

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

August 10, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAM

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

Aug. 25 ***LEVERAGING NEW FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT.*** Special Panel Discussion & Reception sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Amid these tumultuous times for U.S. exporters & importers, there appear a few rays of genuine optimism for leveraging new financing opportunities: The SBA has new lending thresholds, and the EXIM Bank has new programs. Getting access to capital can be challenging to help support the growth & expansion of your business...hear from an SBA Finance Manager to learn about the opportunities available to your business through your bank to monetize your assets, take on larger contracts & fuel growth globally. Our panelists are intimately familiar with these and will bring real-world examples of how they work in practice. Panelists: **Marisel Huasanga**, Regional Director, EXIM Bank; **Keith Schlegel**, Finance Manager, U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Manufacturing and Trade; **Ursula Wegrzynowicz**, Market Executive, Impello Global Insurance Services; **Gayle Roenbaugh** (Moderator), Director, Office of Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Reception follows); Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leveraging-new-financing-opportunities-in-a-challenging-environment-tickets-1996172311118>.

Of Note:

Made with China: Global Supply Chains and the Limits of US Decoupling: Writing for this [Policy Brief](#) from the Peterson Institute For International Economics, Mary E. Lovely and Chistine Y. Wan find that US tariffs have failed to significantly reduce America's dependence on Chinese goods and services. In fact, the tariffs failed to achieve significant US decoupling from China during 2017 – 2024, leaving America vulnerable to interruptions of key supplies originating in China.

UNCTAD's Trade and Development Foresights 2026: As reported by the [Hinrich Foundation](#), the UN Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) report, [Trade and Development Foresights 2026: Global Economy Faces a Geopolitical Challenge](#), warns that global growth is expected to slow as the Middle East conflict disrupts energy markets, financial conditions, and shipping routes, including through the Strait of Hormuz. Rising uncertainty will weigh on trade, investment, and supply chains, with real merchandise trade growth projected to fall from 4.7% in 2025 to 1.5%–2.5% in 2026.

The World's Most Powerful Passports (2016 vs. 2026): Citing the [Henley Passport Power Index](#), this [Visual Capitalist](#) graphic compares the world's most powerful passports in 2016 and 2026, showing how the global hierarchy has changed over the past decade. Asian passports occupy the top four positions in 2026, led by Singapore (192), Japan (188), South Korea (188), and the UAE (188). The UAE has added 153 visa-free destinations over the past 20 years, one of the largest gains in global mobility.

CBP Office of Field Operations Launches New Strategy to Safeguard America's National and Economic Security: On August 6 CBP's Office of Field Operations unveiled the "[OFO Strategy 2026-2030](#)," a new roadmap that outlines how OFO will continue to safeguard U.S. travel, trade, and agriculture, directly protecting our national and economic security. The OFO Strategy focuses on four key goals to ensure continued mission excellence: *National Security; Economic Security; Integration; Workforce Cultivation*.

One of the World's Smallest Countries Has a New Name: The [New York Times](#) reports the South Pacific island of Nauru wants its name to more closely match how it is said in the language spoken by its people: [Naoero](#). That's the new name for the small South Pacific country formerly known as Nauru. Its Parliament unanimously approved the change in May and the name became official, President David Adeang said last week,

Ranked: The World's Largest Agricultural Economies: This [Visual Capitalist](#) graphic breaks down global agriculture's \$5.2 trillion in production value in 2024. China is the world's largest agricultural economy, generating \$1.9 trillion in production value, or 36% of the global total while India ranks second at \$573 billion, followed by the U.S. (\$451 billion) and Brazil (\$204 billion).

Trump's New Tariffs over Forced Labor Are Unlikely to Survive a Court Challenge: In analyzing why the courts will almost certainly strike down Trump's latest 301 tariffs, the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#) Alan Wm. Wolf concludes: "To paraphrase Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., times change, the Constitution does not. Setting broad tariffs is the sole prerogative of the Congress, not the president."

