

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

June 29, 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

- Jul. 15 ***ANATOMY OF AN EMAIL SCAM.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Louise Kern**, President, GloBIS – Global Business Information Services, Inc. This practical session walks participants through three real-world examples, including a highly convincing supplier-registration fraud impersonating a major international corporation. Participants will leave with a practical, repeatable methodology for evaluating suspicious emails and reducing the risk of fraud, phishing, business-email compromise, and supplier-registration scams. The presentation is designed for business professionals emphasizing simple investigative techniques that can be applied immediately using tools already available on most computers and smartphones. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$55; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anatomy-of-an-email-scam-tickets-1992584654340?](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anatomy-of-an-email-scam-tickets-1992584654340?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=notification&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite)
- Jul. 16 ***SUMMER NETWORKING MIXER.*** Event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Sip, Socialize & Scale Globally-Connect with Chicago's International Business Community for a fun evening of networking. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Skyline Club of Chicago, 307 North Michigan Avenue, 24th Floor Penthouse, Chicago. HKBAM & ITA/GC Members - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-networking-mixer-tickets-1990985736935?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=notification&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite.

Of Note:

U.S. Commercial Service User Fee Schedule Update: The U.S. Commercial Service is updating its [User Fee Schedule](#) to better align fees with the cost and level of effort required to deliver services and to apply a consistent approach across programs. These updates are being implemented following publication of a [Federal Register Notice](#) and a required public notice and comment period (ends **December 31, 2026**: You are encouraged to [submit a comment](#) unless you don't mind paying much higher fees).

US Revokes 20,000 Visas for Mexican Truckers as Cabotage Crackdown Expands: Twenty thousand Mexican truck drivers have lost their U.S. work visas. It's a structural shift in the cross-border labor market that is already moving freight rates, and it will keep moving them. President of Mexico's National Chamber of Freight Transportation (CANACAR) says the revocations occurred between April 2025 and April 2026. Mexican drivers account for roughly two-thirds of the 30,000 foreign commercial operators removed from U.S. operations during that window. The trigger was a Trump executive order issued in April 2025 targeting drivers who violated cabotage rules or failed English-language proficiency requirements. Source: [Freight Waves](#).

Class Dismissed: The Effect of International Student Exclusion on the US STEM Workforce and Economic Growth: Writing in the Peterson Institute for International Economics' [Policy Brief 26-10](#), Michael A. Clemens (PIIE), Jeremy Neufeld (Institute for Progress) and Amy M. Nice (Cornell Law School; Institute for Progress) observe the decline in international student enrollment would hurt the US economy, slowing innovation and GDP growth, because foreign students are a key source of US STEM workforce talent. The authors recommend reforming US policies on student visas, work authorization, and green card processing to avert these losses.

Tax Revenue as a Share of GDP by Country: This [Visual Capitalist visualization](#) ranks all 38 OECD member countries by tax revenue as a share of GDP using the latest available [OECD data](#). The figures include personal income, corporate, property, value-added (VAT), social security, consumption, and other taxes. On average, OECD members collect 34.1% of GDP in tax revenue. The U.S. ranks near the bottom of the OECD, collecting 25.6% of GDP in tax revenue.

EU-US Trade: Council Gives Final Approval for the Tariff Commitments under Joint Statement: On June 25 the [European Council](#) formally adopted two regulations implementing the tariff-related commitments set out in the EU-US Joint Statement of 21 August 2025. The adoption completes the legislative process and confirms the EU's commitment to a stable, predictable and mutually beneficial transatlantic trade relationship, while preserving the necessary guardrails to protect European economic interests.

Three Gorges Dam Project Seen as Catalyst for Fresh Economic Impetus: [China Daily](#) announced on June 23 the launch of a US\$11.39 billion infrastructure project to expand the Three Gorges Dam's navigation system to eliminate chronic shipping bottlenecks and substantially lower national logistics costs. In 2025, 173 million tons of freight passed through the locks, operating at 160-170% of their designed capacity.

