**, International Tax Principal, Mowery & Schoenfeld, along with **Jenny Ferron**, **Francisco Palmero**, and **Mario Lara** from Nader, Hayaux & Goebel. 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, 410 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 900, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=1Gdj9K91JUWYUvxxwfgMwCtdeGr3tOiNFILyieobMgpUNlAxRkIXVE03WU1GSE5SWV14Qkk4RFJSOC4u&route=shorturl&cldee=GrgjDmU-AN4AaH8DJ7PgsMAmcMvifQcCXbnpnXrKEiRqJ-KxXtjZfVspqV_slp&recipientid=contact-aacc3b875d45e711929d0050569142af-337efade0a4a45f5b9508656ed4f8139&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5%20Things%20Newsletter.
- May 13 ***AUDIT FINDINGS AND COMMON COMPLIANCE ISSUES.*** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will provide a broad look at the types of mistakes, oversights, and process gaps that often lead to compliance concerns—and highlight practical ways importers can stay proactive and maintain stronger oversight. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/28bb9008-434e-40f6-adb4-98b84e89f82c/landing>,
- May 13 ***THE NORTH AMERICAN HAT TRICK: TRADE, TALENT, AND TEAMWORK UNDER USMCA.*** World Trade Day program sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. This program will provide critical insights and help you connect with professionals engaged in trade across North America. Speakers include: **Enrique Perret**, Managing Director, U.S. - Mexico Foundation (USMF); **Eric Goodman**, Managing Director, Business Development & Transload, CPKC; **Ludovic Ortuno**, Managing Director, Missouri DED Canadian Office; **Brian Gordon** (Moderator), SVP & Manager, International Banking, Commerce Bank. 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., CPKC Stadium, 1460 East Front Street, Kansas City, MO. ITC Members - \$15 (by April 28; \$20 thereafter); Non-members - \$25 (by April 28; \$30 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6640234>.

- May 14 ***GLOBAL TRADE AT A CROSSROADS: SECURITY, STRATEGY & THE MIDWEST ADVANTAGE.*** 2026 World Trade Conference sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. Speakers include: **Darci Vetter**, Principal, Sower Strategies, LLC; **Kellie Meiman**, Senior Counselor, McLarty Associates; **Cicely Batie**, Policy Advisor to the Governor, Office of Governor Jim Pillen; **Stephen Zambo**; Founder and CEO; The AGL Group; **Erin Saxby**, Vice President of Enterprise Data & AI, FNBO; **Caleb Hall**; Director, US Customs Brokerage, Scarbrough International, LTD. 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 ***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. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/s5hzd7g>.
- May 14 ***ENGAGE IN TRADE: RESOURCES FOR SERVICE EXPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by World Trade Center St./ Louis, will explore how the St. Louis regional export ecosystem supports service firms across sectors like software, architecture, engineering, consulting, healthcare, creative industries, and more. Our expert partners will walk through common challenges such as regulations, licensing, IP protection, and identifying reliable international partners, while highlighting the programs and support available to help you enter or expand in global markets. Speakers include: **Scott Bennett**, Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Commercial Service; **Leslie Fischer**, Director of International Trade, Missouri Small Business Development Center (SBDC); **Alexander Matlock**, Sr. International Trade Specialist, MO Dept. of Economic Development, ITI Office; **Susan Spitz**, International Business Development Manager, World Trade Center St Louis. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_j84UVDS0QlyPGgCNuPvfMw#/registration.
- May 14 ***TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.*** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, directors in Baker Tilly’s Global Trade Management practice, will provide clear analysis of emerging policy developments, enforcement trends and regulatory shifts — along with actionable considerations to help organizations assess risk, respond strategically and plan with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=inv2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTM_TPTU_05.26_hBT.
- 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://faccgala.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 - **U.S.-INDIA INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR.** Three-day virtual program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will help attendees increase their professional knowledge by learning the nuts and bolts of trade policy directly from career trade policy professionals from across government, industry, and law. *Topics include: India – Political Economy & Strategic Orientation; U.S.–India Trade & Economic Relations; India & the Global Trading System; Competitiveness & Economic Strategy; Digital Trade and Market Access; Challenges and Opportunities – Sectoral Deep Dives.* 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CDT. WITA Members - \$25; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/us-india-its/>.
- May 19 **EXPORT READY: OPPORTUNITY, REALITY, ACTION.** Wisconsin World Trade Day event, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association (MITA) with the WI District Export Council (DEC) and Wisconsin International Credit Executives. Plenary Session topics include *Fast-Tracking Success in Global Markets* and *Experienced Voices: Real-World Insights from Global Exporters*. Breakout Session topics include: *Financial Considerations for Global Trade; Legal Structures Supporting Global Trade; Logistics & Compliance - Moving Products Globally; Sales & Marketing – Go to Market Planning & Strategies.* 8:00 – 5:30 p.m., Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Stret, Pewaukee, WI. 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 **LOOKING AHEAD: A NEW U.S. – CHINA BUSINESS PARADIGM?** Executive Roundtable sponsored by the **INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CHICAGO** with the Hong Kong Business Midwest. **UPDATED** The Honorable **Wang Baodong**, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago and **Ker Gibbs**, former President of the American Chamber of Commerce Shanghai and new author of *The Fragile Dragon: Trade, Trump and China’s Vulnerabilities*, join us for a discussion, following the Xi-Trump Summit, of key business and political developments from Western and Chinese perspectives. As an American businessman of Chinese ancestry, Mr. Gibbs had extraordinary access to leaders on both sides, giving him remarkable insight into why tensions between the US and China have escalated so sharply, threatening global commerce and stability. We expect participants, Consul General Wang and Mr. Gibbs to have a robust roundtable conversation about the future Chinese business environment for Americans. 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC & Sponsors - \$75; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/looking-ahead-a-new-us-china-business-paradigm-tickets-1987842311866?.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/looking-ahead-a-new-us-china-business-paradigm-tickets-1987842311866?)
- 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 19 **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GLOBAL TRADE AT THIS TIME.** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association, will provide practical insights and perspectives (not legal advice) from three long-time collaborators and trusted partners in global trade compliance. Speakers include: **Adrienne Braumiller**, Partner, Braumiller Law Group, PLLC; **George Tuttle III**, Attorney, The Law Firm of George R. Tuttle; **Michelle Schulz**, Principal, Schulz Trade Law. 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Member - \$35; Non-member - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/d171fb20-57af-4b50-b872-04a2586795c0/summary>.

