

Communiqué

SUMMER 2008



Argentine Social Entrepreneur Honored with Hart Fellowship

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs awarded the 2008 Gus Hart Fellowship to Nicolás Ducoté, cofounder and general director of the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), an influential public policy institution in Argentina. Ducoté visited Chicago the week of May 5–9, 2008, to exchange ideas about economics, government reform, and civic leadership in Chicago and Latin America.



Margaret Hart and Nicolás Ducoté

Ducoté has been hailed as one of the most accomplished emerging public leaders in Argentina and Latin America. Under his leadership, CIPPEC helped to rebuild Argentina following the devastating 1998 economic decline that led to bank failures, capital flight, and the resignation of then-president Fernando de la Rúa.

CIPPEC has been a vocal advocate for government accountability and transparency, crucial to Argentina's democratic transition. Ducoté's efforts led to the creation of Argentina's first budget

watchdog operation, its first charter schools, its first legal aid institutions, and its first—and still only—fully public congressional directory.

During his visit in May, Ducoté met with Chicago's business and civic leaders, university faculty, philanthropists, government officials, and the media. During an appearance on Chicago Public Radio's *Worldview* with Jerome McDonnell, he discussed CIPPEC's public policy initiatives on topics ranging from education to healthcare to government transparency. One of CIPPEC's biggest accomplishments, Ducoté said, has been creating government accountability by making congressional voting records public. This and other reforms have given Ducoté a positive attitude about the vitality of his country.

"Many of the reforms that we are pushing from CIPPEC are possible because we are a land of opportunity, maybe like the U.S. was also many generations ago," he told McDonnell. "I'm very positive about the future being better than the past."

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China's Emergence on the World Stage

A letter from the President



China is on our minds. In only a few weeks, the opening of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing will mark China's emergence on the world stage. The Games will be a spectacular demonstration of how China has changed as the result of thirty years of rapid economic growth and opening to the world. In recent months world attention, both unfavorable and favorable, has been focused on China because of the unrest in Tibet and the disastrous

earthquake in Sichuan and the Chinese government's responses to both events.

Many observers see China's rise as a global good. China has lifted hundreds of millions of its own people out of poverty, fueled prosperity around the world, and resolved disputes with most of its Asian neighbors. Others are skeptical that China can or will be a "responsible stakeholder" among nations because of its record on human rights and the environment. All of us will look to the Games for some clue as to what kind of great power China will become.

No question has more import for global peace and prosperity in the 21st century. China's role will be critical to the solution of every global problem from public health to climate change. Its evolution will be critical to maintaining a stable balance of power in Asia. The relationship between the United States and China is already the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and how the world's leading power and its fastest rising power deal with each other in the years and decades ahead will determine in large part how this all comes out. While the presidential candidates have so far not discussed very much their views on China, China policy will have to be a major priority for the incoming U.S. administration.

For the last several years, The Chicago Council has devoted much attention to deepening understanding of China. In 2002 we established the China Roundtable, a group of individuals and companies interested in China and U.S.-China relations. In just the last year, the China Roundtable has sponsored fifteen events featuring Chinese and American speakers on a variety of issues. The Council has also hosted a number of visits to Chicago by Chinese leaders, including President Jiang Zemin in 2002 and Commerce Minister Bo Xilai in 2007.

The Chicago Council also has contributed to the national and international discourse on the impact of China's rise. In 2006 we published the report of a joint U.S.-Japan study group on how the two nations should respond to the impact of China on

the global economy. Later that year, we released a major public opinion survey of how the citizens of the United States, China, and India view each other and their relationships. And in June of this year we published, with the East Asia Institute of Seoul, Korea, a study of how the U.S., Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Indonesian publics view the nonmilitary, "soft power" of their nations. The results have already received considerable media attention, including articles in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, Reuters, and many others.

There is good news and bad news in the soft power study for an incoming U.S. administration. Despite the diminished reputation of the United States in many parts of the world, most Asians still rate the United States first in soft power in the region. But the data also reveal a disturbing souring of American public attitudes toward China that will have to be addressed.

The Chicago Council attaches great importance as well to strengthening the connections between Chicago and China. In 2004, we launched the Chicago-Shanghai Dialogue, an effort to develop ties between the city leaderships and business communities, with a visit by Mayor Daley to Shanghai. In 2005 the Mayor of Shanghai visited Chicago for the second round of the Dialogue. In May 2006, we organized Mayor Daley's first visit to Beijing.

Most recently, the Council sponsored a leadership study mission of its Board and Chairman's Circle members to China. In twelve days the twenty-three mission members visited four cities—Beijing, Dalian, Lijiang and Shanghai—for intensive briefings, official meetings, site visits, and discussions designed to probe deeply China's domestic trends, with a special focus on the economy, energy and the environment, technology and innovation, and social and political shifts. I think the group came away from the experience with a deeper understanding of the promise and challenge of China's historic transformation.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs is committed to keeping China at the forefront of our activity in the months and years to come. Whatever impression the Olympics make on our perceptions of China, there is no doubt that China's rise and the world's response will shape our era.