Qatar Pledges \$1.2 trillion US Investment: The Philippines' [Daily Tribune](#) reported Qatar is set to deepen its economic ties with the United States through a trade and investment commitment expected to reach \$1.2 trillion, highlighting growing cooperation between the two countries. The Qatari emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, said the partnership reflects expanding business relations between the two nations following Trump's visit to Doha last year.

The United States and Uzbekistan Announce Early Harvest on Trade, Accelerate Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment Talks: On June 25 [USTR announced](#) that the U.S. and Uzbekistan have agreed to an early harvest of trade commitments to strengthen the bilateral economic and investment relationship and ensure reciprocity, balance, and resilience in bilateral trade. Both countries also agreed to accelerate talks towards the swift conclusion of an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment.

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC): The [U.S. Department of Commerce](#) invites nominations for the 2026-2028 ETTAC term. The ETTAC advises on the development and administration of programs to expand U.S. exports of environmental technologies, goods, and services. Submit your application by **August 7, 2026**, to be considered for ETTAC membership. Please refer to the [Federal Register Notice](#) for details on eligibility, selection criteria, and the application process, including required documents. Apply [here](#) to begin the application process.

Supply Chain Resource Hub for Manufacturing: The International Trade Administration's [Supply Chain Resource Hub](#) connects U.S. and international businesses with tools, programs, and partners to strengthen American manufacturing through domestic sourcing. This resource toolkit supports both U.S. and foreign businesses with resources to help guide sourcing of U.S. made materials, parts, and components.

Nonpayment Protection for U.S. Exporters: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Exim) has published this [free Guide](#) to minimizing Risk in the Global Marketplace through Export Credit Insurance. The Guide describes what Export Credit Insurance is, how it works and what policy options are offered.

The Space Trade: Part 2: In this infographic [article](#) by the Hinrich Foundation and Visual Capitalist, authors acknowledge that the U.S. and China are competing to secure the edge in space-based infrastructure that already is starting to underpin the future of global trade. The US dominates the space trade with 25 launch sites, but China is closing in with 17.

New Tariff Wave Could Replace Expiring Trade Duties by Late July: As reported in [Freight Waves](#), a new round of tariffs and policy moves could include proposed Section 301 tariffs tied to forced labor concerns, changes to Section 232 metal duties, uncertainty surrounding the future of USMCA negotiations, and continued litigation over tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Which Countries Depend Most on Middle East Oil: This graphic ([Visual Capitalist](#)) ranks selected countries by the share of domestic oil consumption supplied by imports from the Middle East, based on data from [IEA World Energy Statistics](#) as of 2024. While North America sources very little of its oil from the region, several Asian economies remain heavily dependent: Japan imports the equivalent of 77% of its oil consumption from the Middle East, while Taiwan, South Korea, India, and China also rank among the more exposed major economies.

Which States and Products Risk the Greatest Losses If the USMCA Is Terminated?: Writing for the Peterson Institute for International Economics' [blog post](#), Gary Clyde Hufbauer (PIIE) and Ye Zhang (PIIE) evaluate the three ways USMCA negotiations could proceed., and which states could be harmed the most.

AI Investment and Middle East Conflict Shape Outlook for Global Trade: WTO Chief Economist [Robert Staiger](#), commenting on the WTO's latest [Global Trade Outlook and Statistics 2026](#), says the world trade outlook in 2026 will be shaped by two powerful and opposite forces. On the one hand, the extraordinary momentum of investment in artificial intelligence (AI) continues to energize global demand for high-tech goods and digitally delivered services. On the other hand, the conflict in the Middle East - and the resulting spike in energy and transport costs - could weigh heavily on world trade and output.

USTR Seeks Comments on a Mechanism to Promote Reciprocal Managed Trade with China: The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is [soliciting comments](#) on the types of non-sensitive products that would benefit from favorable tariff modifications by both sides, and considerations around the design of a new government-to-government mechanism—a U.S.-China Board of Trade—to manage bilateral trade optimization on an ongoing basis. The written comment period is open until **July 10, 2026**.