Foreign Investment in Canada: Navigating the Investment Canada Act from Net Benefit to National Security: Blakes Canada has published this useful Overview of the Investment Canada Act (ICA). This examines the key developments shaping the 2026 landscape and offers practical insights to help businesses navigate an increasingly complex regulatory environment. It is available for download [here](#).

Ranked: The Countries That Consume the Most Coal: This [Visual Capitalist](#) visualization comes from the Energy Institute's [Statistical Review of World Energy 2026](#). It measures primary coal consumption in exajoules (EJ) during 2025. Coal remains the world's largest source of electricity generation, even as countries invest heavily in renewable energy. China and India together consumed roughly 70% of the world's coal.

War Sends Asia-US Ocean Rates Soaring 234% since February: Since the start of the Iran crisis Feb. 28, writes [FreightWaves](#), spot rates have surged 231% to \$6,225 per forty-foot equivalent for Far East to U.S. West Coast transit, and 234% to \$8,846 per FEU to the East Coast. By comparison, Far East to North Europe prices are up 135%, and Far East to Mediterranean ports, 96%, in that time.

Toward a US-Africa Critical Minerals Investment Strategy: Tools, Priorities, and Trade-offs: This [Brookings Institution](#) report analyzes how the U.S. government can expand its access to African critical minerals, bolstering its position against international competitors. China's growing trade and investment in African mining and infrastructure has been key to this strategy, granting it an advantage in competition with the U.S.

A New US Rule to Restrict Student Visas Will Hurt the US Economy: According to Michael A. Clemens writing for the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#), the Trump administration issued a [final rule](#) in July that gives it discretion to cut short the course of study of most international students at US universities. Disrupting international students, scholars, and researchers will ultimately deter them from coming in the first place... That would deepen the US trade deficit... and harm all Americans by slashing the supply of high-skill workers, impairing US innovation and productivity for a generation.

Data as Intellectual Property: China's Experiment: Writing in [China IPR](#), Mark Cohen and colleagues from Zhejiang University and Zhejiang Provincial Research Center for Data Intellectual Property, cite China's nascent efforts to establish three registration systems to register data-related rights: a data IP registration system administered by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), a broader data property rights registration system promoted by the National Data Administration (NDA), and a data asset accounting system overseen by the Ministry of Finance.

Fertilizer Trade Impacted by Strait of Hormuz Conflict: In this [Data Blog](#) by the WTO Secretariat, the authors observe that trade in urea and phosphate fertilizers has been severely disrupted by the conflict in the Persian Gulf. Certain economies in Africa and Asia are particularly vulnerable to resulting fertilizer shortages and price hikes. Opening of the Strait of Hormuz - a key channel for fertilizer trade - will in due course contribute to easing trade frictions and restore stability to global markets.

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.

U.S. Commercial Service Updated User Fee Schedule Now in Effect: The new Fee Schedule is [here](#), effective July 22, 2026.

America's Future in the Post-American World Economy: Writing in an Op-Ed for the Peterson Institute for International Economics, [Adam Posen](#) observes: "American global economic dominance has been clear for at least the last 110 years of its 250-year history, and it was widely foretold for half a century before that." But now, if the United States does not change course, "no matter how many bilateral trade deals it brokers, no matter how many economies appear—at first—to align with Washington at a high cost, the country will find itself increasingly bypassed in commerce and technology."

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.

Aug. 10 ***CBP IS WATCHING: HOW NEW CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT MEASURES COULD IMPACT YOUR IMPORTS.*** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will explore the latest enforcement priorities, including initiatives stemming from the Strengthening Customs Enforcement Executive Order (EO) 14411, and provide practical guidance on reducing compliance risk, navigating Customs scrutiny, and protecting your supply chain operations. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/413dd587-b9b5-488a-9552-183ed18c188a/landing>.

Aug. 11 ***COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND RULES OF ORIGIN EXPLAINED.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss how country of origin is determined for duty assessment, government procurement, and preferential trade programs. Whether you work in export compliance, importing, or supply chain management, this program will give you the clarity and confidence to make defensible country-of-origin determinations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/g6p594f>.