Marshall M. Bouton
President

Study Mission Takes Chicago Council Leadership to China



This May twenty-three members of The Chicago Council's Board of Directors and Chairman's Circle traveled to China with Chicago Council president Marshall M. Bouton for an intimate view of one of the world's fastest growing economies. China expert and University of Michigan professor Dr. Kenneth Lieberthal accompanied the delegation, which visited Beijing, Dalian, Lijiang, and Shanghai.

Traveling through China just ten days after the tragic earthquake in Sichuan Province, the delegation was deeply moved and followed the developments closely. In sympathy, they pledged personal financial support to the earthquake relief effort.

During four days in Beijing, the group met with senior government leaders, academics, and environmental NGO leaders to discuss developments in Chinese society, economic growth, energy and the environment, and education systems. Senior representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing briefed the group, and U.S. Ambassador Sandy Randt and his wife, Sarah, hosted a dinner in their residence.

Delegates next traveled to Dalian, a major deep water port in Liaoning Province of northeast China. Previously known for heavy industry, such as shipbuilding, steel, and chemicals, Dalian recently has become known as a center for informa-

tion technology, clean industry, and outsourcing. Intel and other multinational companies have opened operations in Dalian, attracted by access to workers from several area universities, a cost of living favorable to cities such as Shanghai, and a municipal government devoted to balancing commercial development with environmental protection.

At the Dalian Software Park, executives from Intel, Oracle, Accenture, and Hewlett-Packard shared insights on the business environment from the U.S. multinational perspective. The delegation then met with Dalian's Mayor, Xia Deren, to learn more about the transformation of this vibrant coastal city.

Following Dalian, delegates traveled to Lijiang in Yunnan Province of southwest China. They met with experts in the local Naxi culture to learn about the cultural diversity of Yunnan, and representatives from The Nature Conservancy briefed the delegation about local energy con-

servation projects. Delegates traveled to Lashi Hai Village, where they saw Nature Conservancy renewable energy projects in action and talked with the villagers about the quality-of-life improvements made possible by solar energy and biofuel projects.

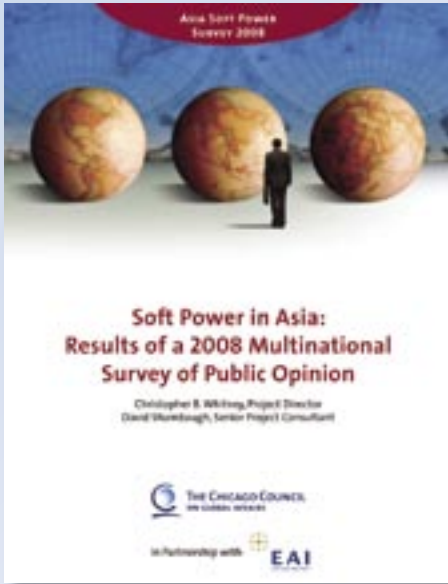
"China faces an ever expanding environmental crisis. Water and air pollution are ubiquitous. How this crisis is faced will be a key driver in determining whether the Chinese growth miracle is sustainable," said delegate Bill Graham, a member of The Chicago Council's Chairman's Circle. "While Beijing acknowledges the problem, the required incentives and/or enforcement mechanisms are basically absent. As we observed on the Study Mission, day-to-day 'authority' resides at the provincial and local levels, where a blind eye is still being turned."

Before leaving Yunnan Province, delegates visited the spectacular twenty-eight-mile-long Tiger Leaping Gorge. Carved by the Yangzi River between two of the region's most sacred and scenic mountains – the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Mount Haba, both over 18,000 feet in elevation – it is believed to be the world's deepest gorge. Water project expert Ma Jun briefed the delegation on the implications of planned dams and other water projects in the region.

Delegates then traveled to Shanghai for the last leg of the trip, which focused on economic management and China's booming business environment. They discussed China's role in Asia with representatives from the Shanghai Institute for International Studies and met with senior representatives from McKinsey and Company, Goldman Sachs Asia, and other U.S. multinationals doing business in China.

New Report Reveals China Lags Behind U.S. in Using Nonmilitary “Soft Power” to Gain Influence in Asia

Just months before China is set to take the world’s center stage during the 2008 Summer Olympics to showcase its many economic advances, it still ranks below the United States as a multifaceted power in the opinion of its Asian neighbors, according to a multinational survey conducted by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the East Asia Institute (EAI).