- May 20 ***MINING AND MINING-RELATED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will highlight priority markets, emerging mining projects, and areas in Ghana, Angola, Zambia and Morocco where U.S. companies can bring competitive solutions to the sector. Participants will also learn about resources available to help U.S. exporters identify opportunities and pursue business in these markets. 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/MiningandMining-relatedExportOpportunitiesinAfrica/>.
- May 20 ***CHICAGO SYMPOSIUM.*** Sponsored by EXIM, this free symposium is designed to help Chicago-area businesses learn how to take advantage of local and federal resources that support exporting goods and services. Representatives from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), U.S. Commercial Service/International Trade Administration, and Small Business Administration will discuss: *How to Find Foreign Buyers; Increase Export Sales by Offering Open Account; Financing Your Export Sales.* 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Aspire Center, 5500 West Madison Street. Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://grow.exim.gov/chicago-symposium?utm_campaign=40600651-F26-EEBD&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz---q3ubMcd-KJ09LDn0VLLLcsR1RCMJszO-FCG2p3x79jDxw9Rs-CU7EbFHFAAOXS0ZjGo0tIEIKe0U0s3DW61_-uZQvA&hsmi=417079441&utm_content=417079441&utm_source=hs_email.
- May 20 ***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/4qkdbcn>.
- May 20 ***DOING BUSINESS WITH WESTERN EUROPE.*** Conference on Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Ireland sponsored by the Indiana District Export Council. 11:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Griffin Center, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN. Fee: \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-with-western-europe-tickets-1985328480930?aff=oddtcreator>.
- May 20 ***HOW TO WIN A TRADE WAR: BOOK LAUNCH AND DISCUSSION.*** Webinar sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Authors **Soumaya Keynes** (*Financial Times*) and **Chad P. Bown** (PIIE) will discuss their forthcoming book, *How to Win a Trade War*, with **Greg IP**, Chief Economics Commentator, *Wall Street Journal*. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/how-win-trade-war-book-launch-and-discussion-bown-and-keynes>.
- 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 20 ***MASTERING EXPORT MANAGEMENT COMPANIES: EVALUATING PARTNERS, NEGOTIATING COMMISSIONS, AND DRIVING PERFORMANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide U.S. companies with a practical overview of how to work with Export Management Companies (EMCs), including how to assess potential partners, negotiate commission structures, and effectively manage performance to drive international sales growth. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/be832f3a-741f-42b3-9e04-beb06cee8424@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- May 20 ***DOING BUSINESS IN VENEZUELA: NAVIGATING U.S. SANCTIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is the first 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. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/DoingBusinessinVenezuelaWebinarSeries-9884-1773262/>.
- May 20 ***WHITE ASPARAGUS DINNER 2026.*** Event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, features the taste of authentic German white asparagus, freshly flown in from Germany. This event blends tradition with modern culinary craftsmanship, centered around one of Germany's most celebrated seasonal specialties. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Sky On Nine, 6600 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, IL. GACC Members - \$120; Non-members - \$145. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/gpp6ujw?source_id=4f351def-cf4f-4729-947b-20483264fe66&source_type=em&c=wCs8JUPdZ2HMGrBMNDkpauNyshzO3opK2Eui1icTINPKes2APkPKYA==.
- May 20 ***IDENTIFYING AND REMEDIATING FRAUD & CORRUPTION IN CHINA OPERATIONS.*** Webinar sponsored by East West Associates. Seasoned executives with real-life management experience in China – and skilled professionals with deep forensic expertise in China – will tell you about how to remediate risk in your China operations. Grant Thornton will address how to identify the fraud & corruption and calculate damages to the organization. East West Associates will address how to remediate fraud & corruption through the termination of the affected employees, Interim executives, proper executive recruiting and employee training. Morgan Lewis & Bockius will provide the legal solutions to identify the fraud & corruption suspects, employment termination, execution of anticorruption compliance and cyber security training. 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4139877238024193885>.
- May 21 ***INCOTERMS[®] AND THEIR IMPACT ON CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE.*** Second in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Instructor: **Austin Eighan**, Associate, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, LLP. Session overview: In this era of high-risk importing, people are working harder than ever to mitigate tariff impacts. This has led to the use and abuse of Incoterms[®] to an extent not previously seen. This workshop will be a forum to learn both the legal impact of Incoterms[®] and the extent to which Incoterms[®] can implicate or insulate a company from Customs liability. If you're seeing more "DDP to avoid the tariffs" situations this is the workshop for you. This program qualifies for two CCS/MCS, LCB credits. 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/trade-essentialstm-workshop-incoterms-their-impact-on-customs-compliance-tickets-1988183883516>.
- May 21 ***GLOBALIZE YOUR WEBSITE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide you with many tools and resources for updating your website and increasing your international sales. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/samcbag>.
- May 21 ***IDENTIFYING AND REMEDIATING FRAUD & CORRUPTION IN CHINA OPERATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates. Seasoned executives with real-life management experience in China – and skilled professionals with deep forensic expertise in China – will tell you about how to remediate risk in your China operations. Grant Thornton will address how to identify the fraud & corruption and calculate damages to the organization. East West Associates will address how to remediate fraud & corruption through the termination of the affected employees, Interim executives, proper executive recruiting and employee training. Morgan Lewis & Bockius will provide the legal solutions to identify the fraud & corruption suspects, employment termination, execution of anticorruption compliance and cyber security training. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8068784127788839001>.