Aug. 11 ***ENSURING YOUR LEGACY EVOLVES WITH YOU.*** Webinar sponsored by Merrill Private Wealth Management and Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Laura Neiman**, President & CEO, Neiman Brothers Company. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2026/07/22/ensuring-your-legacy-evolves-with-you/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=ensuring-your-legacy-evolves-with-you&mc_cid=422ef6907e&mc_eid=6499c7d108.

- Aug. 11 ***FROM DATA TO DIRECTION: UNDERSTANDING THE LATEST MIDDLE MARKET INDICATOR REPORT.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will discuss potential impacts on trade activity, customs operations, supply chains, and business planning in the second half of 2026. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/august2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=August%20Webinar%20From%20Data%20to%20Direction&utm_content=August%20Webinar%20From%20Data%20to%20Direction+CID_bfd985be04975280caef028ca550e34f&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Register%20Here.
- Aug. 12 ***15TH ANNUAL TRADE DAY.*** U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Field Operations will host the 15th Annual Trade Day in Detroit. The event is open to the public and will provide attendees with an opportunity to interact with CBP personnel, Detroit Field Office trade staff, Canadian government officials, and a multitude of representatives from partner government agencies responsible for trade facilitation and enforcement. Demonstrations and presentations will provide information on current programs and policies relating to the import and export of merchandise, current initiatives, and regulations relating to trade operations. Licensed brokers may earn 7.5 Continuing Education Credits by attending. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Huntington Place, 1 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, MI. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-host-15th-annual-trade-day-detroit>.
- Aug. 12 ***OPERATING IN U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics including how FTZs work, and the benefits and rules for operating in an FTZ, helping your company evaluate the costs and benefits. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/wrp6rkj>.
- Aug. 13 ***MANSAF MANIA.*** Networking even sponsored by the SBDC at the Arab American Business & Professional Association. Join local entrepreneurs, professionals, and community leaders for an evening of networking, great conversations, and authentic connections. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Al Bahaar, 39 Orland Square Drive, Orland Park, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://form.jotform.com/261685920016053>.
- 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. 14 ***EXPORT CONTROLS & COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover export controls from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State, including Export Administration Regulations, ITAR, and Trade Sanctions. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ejmu3gm>.
- Aug. 17 ***INTERNATIONAL VALUE ADDED TAX - UNDERSTANDING VAT IN GLOBAL TRADE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide an in-depth presentation on International VAT, including VAT trends in markets around the world, equipping you with practical knowledge to effectively plan for these taxes. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3hngndm>.
- Aug. 18 ***LEARN THE ESSENTIAL “KY’S” OF INTERNATIONAL CREDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Business Credit Management Association Wisconsin, is focused on building and maintaining an effective international credit policy. Learn the essential “KY’s” of international credit and risk management to help protect your business while supporting global growth. Whether you’re new to international sales or refining an established global process, this session will provide practical guidance to strengthen your credit operations and reduce risk exposure. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. ICE Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wcacredit.org/ice-online-registration/>.

