

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

September 7, 2026

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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](http://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](mailto: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.**

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

## FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

*HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE*

- Sep. 16 ***THE STATE OF US-CHINA RELATIONS 2026 – 2028: DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN?*** Special luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Great Chicago** and the **Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest** with **WisBusiness – Talking Trade**. Please join us as **Michael Sacharski**, Founder and Managing Director, Pacific Enterprise Capital International, is interviewed by **Sandi Siegel**, CEO, M.E. Dey & Co., and **Ken Wasylik**, Managing Director, E.M. Wasylik Associates, co-hosts of *Talking Trade* podcast. China's Premier Xi is set to visit Washington on September 24. Mr. Sacharski, a China business veteran and political commentator, will dissect the U.S.-China commercial paradigm, provide some historical context for the summit and possible outcomes. His career spans 30 years of living and working in China. He has had an unbroken string of on-the-ground work experiences across China's development arc: from post-Cultural Revolution devastation to today's global giant conducting sophisticated transactions around the world. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$60; Non-members - \$85. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-state-of-us-china-relations-2026-2028-deja-vu-all-over-again-tickets-1999043873037>.
- Sep. 23 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING***. Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Magik Street, 2150 South Canalport Avenue, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$50; Non-members - \$60; walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-magik-street>.

## Of Note:

**U.S.-Africa Trade at a Crossroads: A Moment for New Thinking:** In this [commentary](#) for the Center for Strategic & International Studies, Oge Onubogu and Aaron Stanley argue that the recent extension of AGOA provides an opening to proactively develop a future-forward policy framework, with goals aligned with African partners that can be realized within the next two years to match the scale of the commercial ambitions of the United States and African countries.

**Trade Finance: How Volatile Financial Conditions Influence Its Availability and Impact Trade Levels:** In this [WTO Data Blog](#), WTO and IFC researchers observe: *Unmet demand for trade finance has been consistently large for at least a decade, amounting to about 7-10 percent of global merchandise trade. More structurally, there is also a well-documented and persistent gap in the provision of trade finance that remains outside acute crises. As a result, many companies cannot access the financial tools they need to capitalize on trade opportunities.*

**EU Customs: Council Greenlights Landmark Reform:** On September 3 the [Council of the EU](#) gave its final approval for an ambitious overhaul of the EU customs framework – the most comprehensive reform of its kind in decades. The updated legislation gives the Union a more modern toolbox and innovative new instruments to better facilitate global trade, especially in e-commerce, collect customs duties more efficiently and tighten controls on non-compliant, dangerous or unsafe goods.

**CBP Seeks Input on New Supply Chain Traceability Requirements:** Austin J. Eighan of [Barnes, Richardson & Colburn](#) details the requirements of Executive Order [14411](#) directing CBP to increase supply chain visibility, strengthen trade law enforcement, and “remedy systemic inefficiencies.” The notice sets out approximately 64 questions covering the agency’s proposals in a number of areas:

**Striking a New Bargain on India–Sri Lanka Free Trade:** Writing in [East Asia Forum](#), Ganeshan Wignaraja of Gateway House calls for changes in the India–Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) since its implementation in 2000. Any ISFTA 2.0, he writes, should update rules of origin, liberalize services, digitize customs, strengthen investment protections and deepen connectivity to help Sri Lanka integrate into India-centered supply chains.

**Asia’s Next Growth Story:** This highlights the latest issue of the IMF’s [Finance & Development](#) publication, focusing on the challenges & opportunities facing the region amid the current geopolitical uncertainty.

**Mapped: Each U.S. State’s Top Export Partner:** Not surprisingly, Canada and Mexico are the top export destinations for 37 of the 50 U.S. states. According to this [Visual Capitalist](#) depiction, Canada ranks first for 25 states, while Mexico is the leading export partner for 12 states. Among states with other top export destinations, New York exports most to Switzerland, Utah to the UK, Oregon and Washington to China, and New Hampshire and South Carolina to Germany.

**USMCA Joint Review Tracker:** The [International Compliance Professionals Association](#) now publishes this weekly update – “what has changed, what has not, and what it means for your compliance program.” A very useful summary of recent developments and implications for the compliance environment, it is available for free.

