

# Tenth Annual Global Trade and Investment Forum

## April 8, 2026 | New York City



## TESTIMONIALS

“I had the privilege of spending a day with an extraordinary group of leaders from business, academia, and government at the 2026 Global Forum of the [Center for International Business Acceleration](#) (CIBA)—wearing two hats I care deeply about: Dean of the [Cornell SC Johnson College of Business](#) and Chair of the CIBA Board. CIBA President and Founder [Elena A. Iankova](#) brought together another truly relevant forum for the Center’s tenth year! Our discussions reinforced something core to Cornell and to CIBA’s mission: innovation thrives when education, policy, and industry move together. The future of international business won’t be built by standing still—it will be built by optimism, openness, and smart collaboration across borders and disciplines. See you all at next year’s Forum!

— [Andrew Karolyi](#), Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business

“I would like to thank CIBA and Elena Iankova for putting the Global Forum together. We were happy to be the platinum sponsor of the event. As we, Global NY understand, trade is facilitated best when industry, academia and government work together to make it happen. The beauty of this Forum and CIBA in general is that it is constituted to do exactly this, as evidenced by today’s Forum.”

— [Jeff Janiszewski](#), Senior Vice President for Strategic Business Development and Global NY at Empire State Development

“It is great to be here at the Tenth Anniversary of CIBA. I worked with CIBA in the past – I used to work for the U.S. Commercial Service, and I know the great work that CIBA does across New York State. This forum was fantastic, with a really impressive array of speakers-panelists and a tremendous keynote focusing on AI. The opportunities that CIBA offers to different companies are unparalleled and really incredible in terms of networking and advancement. I certainly learned a lot today and I hope to continue to work with CIBA in the next ten years and benefit from all their expertise going forward, especially in my new role as chief representative of the United States at the Dubai Chambers in New York.

— [Mike Grossman](#), Chief Representative - USA at Dubai Chambers in New York

“I left the Tenth Annual Global Trade and Investment Forum deeply inspired and energized. CIBA curated an exceptional group of experts who truly *brought it*—not just in expertise, but in authenticity and depth. The conversations pushed far beyond surface-level dialogue. An intimate and brave space. We explored the evolving intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Global Trade, grappling with both opportunity and responsibility in a rapidly shifting landscape. What stood out most, however, was the honesty. These leaders and entrepreneurs shared not only their successes, but the realities of their journeys—what it takes to build, lead, and sustain impact across both U.S. and global markets. That level of transparency is rare—and powerful. I walked away knowing it was a day well spent and being reminded that meaningful progress is driven not just by innovation, but by courageous leadership, kindness and with real conversations.”

— [Dr. Selma Bartholomew](#), President of PartnerWithLegacy

“New York has been an international trade center since the 1600s and CIBA is doing an amazing work keeping it as the center of international trade in the United States. Thank you for putting on an amazing conference on Global Trade! In my work in the private sector at Export Management Companies (EMCs) and at the U.S. Department of Commerce, I have attended a lot of these ‘global’ conferences. This was surely the most informative one that I have attended—thank you!”

— [Peter Tierney](#), Managing Director of World Technology Corporation

“Participating in the CIBA forum reinforced my goal of driving innovation at the intersection of AI and global markets. My takeaway is that international acceleration is not just about moving products across borders; it is about building the infrastructure that makes global trade feel seamless—whether that's data driven price prediction or cross-border logistics. My goal is to build tools that lower the barrier to entry for small- to mid-sized businesses looking to go global, and the forum gave me a much clearer view of the policy and operational hurdles that exist today.”

— [Sanjay Ram](#), MBA Candidate at Cornell Tech

“This Forum is great because you meet a lot of people, you hear a lot of perspectives that companies have to be aware of currently. This is especially good for smaller and mid-sized companies from abroad which, unlike the big companies, do not have inhouse resources to establish themselves in the U.S. market.”

— [Sven Oehme](#), President and CEO at The European-American Business Organization, Inc.

“I think as a Global Forum, it is a great opportunity to convene people who are really interested not just in global trade but how the new technologies are coming and impacting global trade. AI is a big topic of the conference, and it is great to see how people understand AI, how they approach the problems that are going to come out of AI, how they think of the opportunities and the new types of relationships that they can build with AI. It has been a wonderful experience seeing people from different disciplines, multiple professions and multiple angles talk about what international trade and global business can do for them and how they relate to that. I am very happy to be here on the Tenth Anniversary of CIBA and attending a Global Forum that is the culmination and at the same time the starting point of ten new years of a very interesting world where international trade and international business become more relevant than ever.”

— [Fernando Gomez-Baquero](#), Director of Runway and Spinouts at Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute, Cornell Tech