- Aug. 18 **ADVANCED EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover less common export documents so that you're not surprised by unusual requests. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/rrr4k97>.
- Aug. 19 **THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSURE: WHAT HAPPENS TO TRADE AND SHIPPING?** Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. The war presents an unprecedented challenge for the maritime industry and shipping traffic. Today, only a handful of vessels can pass while almost 500 vessels are stranded. What are the concrete effects for shipping while the strait is closed and the war is still ongoing? What are the implications for global trade in the absence of commercial vessels passing or transiting? And what will happen when the war is over? Speakers: **Simon J. Evenett**, Professor of Geopolitics and Strategy, IMD Business School, Founder of St Gallen Endowment for Prosperity through Trade, University of St Gallen Switzerland; **Dorota Lost-Siemńska**, Director Legal Affairs and External Relations, International Maritime Organization (IMO); **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/strait-hormuz-closure-what-happens-trade-and-shipping>.
- Aug. 19 **FROM IMMIGRANT TO OLD NAVY CO-FOUNDER TO ROTHY'S CEO: JENNY MING ON BUILDING A LIFE THAT MATTERS.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Jenny J. Ming**, Public Company Director / Former CEO, Rothy's / Founding President, Old Navy / Consumer & Retail Transformation Leader who will share: *How her immigrant experience shaped her approach to business and leadership; How she landed the role that became Old Navy and what she learned building it; What precipitated the opportunity at Rothy's and how she approached it; How global branding drives growth for consumer brands.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8975206121719111257?mc_cid=828442bd8a&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Aug. 19 **NAVIGATING U.S. TARIFFS: SECTION 232, SECTION 301 & CHAPTER 99.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, provides an overview of Section 232, Section 301, Chapter 99, and other key trade measures affecting U.S. imports. Learn how these tariffs are applied, how duties may stack, and explore strategies to improve compliance and reduce costs through real-world examples and practical guidance. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$139. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/32pa4z4>.
- Aug. 19 **BABC CHICAGO'S AUGUST HAPPY HOUR.** Networking event sponsored by the British American Business Council Chicago. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., The Red Lion Pub, 2446 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. No fee; advance registration not required. For information, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/h78vf2m?source_id=89839391-31bb-4706-a823-44f8497d253f&source_type=em&c=v4ruAMdX4mxvIMhTRAueA7Rdv8n6pAoCxYKANue6cFsTKfIYQh8_rg==.
- Aug. 19 **THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN U.S. CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE.** Dinner program sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association. Presentation by **David Gierke**, Founder, Thermal Vision, LLC. 5:30 – 9:00 p.m., Belvedere Events & Banquets, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. Fee: \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ccbfa.org/events/the-role-of-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-us-customs-compliance>.
- Aug. 20 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE: GETTING PAID.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the range of payment methods used in international transactions to reduce risk. You'll also learn how to take advantage of U.S. government support for exporters through export credit insurance and loan guarantees. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8tugvpb>.

- Aug. 20 ***INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING IN JAPANESE ORGANIZATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, offers practical strategies for influencing decisions and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, customers, suppliers, partners, subordinates, and supervisors. Participants will gain a clear understanding of why Japanese organizations approach risk and decision-making the way they do, as well as concrete techniques for building support, addressing concerns, and navigating the consensus-building process effectively. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/influencing-decision-making-in-japanese-organizations-tickets-1994629796415?aff=erellivmlt>.
- Aug. 20 ***LATEST CHANGES IN FDA REGULATIONS.*** Seminar sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. Presentation by **Coley Anderson**, Registrar Corp's Industry & Government Relations Director & Senior Enterprise Solutions FDA Specialist, will discuss the latest changes in FDA regulations under the current administration. Topics will include: *Key updates to Food and Beverage; FSVP Supply Chain Risk Mitigation; FSVP Importer vs. IOR; FSVP Best Practices.* 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/registrar-corp-latest-changes-in-fda-regulations>.
- 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/>.
- Aug. 20 ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE OPPORTUNITIES IN VIETNAM.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide you with in-depth insights on current market opportunities. Agenda: *Vietnam Market Overview; Defense Industry Insight and Opportunities; Overview of Vietnam's Defense Procurement Process and Market Entry Strategies.* 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$37. For information & registration, please contact: jason.sproule@trade.gov.
- Aug. 25 ***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/prj4cgq>.
- Aug. 25 ***LEVERAGING NEW FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT.*** Special Panel Discussion & Reception sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Amid these tumultuous times for U.S. exporters & importers, there appear a few rays of genuine optimism for leveraging new financing opportunities: The SBA has new lending thresholds, and the EXIM Bank has new programs. Getting access to capital can be challenging to help support the growth & expansion of your business...hear from an SBA Finance Manager to learn about the opportunities available to your business through your bank to monetize your assets, take on larger contracts & fuel growth globally. Our panelists are intimately familiar with these and will bring real-world examples of how they work in practice. Panelists: **Mariel Huasanga**, Regional Director, EXIM Bank; **Keith Schlegel**, Finance Manager, U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Manufacturing and Trade; **Ursula Wegrzynowicz**, Market Executive, Impello Global Insurance Services; **Gayle Roenbaugh** (Moderator), Director, Office of Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Reception follows); Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leveraging-new-financing-opportunities-in-a-challenging-environment-tickets-1996172311118>.