White House Issues New Executive Order to Strengthen Customs Enforcement, Protecting U.S.

Consumers and Businesses: In a statement released on June 3, [CBP references](#) President Trump's signed Executive Order "[Strengthening Customs Enforcement](#)," empowering U.S. Customs and Border Protection with a comprehensive set of tools to safeguard American consumers, businesses, and revenue while increasing transparency and compliance across international supply chains.

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

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.

Investment Officer Sought – MIDA Chicago: The [Malaysian Investment Development Authority](#) (MIDA) - Chicago based in Suite 1810, 875 N Michigan Avenue, Chicago is seeking a proactive, professional Investment Development Officer to promote and facilitate foreign direct investment from the U.S. Midwest and Southwest regions into Malaysia. The successful candidate will also support the development of strategic relationships between Malaysian and U.S. companies to drive mutual growth. Job description [here](#). Apply by **July 8, 2026**.

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.

- 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. 29 ***USMCA JOINT REVIEW: WHERE TO FROM HERE?*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Institute for China-America Studies, features a discussion with panelists **Diego de Leon Segovia** (Director at APCO), **David Collins** (Professor of International Economic Law at The City Law School), **Wenting He** (Postdoctoral Scholar at The China Institute, University of Alberta) and **Enrique Dussel Peters** (Professor, Graduate School of Economics at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). Moderating the discussion is **Sourabh Gupta**, Senior Fellow and Head of the Trade n' Technology Program at ICAS. 8:00 – 9:20 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://chinaus-icas.org/event/usmca-joint-review-where-to-from-here/>.
- 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-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.
- Jun. 30 ***ALGERIA'S ENERGY MARKET IN FOCUS: INSIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE ROAD TO NAPEC 2026.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide insights into Algeria's energy sector priorities, investment climate, and commercial opportunities, while examining the policies, partnerships, and technologies driving growth across the country's energy value chain. Speakers will also discuss key legal and regulatory considerations for doing business in Algeria and offer practical guidance for companies interested in pursuing opportunities in the market. The program will conclude with a preview of NAPEC 2026, the Africa & Mediterranean Energy & Hydrogen Exhibition and Conference. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/292f9498-f4ad-4600-953b-6930e8a5ef11@al1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- Jun. 30 ***LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN'S NEXT INVESTMENT ADVANTAGE: PUBLIC PRIORITIES, PRIVATE INVESTMENT, AND THE FUTURE OF FDI IN THE REGION.*** First of two webinars, sponsored by FT Locations and Canning House, will bring together stakeholders from across the public and private sectors to provide insights into foreign direct investment trends across Latin America and the Caribbean. The first webinar, *Public Priorities, Private Investment*, will explore how public-sector priorities are shaping private investment flows throughout the region. 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://canninghouse-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y6amjM8DTo2wTEA9ssYYtA#/registration.
- Jun. 30 ***RENEWING NORTH AMERICA: WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE USMCA?*** Virtual program sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs who are releasing new public opinion data on North Americans' views of regional cooperation and the future of economic integration within the continent. Four experts will discuss the survey's findings and what the data reveal about the future of the USMCA and the North American partnership. 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://globalaffairs.org/events/renewing-north-america-whats-next-usmca?utm_source=promo&utm_campaign=events&utm_medium=email.
- Jul. 1 - 3 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MANUFACTURING WORLD (TOKYO, JAPAN).*** The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois booth at the Manufacturing World trade show in Tokyo. Illinois companies specializing in industrial machinery, automation, precision components, and advanced manufacturing are encouraged to apply for this unique opportunity for financial and technical assistance showcasing your products and services in one of the world's most dynamic and technologically advanced markets. Eligible Illinois companies will receive the following benefits: • Complimentary exhibit space; Interpreter services; 50 - 75% reimbursement for travel costs for up to two travelers (in accordance with guidelines); Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Participation fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: March 27. For information & an application, please contact: kevin.kim@illinois.gov.
- Jul. 1 ***HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY BRING OVERSEAS BRANDS INTO THE U.S. MARKET.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Yvette Laugier**, Vice President of North America, Dualit Ltd. She is a veteran of the housewares industry, having worked with well-known consumer brands. She opened the North American headquarters of a European manufacturer in 2013 as its Managing Director and is well-versed in retail distribution across the U.S. and Canada, in both B2B and B2C channels. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8936769393918398304?mc_cid=7f0b342b78&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- 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. 8 ***EU-INDIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: THE MOTHER OF ALL DEALS?*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines this history-making agreement which took 20 years to negotiate, covers goods, services, digital trade, investments, and supply chain diversification. Speakers include: **Darpan Jain**, EU-India Free Trade Agreement Chief Negotiator, Department of Commerce, India; **Christophe Kiener**, Chief Negotiator and Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Trade and Economic Security, European Commission; **Cecilia Malmström** (Moderator), Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/eu-india-free-trade-agreement-mother-all-deals>.