**Relief for Nigeria, Others as US Senate Extends Duty-free AGOA Trade Pact till 2028:** The United States Senate has approved a two-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, AGOA, paving the way for eligible sub-Saharan African countries to continue enjoying duty-free access to the US market until December 2028, according to [allAfrica.com](#). The deal covers agricultural products, footwear, automobiles, textiles, apparel and other manufactured goods worth billions of dollars annually.

**Trump’s Trade War Timeline 2.0: An Up-to-date Guide:** This timeline, originally published February 25, 2025, by the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#), is updated periodically to document US trade actions during President Donald Trump’s second term in office. It tracks the development of the most notable trade actions by the United States and other countries with links to the latest available data and PIIE analysis. Entries focus primarily on official government announcements and actions.

**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.

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

**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,

**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.

**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](mailto:chicago@taitra.org.tw).

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- Sep. 8 ***UNDERSTAND THE UAE ENERGY MARKET: WHAT COMPANIES NEED TO KNOW BEFORE ADIPEC 2026.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide a special briefing on the upcoming ADIPEC 2026 Exhibition & Conference, 2 - 5 November 2026. This will help U.S. companies maximize opportunities at ADIPEC—one of the world's largest energy events—while providing the insights needed to fully leverage the UAE and broader regional energy market. Energy specialists will provide an overview of the UAE energy market. Representatives from DMG Events, organizers of ADIPEC, will share what to expect at this year's exhibition, highlight new conference themes and networking opportunities, and offer tips for maximizing your return on investment. 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/50a01e3a-4e85-40e4-8cd8-bd6a9b82eb44@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Sep. 8 ***THE NEW NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP.*** Hybrid roundtable sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest. To help examine what comes next, we are bringing our US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Chapter President, **Alberto Villarreal**, to share his perspective on the outcome of the 2026 USMCA review and its implications for trade, investment, and business strategy across North America. 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CDT, Citibank, 227 West Monroe Street, Suite 2500, Chicago. On-site Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. Online Members - \$20; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.usmccoma.org/event-details/the-new-north-american-commercial-relationship?utm\\_campaign=62f8fa4f-a7c8-4d72-a879-a6c380af91a6&utm\\_source=so&utm\\_medium=mail&cid=b3679a42-d0d8-41b9-8ecc-c72d9ebe6646](https://www.usmccoma.org/event-details/the-new-north-american-commercial-relationship?utm_campaign=62f8fa4f-a7c8-4d72-a879-a6c380af91a6&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=b3679a42-d0d8-41b9-8ecc-c72d9ebe6646).
- Sep. 8 ***GLOBAL AI AND CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES IN 2026 (FOCUSING ON GLOBAL TRADE).*** Webinar, sponsored by the Indiana and Missouri District Export Councils, will explore the intersection of AI and Cybersecurity and its impact on supply chains, trade policy, and global economic competitiveness. They'll offer practical insights into how U.S. companies can navigate emerging risks and opportunities in 2026 and beyond. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-ai-and-cybersecurity-challenges-in-2026-focusing-on-global-trade-tickets-1997483590189?aff=oddtcreator>.