- Aug. 26 **WIN AT THE WORLD BANK.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss how to compete successfully for World Bank–funded contracts. We’ll cover the updated procurement framework, real-world examples, and practical strategies to help you position, bid, and win with confidence. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/fc2cyvm>.
- Aug. 26 **EXPORT MEETS E-COMMERCE.** Webinar sponsored by World Trade Center Utah with Rakuten. Learn how businesses can use established online marketplaces to accelerate international growth. With more than 70 businesses spanning e-commerce, fintech, communications, and digital services, Japan-based Rakuten connects more than 1.2 billion members worldwide. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RdLBxNtcSlaXe8dmR4dicg#/registration.
- Aug. 26 **FALL NETWORKING EVENT.** Midwest International Trade Association invites you to expand your global perspective and grow your professional network. Dr. **Jayson Beckman**, Michael Yanney Chair in International Trade and Finance at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and nationally recognized expert in international agricultural trade, will share timely insights on global markets, trade policy, and the non-tariff barriers shaping today’s international business environment. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Elevator, 1200 North Street, Lincoln, NE. MITA Members - \$20; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration (by **August 19**), please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/fall-networking-event-elevator-lincoln/>.
- Aug. 27 **BUILDING EUROPE’S NEXT HYPERSCALE DATA CENTERS: WHY LATVIA?** Webinar, sponsored by Mission Latvia, will discuss why leading developers are evaluating Latvia for 50–300 MW AI and cloud data center campuses, powered by competitive renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, and fast-growing digital connectivity. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://latvianchamber.wildapricot.org/event-6772407>.
- Aug. 27 **SUMMER NETWORKING.** Event sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. 5:30 p.m., Two Brothers Roundhouse, 205 North Broadway, Aurora, IL. Fee: \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6790970>.
- Sep. 1 **MRO MEETINGS IRELAND 2027.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, describes the first event of its kind in Europe, created specifically for professionals operating within maintenance, repair, and overhaul, as well as wider aviation services. It will bring together key airlines, leasing companies (engine and aircraft), manufacturers and service providers from across the global supply chain. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/587a4818-cb4e-465b-97d2-bec2b982e6ed@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Sep. 2 - 4 **JAPAN ANALYTICAL & SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS SHOW (JASIS).** Catalog show, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Japan, brings together manufacturers, researchers, and professionals from the life sciences, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, environmental, and academic sectors at one of the region’s largest exhibitions for analytical, scientific, laboratory technologies, bio-related instruments, automation equipment, and production process equipment. Reach prospective buyers with your catalogs displayed at the U.S. embassy’s booth. Fee: \$240. For information & registration, please reach out to: hiroyuki.hanawa@trade.gov.