- Jul. 8 ***DOING BUSINESS IN VENEZUELA: BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is the third 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/>.
- 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. 9 ***REALITY IN MOTION: THE LATEST ON TARIFFS, REFUNDS, AND TRADE POLICY.*** Virtual program, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, will feature a moderated conversation exploring the questions trade professionals are asking right now, including Practical considerations for businesses navigating ongoing policy changes and What we know, what we don't know, and what companies should be watching next. Speakers include: **Brian Murphy**, Esq., Miller & Company P.C.; **Caleb Hall**, Director, US Customs Brokerage, Scarbrough Global; **Chance Pope** (Moderator), Director of Operations, Bestway International. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No Fee; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6731598>.
- Jul. 11 ***MONGOL NAADAM – CHICAGO 2026.*** One of Mongolia's most cherished festivals and recognized on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, it focuses on three traditional competitions: wrestling, archery and horse racing. In addition to the competitions, the festival features: Traditional and modern music, song and dance; Equestrian show and traditional costume show; Mongolian cuisine and community celebration. 12:00 p.m., 20102 Busse Woods Picnic Grove 30, Elk Grove Village, IL. For information & registration (by July 4), please contact: info@mongolianconsulate.us.
- Jul. 14 ***FROM MISTAKES TO MASTERY: LESSONS FROM A VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will include: *A real-world voluntary self-disclosure case from start to finish; What triggers risk and how issues are discovered; The impact of violations on a company.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/july2026/>.
- Jul. 14 ***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. 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/18f2f7c6-d512-4f14-9847-7812b943da52/summary>.
- Jul. 14 ***FROM GLOBAL TENSIONS TO LOCAL STRATEGY: GEOPOLITICAL BRIEFING FOR BUSINESS LEADERS.*** Event, sponsored by the Executives' Club of Chicago, convenes leaders for a geopolitical briefing designed for decision-makers navigating this new reality. This is not a foreign policy seminar. It is a leadership conversation about how global dynamics shape local strategy — and how executives can respond. Speakers include: **Tim Berry**, Global Head of Corporate Responsibility and Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Region, JPMorganChase; Dr. **Raymond Kuo**, Vice President of Research for Geostrategy and Diplomacy, Chicago Council on Global Affairs; **Dana Linnet**, CEO, The Summit Group DC; **Phoenix Ricks**, CEO, Girl Friday Advisors; **Per Kristian Hong** (Moderator), Partner and Global Lead, Global Business Policy Council, Kearney. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (includes Reception), 425 South Financial Place, 3rd Floor, Chicago. Exec Club Members - \$100; Non-members - \$200. For information & registration, please see: https://www.executivesclub.org/events/geopolitical-briefing-for-business-leaders/?utm_source=mailchimp_standalone&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=geopoliticalbriefing&utm_content=insights/