- Sep. 8 ***AI IN TRADE COMPLIANCE: FROM SOLID GROUND TO STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE.*** Program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association with M.E. Day, Husch Blackwell and others. Learn how global trade professionals and executives can securely harness their proprietary trade data to unlock clear financial intelligence, streamline cross-border operations, and build long-term supply chain resilience without compromising security or regulatory integrity. Featuring real-world Do's and Don'ts from Trek's trade compliance journey, this session delivers actionable insights to help you move from risk to strategic advantage. 2:00 – 4:15 p.m. (Networking Reception follows), Husch Blackwell Conference Room, the Huron Building, 511 North Broadway, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitatrade.org/events/>.
- Sep. 9 ***CATALYZING COMPETITIVENESS: WHERE INVESTMENT HAPPENS AND WHY.*** Virtual event, sponsored by the McKinsey Global Institute, will explore the findings of the new report, *Catalyzing Competitiveness: Where Investment Happens and Why*, featuring a presentation by the report authors and a panel discussion with experts from various sectors. Topics include: *Why investment has pulled ahead in China, and why the US, Europe, and China are now on such different investment trajectories; What it would take to close Europe's €800 billion annual investment gap; What the US's growing focus on software, R&D, and AI investment means for competitiveness; What roles productivity gains, cost convergence, and smarter industrial policy can play in closing the cost gap; What makes or breaks investment cases in automotive R&D, nuclear power, bio-pharma R&D, and semiconductors.* 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.ringcentral.com/events/catalyzing\\_competitiveness\\_where\\_investment\\_happens\\_and\\_why/registration?utm\\_campaign=dotcom&utm\\_source=dotcom&cid=mgp\\_opr-eml-alt-mgi-mgp-glb-&hlkid=49e1a3220db446dc860cbb9b4c488750&hctky=1420088&hdpid=4150c42d-1e5a-4bb1-9919-cc7aeb4ce637](https://events.ringcentral.com/events/catalyzing_competitiveness_where_investment_happens_and_why/registration?utm_campaign=dotcom&utm_source=dotcom&cid=mgp_opr-eml-alt-mgi-mgp-glb-&hlkid=49e1a3220db446dc860cbb9b4c488750&hctky=1420088&hdpid=4150c42d-1e5a-4bb1-9919-cc7aeb4ce637).
- Sep. 10 ***CURRENT U.S. TRADE POLICY DYNAMICS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR TAIWAN AND ALLIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.*** Virtual program, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, will focus on President Trump's trade strategy, the current dynamics surrounding trade policy in Washington, and what it means for Taiwan and allies in the Indo-Pacific region. Panelists: **Kelly Ann Shaw**, Partner, Akin's Lobbying and Public Policy Practice; **Wendy Cutler**, Senior Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute; **Riley Walters**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute; **Bonny Lin**, Director, China Power Project and Senior Adviser, CSIS. 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/current-us-trade-policy-dynamics-and-implications-taiwan-and-allies-indo-pacific-region>.
- Sep. 10 ***MARY E. LOVELY ON WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON WITH GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS.*** Virtual program, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, features PIIE's **Mary Lovely** and **Anjali V. Bhatt** discussing Lovely's recent research on global supply chains and U.S. "reciprocal" trade agreements. They discuss lessons from past rounds of US tariffs, how global supply chains are reorganizing (or not), and more. 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/mary-e-lovely-whats-really-going-global-supply-chains>.
- Sep. 14 - 17 ***INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.*** Expand your business in Latin America and the Caribbean through this free virtual program hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Connect+ features expert-led market training and one-on-one B2B networking with potential buyers, distributors, suppliers, and strategic partners across the region. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DEqCXoFCTve\\_2EM8\\_nluA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DEqCXoFCTve_2EM8_nluA#/registration).



**SPECIAL SECTION**  
**LIVE WEBCASTING FROM THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM**

**September 15**

[https://www.wto.org/english/forums\\_e/public\\_forum26\\_e/pf26\\_live\\_webcasting\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum26_e/pf26_live_webcasting_e.htm)

**TRADE AND COOPERATION FOR THE FUTURE:** 3:00 – 4:15 a.m. CDT

**LAUNCH OF THE WORLD TRADE REPORT 2026:** 4:45 – 6:00 a.m. CDT

**THE FUTURE OF SERVICES TRADE: A BUSINESS LEADERS' DIALOGUE:** 6:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. CDT

**THE NEW COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY:** 8:15 – 9:30 A.M. CDT

**THE TECTONIC PLATES OF TRADE ARE MOVING – A NEW EQUILIBRIUM?:** 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. CDT

- 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 **FTAS: WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will provide an update on USMCA, Canadian tariffs, and other key developments, along with practical guidance to help your company prepare for potential changes. Topics include: *The latest developments affecting USMCA, Canadian tariffs, and other key Free Trade Agreement programs; How changing trade policies could impact FTA eligibility, duty savings, and compliance obligations; Practical steps companies can take now to prepare for potential changes and reduce compliance risk.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://starusa.org/events/september2026/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=August%2026%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=August%2026%20Newsletter+CID\\_ed73acfae2a2b47eff0babdd6436d977&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register](https://starusa.org/events/september2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=August%2026%20Newsletter&utm_content=August%2026%20Newsletter+CID_ed73acfae2a2b47eff0babdd6436d977&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register).
- 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>.