- Sep. 2 ***YOU'RE READY TO EXPAND GLOBALLY. IS YOUR IP READY?*** Webinar sponsored by Barnes & Thornberg with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and IBS Global Consulting. Expanding into Hong Kong, mainland China, and broader Asian markets represents one of the most significant growth opportunities available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) today. But the intellectual property landscape in this region is evolving rapidly. Without strategically selected IP protections in place and a clear understanding of recent legal developments, that opportunity can quickly become a liability. **Grant Peters** and Barnes & Thornburg will walk SME leaders through the critical steps to assess, prepare, and protect their intellectual property before entering Hong Kong, China, and key Asian markets. You will leave with a clear, practical understanding of what you need to include in your strategic analysis, and what you cannot afford to overlook. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/mzXWfV4oTTqah3DPw6hqlg#/registration>.
- Sep. 15 ***WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE***. Sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, this webinar is a golden opportunity to get your questions answered by an expert who is highly skilled in explaining the intricacies of Japanese business and society. 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-1795529058749?aff=erellivmlt>.
- Sep. 15 ***GERMAN NIGHT RECEPTION (IMTS)***. Networking event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest, during the IMTS show. Join this exclusive gathering of leaders from the German, U.S., and global manufacturing communities. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., McCormick Place, 2301 South Martin Luther King Drive, South Building I Vista Room Lobby, Chicago. Early Bird Fee (through July 31): \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/german-night-reception-imts-2026-powered-by-wintrust-bank>.
- Sep. 17 ***TRADE AT THE CROSSROADS***. The International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City's 81st Annual Meeting. Presentation by **Pete Mento**, Director of Global Trade Advisory, Baker Tilly U.S., who will break down today's rapidly changing trade environment into practical business insights. This timely discussion will explore the issues shaping global commerce today and what organizations should be watching in the months ahead. 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Milburn Country Club, 7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS. ITCGKC Members - \$60 (by Sept. 3; \$70 thereafter); Non-members - \$80 (by Sept. 3; \$90 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6780496>.
- 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. 22 ***GROWING GLOBAL 2026 – GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY: A CONVERSATION WITH EXECUTIVES FROM AIR CANADA, BRITISH AIRWAYS, LUFTHANSA AND SOUTHWEST AIRLINES***. Sponsored by World Trade Center St. Louis, this program will feature a timely conversation around international air connectivity, global commerce, economic development, and the partnerships helping to position St. Louis on the world stage. Speakers include: **Hubert Frach**, Vice President Sales North America – British Airways; **Vincent Gauthier-Doré**, Managing Director for Canada and U.S. Sales – Air Canada; **Dirk Janzen**, Vice President, The Americas – Lufthansa; **Daniel Jones**, Vice President, Network Planning – Southwest Airlines; **Debbie Monterrey** (Moderator), KMOX Morning News Anchor. 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., The Ritz-Carlton, 100 Carondelet Plaza, St. Louis, MO. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/events/growing-global-2026/>.