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- Jul. 15 ***M&A TRENDS AND INTEGRATION BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES.*** Last of three webinars, sponsored by Plante Moran, features specialists across Plante Moran state and local tax and international tax practices, global mobility tax practice, and commercial real estate advisors practice, offering a wide range of perspectives for international businesses. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/mr/6747227/5487142FE69FDC33E17C9A7699413665?partnerref=EMAILSEG2&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhwY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJQQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b.
- Jul. 15 ***US AT 250: TRADE VS. PROTECTIONISM – AMERICA’S ENDURING ECONOMIC DEBATE.*** Hybrid event, sponsored by Chatham House, explores how the long arc of economic thought informs the current moment of strategic competition with China, renewed industrial policy, and growing skepticism of globalization among Americans. Speakers will assess what these shifts mean for the future of US trade policy, how allies and partners should interpret Washington’s evolving economic posture, and what the next phase of American leadership — or retrenchment — could mean for the global economy and the institutions built to sustain it. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.chathamhouse.org/events/all/standard-event/us-250-trade-vs-protectionism-americas-enduring-economic-debate?utm_source=Chatham%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15531039_CH%20-%20CH%20Newsletter%20Members%20and%20Non-Members%20-%2025.06.2026&utm_content=non-members-event-us-250-title&dm_i=1S3M,98VTR,7V1SMK,12TH0U,1.0.0.0.
- Jul. 16 ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE OPPORTUNITIES IN EGYPT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide U.S. companies with an overview of the Egyptian aviation and defense markets, key government stakeholders, upcoming procurement priorities, and opportunities to engage with decision-makers. It will also provide an overview of Egypt’s ongoing military modernization efforts, airport expansion projects, and commercial aviation growth plans, as well as opportunities to meet with senior government and industry officials during the upcoming Air Show. 8:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/fce6f057-a970-465d-8e7d-063719790644@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
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- Jul. 20 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT THE FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW.***
24 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. 29 ***DECOUPLING DEPENDENCE: VETTING SUPPLIERS BEYOND CHINA.*** Webinar sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Presentation by **Kyle Freeman**, Partner, Dezan, Shira & Associates, who will provide a practical discussion focused on evaluating suppliers beyond China and reducing risk in emerging sourcing markets. Topics Include: *Types of Due Diligence & When to Use Them; Fraud & Corruption Considerations; Country-Specific Due Diligence Insights.* 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6712666>.
- Jul. 29 ***OPENING RECEPTION OF THE AGLPA 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE.*** VIP event sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club in honor of the opening of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) 2026 conference. Guests will include the AGLPA, port directors, MARAD, the US Coastguard, vessel operators and executives from the St Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and Canada's St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Chicago Yacht Club, 400 East Monroe Drive, Chicago. CPC Members - \$81.88; Non-members - \$103.22. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-of-the-aglpa-2026-annual-conference-tickets-1991477067518?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Jul. 30 ***ALGERIA'S ENERGY MARKET IN FOCUS: INSIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE ROAD TO NAPEC 2026.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, the U.S. Embassy in Algeria, the Bilateral Chamber, and legal and industry experts for a timely discussion of Algeria's evolving energy landscape and what it means for U.S. companies. The program will provide insights into Algeria's energy sector priorities, investment climate, and commercial opportunities, while examining the policies, partnerships, and technologies driving growth across the country's energy value chain. Speakers will also discuss key legal and regulatory considerations for doing business in Algeria and offer practical guidance for companies interested in pursuing opportunities in the market. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/292f9498-f4ad-4600-953b-6930e8a5ef11@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Jul. 30 ***SWISS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION 2026.*** The Swiss American Business Council proudly continues this tradition of bringing together the Swiss-American community in the Midwest for networking, exchanging ideas, and celebrating together. 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. SABC Members (+ one guest) – no fee; Non-members - \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://sabcnow.com/product/swiss-national-day-reception-2026/>.
- Aug. 13 ***IACAC GOLF OUTING.*** The International Air Cargo Association of Chicago invites you to their golf outing. Single golfers - \$160 (by July 1; \$175 thereafter); Foursomes - \$640 (by July 1; \$700 thereafter). 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., St. Andrews, West Chicago. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/iacac-golf/>.