- May 21 **TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, directors in Baker Tilly’s Global Trade Management practice, will provide clear analysis of emerging policy developments, enforcement trends and regulatory shifts — along with actionable considerations to help organizations assess risk, respond strategically and plan with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=inv2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTM_TPTU_05.26_hBT.
- May 22 **MARITIME DAY LUNCHEON CRUISE.** Sponsored by Chicago Propeller Club with City Cruises and the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, the two-hour cruise will commence following a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at Navy Pier, with attendees then embarking on the Chicago Elite for an afternoon of fine company, superb views, and a few drinks in the late spring sunshine. 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., Navy Pier and the Chicago Elite vessel. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$80; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maritime-day-luncheon-cruise-following-blessing-of-fleet-ceremony-tickets-1987993605389?aff=erelexpmlt>.
- 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 **CRITICAL DETAILS OF CUSTOMS VALUATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the finer details, rules, and terminology of customs valuation, which is especially important for unusual sales contracts, to help traders meet reasonable care obligations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/x9vwfbw>.
- 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/>.
- May 27 **NAVIGATING MARITIME EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND PERU.** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. U.S. Commercial specialists from each country will provide a 15-minute overview of key industry trends, demand drivers, and strategies to help U.S. firms successfully enter and expand in these dynamic markets. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7b061011-58c0-48e8-8f95-c2649a75dc7e@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 28 **TAPPING INTO TRADE – PART 4: LANDED COSTS.** Hybrid program sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. The core of the seminar features an overview of: *Optionality in landed cost; Key cost components; Hidden and unexpected costs; How to calculate and compare; Using landed cost for better decisions.* 10:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6628866>.
- May 28 **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/9sfw859>.

- May 28 **TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, directors in Baker Tilly’s Global Trade Management practice, will provide clear analysis of emerging policy developments, enforcement trends and regulatory shifts — along with actionable considerations to help organizations assess risk, respond strategically and plan with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=inv2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTM_TPTU_05.26_hBT.
- 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 **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. 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. 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. 23 - **AAEI’S 105TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE DAY.** Comprehensive 2+-day program 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. 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.
- Jul. 1 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MANUFACTURING WORLD (TOKYO, JAPAN).*** The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois booth at the Manufacturing World trade show in Tokyo. Illinois companies specializing in industrial machinery, automation, precision components, and advanced manufacturing are encouraged to apply for this unique opportunity for financial and technical assistance showcasing your products and services in one of the world's most dynamic and technologically advanced markets. Eligible Illinois companies will receive the following benefits: • Complimentary exhibit space; Interpreter services; 50 - 75% reimbursement for travel costs for up to two travelers (in accordance with guidelines); Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Participation fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: March 27. For information & an application, please contact: kevin.kim@illinois.gov.
- 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. 20 - ***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. 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.

Follow the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago on LinkedIn:



About Barnes Richardson

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

About KSM

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