**SPECIAL SECTION**  
**LIVE WEBCASTING FROM THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM**

**September 16**

[https://www.wto.org/english/forums\\_e/public\\_forum26\\_e/pf26\\_live\\_webcasting\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum26_e/pf26_live_webcasting_e.htm)

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE WTO?:** 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. CDT.

**HOW DIGITAL INNOVATION IS TRANSFORMING SERVICES TRADE:** 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. CDT.

**COORDINATION FOR INDUSTRIAL POLICY & GLOBAL TRADE GOVERNANCE:** 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. CDT

**DIGITAL REGULATION FOR SERVICES TRADE: MYTHS & HARD TRUTHS:** 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. CDT

**AI & DIGITAL SERVICES: THE TRADE CASE FOR CONSIDERING WOMEN IN STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT:** 5:00 – 6:00 a.m. CDT

**THE KEY SERVICES BEHIND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS:** 5:00 – 6:00 a.m. CDT

**HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN SERVICES:** 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. CDT

**ECA: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S DIGITAL SERVICES TRADE POTENTIAL:** 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. CDT

**POWERING OPPORTUNITY: DIGITAL PAYMENTS FOR INCLUSIVE TRADE:** 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. CDT

**TRADE WINDS:** 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. CDT

**WHAT'S NEXT FOR PLURILATERALS? UPDATING RULES, PATHS AHEAD:** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. CDT

**DRIVING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND LDC GRADUATION:** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. CDT

- Sep. 16 - **ACE EXPORT COMPLIANCE TRAINING.** Sponsored by the Arizona District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service, this virtual export compliance training brings federal experts directly to you. Officers from the U.S. Census Bureau will cover regulations and filing requirements of the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR), as well as how to classify your commodities using the Schedule B, and provide a thorough overview of export filing through the Automated Export System (AES) in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Officers from the Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Office of Foreign Assets Control will walk you through export controls and how to keep your shipments moving and your business compliant. You'll leave knowing how to file accurately, reduce risk, and avoid the mistakes that trigger costly penalties and seizures. 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://azdec.org/event/ace-export-compliance-seminar-2026/>.
- Sep. 16 **PARTNERING FOR COMPLIANCE™ – FIREARMS: EXPORTING & IMPORTING.** Virtual program sponsored by Partnerships International. Speakers are drawn from: Directorate of Defense Trade Controls; Bureau of Industry & Security; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Braumiller Law Group. 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.partneringforcompliance.org/pfcfirearms26.pdf>.
- Sep. 16 **MINING & MINING-RELATED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN MARKETS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, brings together industry leaders, trade specialists, and government experts to spotlight export opportunities in Chad, Algeria, and Egypt. Participants will gain actionable insights on critical minerals, supply chain diversification, and the latest financing options. Discover how U.S. companies are winning in these markets, learn risk mitigation strategies, and connect with a global network of trade professionals. 8:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Mini-9884-1786118865/form.php>.
- Sep. 16 **STOP SCRAMBLING! HOW ALWAYS-ON INTELLIGENCE CHANGES SUPPLY CHAIN STRATEGY.** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, is designed for strategic supply chain executives, procurement leaders, and risk managers. Topics include: *The Traceability Data Gap*; *Signal over Noise*; *Decisive Clarity in Seconds*; *Seeing Further, Faster*. 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.zoom.us/jv/ArDJfIM4icvKxlxcck1xSRLVsj-bksHJdz4sm-luoNA4RrnkMLN6y~Aq4xTKy5MZIo1qBzXR5xzlGrrcFO-Jj8p2w27jACkMxOzP7OqYO3Z-bfNw?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Zoom&utm\\_campaign=Webinars](https://events.zoom.us/jv/ArDJfIM4icvKxlxcck1xSRLVsj-bksHJdz4sm-luoNA4RrnkMLN6y~Aq4xTKy5MZIo1qBzXR5xzlGrrcFO-Jj8p2w27jACkMxOzP7OqYO3Z-bfNw?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Zoom&utm_campaign=Webinars).
- Sep. 16 **THE STATE OF US-CHINA RELATIONS 2026 – 2028: DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN?** Special luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Great Chicago** and the **Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest** with **WisBusiness – Talking Trade**. Please join us as **Michael Sacharski**, Founder and Managing Director, Pacific Enterprise Capital International, is interviewed by **Sandi Siegel**, CEO, M.E. Dey & Co., and **Ken Wasyluk**, Managing Director, E.M. Wasyluk Associates, co-hosts of *Talking Trade* podcast. China's Premier Xi is set to visit Washington on September 24. Mr. Sacharski, a China business veteran and political commentator, will dissect the U.S.-China commercial paradigm, provide some historical context for the summit and possible outcomes. His career spans 30 years of living and working in China. He has had an unbroken string of on-the-ground work experiences across China's development arc: from post-Cultural Revolution devastation to today's global giant conducting sophisticated transactions around the world. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$60; Non-members - \$85. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-state-of-us-china-relations-2026-2028-deja-vu-all-over-again-tickets-1999043873037>.