- Aug. 20 **MITA'S 2026 SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT – DRUMLIN RIDGE WINERY.** Networking event, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association, will be hosted at Drumlin Ridge Winery, the area's premier winery that offers a tranquil space to enjoy handcrafted wines, small plates, artisanal cheeses, sausages, and a curated selection of gifts. Appetizers and refreshments will be served with an available cash bar. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Drumlin Ridge Winery, 6000 River Road, Waunakee, WI. MITA Members - \$15; Non-members - \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitatrade.org/events/>.
- Sep. 17 **DRIVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS, WHILE CONNECTING TODAY'S LEADERS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION.** Gala & Awards Dinner sponsored by the Italian American Chamber of Commerce Midwest. Honorees include **Alexi Giannoulis**, Secretary of State, State of Illinois, and **John R. Colletti**, Managing Partner, Gibsons Restaurant Group. 6:00 p.m., CineCity Studios, 2429 West 14th Street, Chicago. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.iacc-chicago.com/gala>.
- Sep. 29 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法).** Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues' behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture; Case Studies: Communicating with Americans; Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction; Specific Cultural Challenges; Blending American and Japanese Styles; Key Skills for Effective Communication.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1795564063449?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.
- Oct. 9 **THE 2026 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL GALA.** Hosted annually by World Business Chicago and Chicago Sister Cities International, the Gala welcomes members of the Chicago Consular Corps—one of the largest in the U.S., representing over 80 countries—as distinguished guests. This distinguished evening celebrates the international community that makes Chicago a true global city. In addition to funding WBC'S work, a portion of the proceeds funds the Chicago Consular Corp's annual International Student Professional Development Grant at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). 6:00 p.m., The Field Museum. Details forthcoming. Please see: https://worldbusinesschicago.com/gala/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gala&utm_content=savethedate&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Save%20the%20Date%3A%20The%20Chicago%20International%20Gala%20-%20October%209&utm_campaign=Gala%20initial%20std.
- Oct. 20 **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is focused on: *Indirect communication; Ambiguous and context-dependent messaging; English as a non-native language.* This in-depth seminar offers practical strategies for strengthening working relationships and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, subordinates, customers, and supervisors. By the end of the seminar, participants will be better equipped to: Interpret indirect or ambiguous messages more accurately; Communicate clearly and respectfully across language and cultural gaps; Reduce misunderstandings while preserving relationships; Increase confidence and effectiveness in day-to-day interactions with Japanese counterparts. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980001138706?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.

- Nov. 10 **INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on Managing Forwarders, brokers & carriers. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process—a comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. Coordinate your documents with transportation rules and procedures and gain a solid understanding of the critical components of logistics. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara.** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-nov-10-2026/?145944_grid_view=false.
- Nov. 11 **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, is for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information is not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. Shipments with incorrect classifications may not reach their destination, and/or you may be subjected to penalties. Join us for this interactive, in-person workshop. Registration includes a valuable reference book. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara.** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-nov-11-2026/>.
- Nov. 12 **IMPORTING PROCEDURES.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on the importance of accurate paperwork and timely reporting. Designed to help commercial importers become more aware of their regulatory obligations, learn your broker’s responsibilities, and develop strategies for improving trade compliance within their organization. This course focuses on the import entry processes and the fundamental disciplines required for making an entry. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara.** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-procedures-chicago-nov-12-2026/>,
- Nov. 13 **IMPORTING 201.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, builds upon techniques presented in our Importing Procedures course and explains how to implement and strengthen your import controls. Course also describes what you should do to prepare for the eventuality of a CBP audit. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara.** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-201-chicago-nov-13-2026/>.

About the ITA/GC

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

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

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About Barnes Richardson

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

About KSM

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