

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

May 25, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAM

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>.

Of Note:

President Trump's State Visit to China Delivers Historic Deals and Greater Market Access for American Farmers, Ranchers, Workers, and Businesses: Following the U.S.-China Summit in Beijing, Ambassador Greer hit the airwaves to discuss how President Trump is optimizing our economic relationship with China. [Here](#) is a summary of his media appearances. Here is the White House [Fact Sheet](#) of the President's Summit with President Xi.

EU-US Trade: Council and Parliament Strike a Deal to Implement the Tariff Elements of the Joint Statement: On May 20 the Council presidency and the European Parliament reached a [provisional agreement](#) on two regulations aimed at implementing the tariff-related aspects of the EU-US Joint Statement, agreed on 21 August 2025. The agreement marks an important step in delivering on the commitments undertaken in the EU-US Joint Statement. It aims at enhancing a stable and predictable transatlantic trade relationship, while ensuring robust safeguards and preserving flexibility to be able to protect the EU's economic interests.

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.

IMF Regional Economic Outlook – Sub-Saharan Africa: After a strong 2025 with regional growth estimated at 4.5 percent, regional growth is expected to decline to 4.3 percent in 2026 with significant heterogeneity across countries. This IMF [Regional Economic Outlook](#) comprises three chapters: the first examines the macroeconomic implications of cuts in official development assistance; the second focuses on priority structural reforms to raise productivity and support job-rich private sector-led growth.

Implications of Caribe vs. Montgomery: [Freight Waves](#) examines the considerable impacts on rates and market structure, predicting spot rates could easily reach \$5.00 a mile. The week of May 18 rates reached \$3.61 a mile, just pennies from \$3.68 – the all-time high.

The Impact of Tariffs on the AI Data Center Buildout: Balancing Supply Chain Security and AI Infrastructure Leadership: The United States is on track to invest more than \$2.7 trillion in data center infrastructure by 2030, with semiconductors representing approximately 54 cents of every dollar spent. The Trump administration has embraced two goals that are fundamentally in tension: an aggressive push to build out U.S. AI infrastructure, and broad use of Section 232 tariff authority to restrict the semiconductor and metal imports the buildout requires. This [Center for Strategic & International Studies brief](#) describes the issues surrounding data centers.

NAFTZ Applauds Launch of Bipartisan Congressional U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones Caucus: On May 19 NAFTAZ publicly applauded the launch of the bipartisan [Congressional U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones Caucus](#). It is a new House-led initiative focused on strengthening U.S. manufacturing competitiveness, supporting domestic jobs, and advancing secure, resilient supply chains through the U.S. FTZ program. In 2024, more than 543,000 Americans were employed across approximately 1,300 active U.S. FTZ operations nationwide, with related exports accounting for roughly 6.5% of total U.S. output.

Waiver Data Reveal How the Jones Act Blocks American Trade: Writing in [Cato Today](#), Colin Grabow observes, in just over 50 days, the Jones Act waiver of March 17 has generated 45 voyages spanning more than 30 ports, involving 35 vessels not present in the Jones Act fleet, and carrying over a dozen different cargo types. This article includes an interactive infographic of all sailings and offers a glimpse of what US shipping might look like without the Jones Act.

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.

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**.

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.

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.

- May 26 **CROSSROADS OF THE WORLD: GUATEMALA.** Webinar, sponsored by World Trade Center Utah, features a virtual discussion exploring how to do business in Guatemala, with practical insight for companies looking to expand, partner, or nearshore in the region. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sjZijPudT1uhIFUg8qAO_A#/registration.
- 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 26 **2026 CSIS-CSDS TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON THE INDO-PACIFIC.** Hybrid event sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies and the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at the Brussels School of Governance. This is the 6th iteration of the Dialogue where experts will explore how America's European and Indo-Pacific allies will navigate the evolving geopolitical landscape in 2026. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/2026-csis-csds-transatlantic-dialogue-indo-pacific>.
- May 27 - **EXPORT NOW BOOTCAMP.** Sponsored by the Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, this is a hands-on training experience designed specifically for agribusinesses and food manufacturers ready to explore or expand into international markets. This program will give you a clear, step-by-step roadmap to start selling globally with confidence. You'll learn directly from trade experts, government agencies, and industry professionals how to: *Identify the right international markets; Classify your products and understand tariffs; Navigate export regulations and compliance; Manage logistics and shipping for food products; Connect with international buyers and distributors; Access funding opportunities, including ISTEP support.* You'll gain practical tools, real-world insights, and expert guidance you can apply immediately. 9:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Wedge Innovation Center, 620 East Broadway, Alton, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://ilsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/41910>.

- 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 ***DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA 2026 - SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES, MARKET ENTRY, AND EXECUTION REALITIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, will provide a strategic briefing on doing business in India in 2026. The session will provide practical insights into economic and sector trends, foreign direct investment opportunities, regional investment considerations, market entry structuring options, and key regulatory developments affecting foreign companies. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8836755616402842460?source=DBIflyer&utm_source=bravo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=business.
- 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 27 ***CPSC eFILING.*** Program sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. **Guadalupe Whyte** and **Marcy Van Winkle** along with others from the Consumer Product Safety Commission will discuss the CPSC's eFiling requirement and the updated certificate requirements that begin on July 8. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Schaumburg Corporate Center, Conference Room A and B - Floor 1, 1501 East Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL. CCBFA Members – No fee; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ccbfa.org/events/cpsc-efiling-presentation>.
- May 28 ***AGRICULTURE UNDER USMCA: NORTH AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will convene the agriculture community from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to discuss how USMCA is working in practice, key challenges, and priorities as the review process continues. Speakers include: **John Bode**, President & CEO, Corn Refiners Association; **Joseph Glauber**, Research Fellow Emeritus, International Food Policy Research Institute; **Michael Harvey**, Executive Director, Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance; **Darci Vetter** (Moderator), Vice President of Public Affairs, Driscoll's; former Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/agriculture-usmca/>.
- 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.
- May 28 **THE NEW ERA OF SUPPLY CHAIN RISK: STRATEGIES FOR A WORLD THAT WON’T SIT STILL.** Webinar, sponsored by Supply Chain Management Review and Amarok, will explore: *Best practices in risk intelligence; Third-party visibility; Real-time monitoring; Business continuity; Proactive mitigation.* 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/5173377/26CAE7FA824F7FD2AC5FDfEB58EEDF92?partnerref=eb2>.
- May 28 **WORLD TRADE CENTER ST. LOUIS NETWORKING RECEPTION.** Network, meet new members and reconnect with the World Trade Center Board of Directors, Sister Cities Committees and the St. Louis Mosaic Project. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., 120 South Central Avenue, Suite 200, Clayton, MO. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/events/wtc-stl-networking-reception/>.
- 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 - 4 **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 ***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=oddtcreator>.
- 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_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.

- 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 tutorship 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=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhwY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJQQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5cILA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.

- 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. 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. 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-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5cILA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.
- 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.

- 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/>.
- 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.