**SPECIAL SECTION**  
**LIVE WEBCASTING FROM THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM**

**September 17**

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**THE INVISIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE: DIGITAL PAYMENTS IN AFCFTA:** 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. CDT.

**TAXING WITHOUT BORDERS – CAN RULES KEEP UP WITH DIGITAL TRADE?:** 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. CDT.

**IMPACT OF “FORTRESS NORTH AMERICA” ON THE WTO IN THE ERA OF ECONOMIC SECURITY:** 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. CDT.

**BUILDING SERVICES TRADE COMPETITIVENESS FOR DEVELOPMENT:** 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. CDT.

**ROLE OF SERVICES IN SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND SECURITY:** 5:00 – 6:00 a.m. CDT.

**CIRCULAR SERVICES FOR AN INCLUSIVE CIRCULAR ECONOMY:** 5:00 – 6:00 a.m. CDT.

**REGULATORY PRACTICES TO POWER SERVICES TRADE FOR BETTER LIFE.** 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. CDT.

**THE NEW FOUNDATION FOR SMES IN GLOBAL TRADE.** 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. CDT.

**UNLOCKING SERVICES TRADE THROUGH BETTER INFORMATION:** 8:45 – 9:45 CDT.

**ASIA-PACIFIC AI OPPORTUNITY: GROWTH, INCLUSION, CONNECTIVITY:** 8:45 – 9:45 CDT.

**DRIVING GREEN GROWTH THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TRADE:** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. CDT.

**DIGITALLY DELIVERED SERVICES – TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE AI ECONOMY:** 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. CDT.