- Sep. 22 ***U.S. TARIFFS IN TRANSITION: IEEPA REFUNDS, NEW TARIFFS, AND A RESILIENT APPROACH TO COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters & Importers, will explore the rapidly evolving U.S. tariff landscape, duty recovery opportunities, and practical strategies to help businesses navigate increasing trade uncertainty. Key topics: *Current U.S. tariff landscape and recent changes affecting importers; IEEPA refunds via CAPE, litigation, and other processes; Key developments to monitor over the next 6 months; Strategies to mitigate tariff exposure through valuation, supply chain management, and trade programs; Managing increased Customs enforcement and audit risks; Keeping import compliance programs resilient amid ongoing regulatory uncertainty.* 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see:
- Sep. 24 ***TRADE COMPLIANCE IN FOCUS: CBP ENFORCEMENT TRENDS AND PRIORITIES.*** Seminar sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. Former CBP Regulatory Audit Field Director, **Danielle Bickel**, and former CBP Senior Auditor, **Kathryn Herrity**, share insights into current enforcement trends and priorities, with a focus on valuation and trade remedies. Learn what CBP is targeting now and how to stay ahead of compliance risks. 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/deleon-trade-trade-compliance-in-focus-cbp-enforcement-trends-and-priorities>.
- 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. 6 - 8 ***JOIN THE U.S. PAVILION AT MRO BRAZIL.*** Discover opportunities in Brazil's US\$2.5 billion aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul market—one of the world's top five aircraft maintenance hubs. By exhibiting in the U.S. Pavilion at MRO Brazil, companies gain a platform to showcase capabilities and connect directly with leading Brazilian buyers, integrators, and operators. Space in the U.S. Pavilion at MRO Brazil is limited so companies are encouraged to contact Renato Sabaine (Renato.sabaine@trade.gov) at the U.S. Consulate General in São Paulo as soon as possible to secure a spot in the program.
- 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. 15 **IACAC AIRLINE NIGHT.** The International Air Cargo Association of Chicago (IACAC) is excited to invite you to our First-ever IACAC Airline Night 2026—an evening dedicated to bringing together professionals from across the aviation, air cargo, logistics, and supply chain industries. 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Belvedere Events & Banquets, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. Vendor tables available (\$300). Fee: \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/iacac-airline-night/>.
- 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.
- Oct. 22 **THE NEW TRADE FRONTIER: TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNANCE, AND GLOBAL RISK.** American Association of Exporters & Importers Fall 2026 Virtual Conference will bring together government officials, legal experts, industry practitioners, and technology leaders to examine how emerging technologies and trade policies are transforming global commerce. Through expert-led discussions, interactive polling, and practical case studies, attendees will explore the future of trade governance, AI-driven compliance strategies, import and export risk management, data governance, and the changing global trade landscape. The program will conclude with a forward-looking keynote from former WTO Deputy Director-General **Angela Ellard** on navigating the next chapter of international trade. 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. AAEI Members - \$150; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/41F9m08hRCMCx?utm_source=EMAIL&utm_medium=TradeCompass&utm_campaign=FC26.
- Oct. 26 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ECO EXPO ASIA 2026, HONG KONG.** Illinois
29 companies in the environmental sector are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment on a Trade Mission to Hong Kong, and co-exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at Eco Expo Asia. Eligible Illinois companies for this mission will receive: *Complimentary Exhibit Space; 25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking Assistance; In-country briefing and networking events; Assistance with travel and logistics.* Fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: **September 10**. For information & registration, please contact: kelly.hou@illinois.gov.
- Nov. 6 - **TRADE MISSION TO AFRICA - KENYA & RWANDA.** World Trade Center St. Louis invites you to
15 join their first trade mission to Kenya & Rwanda. Mission participants will gain first-hand insights through: Meeting with African business, government, and civic leaders; Market briefings from local experts; Cultural experiences and networking events. Fee: \$5,000 exclusive of airfare. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/africa-trade-mission-2026/>.

- 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 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ADVANCED DESIGN & MANUFACTURING,**
12 **MONTREAL, CANADA.** Qualified Illinois companies are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, to exhibit in the Illinois pavilion at the Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) Expo in Montreal. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: *Exhibit Space; 25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing Material; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking Assistance; Assistance with travel and logistics.* Fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: **September 10.** For information & registration, please contact: Chris.Sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- 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. 12 **PASSPORT TO FRANCE.** Sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago, this event celebrates French food and culture with signature cuisine from top chefs and restaurants, bringing together an exceptional array of businesses. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Artifact, 43.25 North Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago. FACC Members - \$140 by September 1; \$160 thereafter; Non-members - \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://p2f-tix.carrd.co/>.
- 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/>.

- Nov. 16 - **HONG KONG TRADE MISSION 2026.** IBS Global Consulting, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is organizing this mission in conjunction with the 27th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. The mission offers U.S. businesses firsthand insights into technology trends, market opportunities, and information on conducting business in Hong Kong, one of Asia's most vibrant business hubs. Companies in Emerging Technology & Innovation (e.g., MedTech, FoodTech, EdTech, and FinTech); Healthcare (e.g., Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals); AI and Robotics; ICT and Digitalization; Logistics; Professional Services (e.g., Consultants, Legal Services); and Financial Services are encouraged to apply. Fee: \$1,250; deadline: **October 2, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://ibsglobalconsulting.com/hong-kong-trade-mission-2026>.
- Dec. 5 - **SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E. & EGYPT TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration deadline: **September 18, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/saudi-arabia-uae-and-egypt-trade-mission-2026/>.
- Feb. 10 - **SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: **November 4, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/south-africa-and-kenya-trade-mission-2027/>.
- Apr. 3 - **BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: January 8, 2027. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-paraguay-trade-mission-2027/>.

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 ksmcpa.com.