- Sep. 17 **GLOBAL TRADE AT A CROSSROADS: PERSPECTIVES FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE.** Program sponsored by OWIT Chicago Midwest presents fresh perspectives from policy experts to real-world practitioners. Whether you're curious about the latest trade trends or want to connect with industry pros, this event is your go-to spot! 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, 320 South Canal Street, Suite 3300, Chicago. Fee: \$15. For invitation & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-trade-at-a-crossroads-perspectives-from-policy-to-practice-tickets-1998432847443>.
- 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 **BACK TO CAMPUS - HAPPY HOUR.** Networking event, sponsored by the British-American Business Council, convenes current students to alumni who graduated years ago as we bring together people at all stages of their academic and professional journeys. Catch up with classmates, meet new people, and celebrate the back-to-campus season together. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Elephant & Castle, 111 West Adams Street, Chicago, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/d68bxxt?source\\_id=f9dc0b68-3312-4d9d-acf8-73d851b382d5&source\\_type=em&c=fZ4ptLGhHDc-8cQjz2vkgGHGJ\\_mlwzrhfD0r0sSSKkLN5\\_g1Th\\_tg==](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/d68bxxt?source_id=f9dc0b68-3312-4d9d-acf8-73d851b382d5&source_type=em&c=fZ4ptLGhHDc-8cQjz2vkgGHGJ_mlwzrhfD0r0sSSKkLN5_g1Th_tg==).
- 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. 18 ***THE FUTURE OF U.S.–AFRICA MINERALS DIPLOMACY.*** Hybrid event, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, will convene senior U.S. and African government officials, industry leaders, investors, and development finance experts for a high-level forum on the future of U.S.–Africa minerals and energy cooperation. The program will focus on how public and private capital can unlock projects across Africa’s minerals value chain, how governments can de-risk strategic investments, and how new partnerships can move from policy commitments to executed transactions. The event will feature keynote fireside chats with U.S. Secretary of Energy **Chris Wright**; **Frank Garcia**, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; and **John Jovanovic**, Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, alongside discussions with **Bill Oplinger**, Chief Executive Officer of Alcoa, the Honorable **Bouna Sylla**, Minister of Mines and Geology for the Republic of Guinea, and Ambassador **John Giordano**, United States Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, among others. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/future-us-africa-minerals-diplomacy>.
- Sep. 22 ***THE TRUMP-XI SUMMIT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE OF US-CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONS.*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for international Economics, features a conversation with PIIE Reginald Jones Senior Fellow **Chad P. Bown**, Nonresident Senior Fellow **Yeling Tan**, and President Adam S. Posen. Each will offer insights from their latest research followed by a discussion of the broader economic and security implications of the Trump-Xi summit. The conversation will be moderated by PIIE Executive Vice President and Director of Studies **Marcus Noland**. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/trump-xi-summit-and-possible-future-us-china-economic-relations>.
- 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: <https://www.paei.org/event/u-s-tariffs-in-transition-ieepa-refunds-new-tariffs-and-a-resilient-approach-to-compliance/>,



- Sep. 23 **EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.** Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Magik Street, 2150 South Canalport Avenue, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$50; Non-members - \$60; walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-magik-street>.
- Sep. 24 **EXPORT FINANCE RESOURCES FOR U.S. EXPORTERS: FINANCING GROWTH, MANAGING RISK, AND EXPANDING GLOBAL MARKETS.** Webinar sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils. Hear from representatives of EXIM, SBA, the U.S. Commercial Service, and GBC International Bank on how exporters can access capital, mitigate payment and commercial risks, identify qualified foreign buyers, and structure financing for international transactions. 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_eLucDiyGSpuofl7RfkkVXw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eLucDiyGSpuofl7RfkkVXw#/registration).
- 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. 24 **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING COFFEE CHAT - ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN ASIA - 3D PRINTING, INDUSTRY 4.0 AND INDUSTRIAL ROBOTICS.** Sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, this virtual event offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to gain insights from industry experts from Japan, Indonesia, and Singapore within the 3D Printing, Industrial Robotics, and Industry 4.0 sectors. Our Commercial Specialist will also be providing market briefings and key insights on developing your market-entry strategy in the region. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/eb183467-3e77-4f40-9a55-307769340797@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- 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](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1795564063449?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true).
- Sep. 30 **LATIN AMERICA TRADE DYNAMICS.** Breakfast workshop sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. This session includes an interactive discussion with **Kellie Meiman Hock** and **Ricardo Zuniga**, long-time diplomats and trade negotiators, as they explore Latin America trade dynamics and what these developments could mean for your business. **Andy Schilling**, Honorary Consul for Japan to Nebraska, will moderate the discussion. 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., Tiburon Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. Fee: varies (\$75 – 0). For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/latin-america-trade-dynamics/>.

- Oct. 2 - **2026 WITA ACADEMY VIRTUAL INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR.** Virtual program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will help attendees increase their professional knowledge by learning the nuts and bolts of trade policy directly from career trade policy professionals from across government, industry, and law. The topics over the 3-day program include: *Trade Law Primer (Sections 122, 232, 301, 338, IEEPA and update on legal challenges); Interagency Process in the Trump Administration; The Congressional Role in Trade Policymaking; AD/CVD/Safeguards – Role of ITC and Commerce; USTR Role in Monitoring and Enforcement; Customs and Border Protection; Export Controls, Sanctions, and Investment Controls; U.S. Trade Update – Ongoing Negotiations and Tariffs; WITA International/Trade Around the World – Global Trade Initiatives; USMCA 6-Year Review – Status Update – Review Process.* 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Government rate - \$105.49; WITA member - \$209.19; Non-member - \$312.89. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-wita-academy-virtual-intensive-trade-seminar-early-bird-tickets-tickets-1996707392561?aff=oddttdcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-wita-academy-virtual-intensive-trade-seminar-early-bird-tickets-tickets-1996707392561?aff=oddttdcreator&keep_tld=true).
- Oct. 4 - **U.S. BUSINESS MISSION TO JORDAN.** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S. – Jordan Business Program will lead a U.S. Department of Commerce-certified trade mission to Jordan this fall, with two full days of programming in Amman from October 4-5 and an optional third day in Aqaba on October 6. Through high-level roundtables, policy briefings, networking events, and site visits, delegates will engage senior U.S. and Jordanian government officials, industry leaders, and key stakeholders. The mission will provide participating companies with a focused opportunity to strengthen commercial relationships, explore investment opportunities, and advance the economic priorities shaping the future of U.S.-Jordan relations. The delegation will focus on sectors aligned with Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision, including energy and renewables, digital technologies, AI and ICT, water and infrastructure, transport and logistics, healthcare, agribusiness, financial services, and investment. It will also offer firsthand insight into Jordan's evolving business environment and Aqaba's growing role as a regional hub for commerce, logistics, and industrial development. For information & registration, please see: <https://uschamberofcommerce.swoogo.com/jordan-delegation-26/home>.
- Oct. 6 - **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](mailto: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](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. 16 **2026 GERMAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIDWEST ANNUAL GALA.** The GACC Midwest promises an evening dedicated to celebrating the excellence, innovation, and enduring commitment of the German American business community. The Gala will bring together industry leaders and C-level executives to honor long-standing membership anniversaries and recognize the outstanding contributions of valued members and companies across the Midwest. Guests will enjoy high-level networking and dinner, engaging entertainment and live music. In addition, we'll have an exciting silent auction benefiting the German American Apprenticeship and Education Foundation—highlighting our shared investment in workforce development and future talent. 6:00 p.m., The InterContinental Hotel Chicago Mag Mile, 505 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago. GACC Members - \$285; Non-members - \$350. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/gacc-midwest-annual-gala/2026-gacc-midwest-annual-gala>.
- 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](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980001138706?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true).
- Oct. 22 - **TARIFFS, SUPPLY CHAIN SHIFTS, AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL MANUFACTURING**  
23 **COMPETITIVENESS.** Twenty-fifth Annual U.S.-China Trade Conference sponsored by the United States of America – China Chamber of Commerce. Topics include: *The New Era of Global Trade, Manufacturing, and Consumer Markets; Navigating and Coping with the Rapidly Changing Tariff Environment; Resilience and Diversification Without Abandoning China: Alternative Manufacturing Hubs; Adapting Transportation Networks to Changing Trade Patterns; The Impact of AI Technology and Automation on Competitiveness; Selling Overseas: How to Reposition U.S. SMEs During a Disruptive Trade Environment; Talent Requirements to Stay Competitive in the AI Economy; Future Trade and Tariff Outlook: Strategic Priorities for Governments and Businesses.* 8:00 a.m., The Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fees & Discounts vary. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.usccc.org/\\_files/ugd/1817b4\\_9bd222cdca1d490e947e27f0bedbb467.pdf](https://www.usccc.org/_files/ugd/1817b4_9bd222cdca1d490e947e27f0bedbb467.pdf).
- 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/4IF9m08hRCMCx?utm\\_source=EMAIL&utm\\_medium=TradeCompass&utm\\_campaign=FC26](https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/4IF9m08hRCMCx?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](mailto: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://stlpартnership.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](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](mailto: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) s 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/>.

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## 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](mailto:info@itagc.org); or visit: [www.itagc.org](http://www.itagc.org).

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## About Barnes Richardson

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