A report of survey findings was released on June 17, 2008, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace during an event cosponsored by the Brookings Institution.

The Asia Soft Power report, which is based on public opinion surveys in five East and Southeast Asian countries and the United States, reveals that perceptions of China’s “soft power”—the ability to wield influence by indirect, nonmilitary means—generally trail those of the United States and Japan. These perceptions persist despite China’s strong economic relationships in Asia and around the world, and concerted efforts by Beijing to leverage the Olympic Games to bolster its public image. But, at the same time, sizeable majorities in all the countries surveyed agreed that hosting the games will ultimately increase China’s prestige.

“The findings of this report clearly illustrate that China is recognized by its neighbors as the undisputed future leader of Asia, but it still has real work to do to win hearts and minds in the region. To enhance its credibility in Asia, China will need to invest more resources in building

up its soft power, especially in the diplomatic, social, and cultural spheres,” said Marshall M. Bouton, president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

The report also reveals that contrary to other polls taken since the United States invaded Iraq, which reflected negative views of the United States, a majority of Asians in the surveyed countries still admire the United States on many fronts, including economic, diplomatic, cultural and educational, and see its military presence in Asia as a stabilizing force, notably preventing an arms race between China and Japan.

“Considering negative perceptions of the United States elsewhere in the world, it was somewhat surprising to see such strongly positive feelings about the United States among the Asian countries we surveyed,” said Christopher Whitney, executive director of studies at The Chicago Council. “It is clear that the United States still has a strong foundation upon which to build in the region.”

Another unexpected finding of the report focuses on the complex relationship between the United States and China. American feelings towards China have deteriorated since similar surveys were taken by The Chicago Council in 2004 and 2006, and a significant number of those questioned expressed general unease about the future of the relationship. In contrast, Chinese perceptions of the United States have grown noticeably warmer compared to the 2006 survey, and Chinese demonstrate consistently positive attitudes towards U.S. influence in Asia.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and EAI conducted more than 6,000 interviews in China, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and the United States

in January and February of 2008, before the unrest in Tibet and the Sichuan earthquake placed a spotlight on events inside China. The survey asked between forty and sixty questions in each country designed to gauge how citizens of these five Asian nations and the United States view each country’s popular culture, commercial prowess and brands, intellectual influence and appeal, universities, diplomatic reputations, different political systems, and more.

The results were organized to produce indexes of the pillars of soft power: economic, cultural, human capital, diplomatic, and political. The five indexes were averaged to produce an overall Soft Power Index. Change was measured on a few key questions that were also asked in a 2006 Chicago Council survey.

An executive summary of key findings and the full report are available online at thechicagocouncil.org.

Key Soft Power Survey Findings

On China:

- Majorities or pluralities in every country are at least “somewhat worried” that China could become a military threat to their country in the future (Vietnamese were not asked).
- China trails the United States in perceptions of its diplomatic, political, and human capital power in Asia, though perceptions are more positive in Southeast Asia than East Asia. China is also seen as less effective than the United States in promoting its policies to people in Asia by all surveyed publics.

Task Force on National Energy Policy and Midwestern Regional Competitiveness Convened

The national debate over energy policy and climate change is quickly evolving and will likely lead to major new federal legislation in 2009 or 2010. The Midwest has a tremendous stake in this debate given its significance as an energy producer and consumer.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, with generous support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, has convened a Task Force on “National Energy Policy and Midwestern Regional Competitiveness” to determine how future energy and climate change legislation will impact Midwest economic competitiveness.

John W. Rowe, chairman and chief executive officer of Exelon Corporation; Sally Mason, president of the University of Iowa; and John Livingston, managing partner in the Chicago office of McKinsey & Company, are serving as Task Force cochairs. Approximately thirty leaders, crucial stakeholders who are broadly representative of Midwest interests, also are participating as Task Force members.

“A consensus report of Midwestern leaders outlining their perspectives on ways to reduce carbon emissions and increase energy independence while strengthening the regional economy is sorely needed,” said Rowe. “The Council’s work will ensure that Midwestern interests and preferences are given full consideration in the shaping of federal policy.”

Six Midwestern states alone account for five percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, and the Midwest economy as a whole is significantly more carbon intensive than the national average. Eighty-five percent of all ethanol production capacity is in the

Midwest and Great Plains, and the region produces a significant percentage of the nation’s coal. The transportation industry, the Midwest’s industrial backbone, is a major contributor to global warming, accounting for thirty-two percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Nearly half of U.S. auto assembly plants are located in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, and roughly one in five Midwest jobs is dependent on General Motors alone.

The Task Force is working to assess the costs and benefits of regional and national policy proposals that include different abatement and energy usage strategies. Following directly on and supporting the agreements reached at the Midwestern Governors Association Summit on Energy Security and Climate Change in November 2007, the Task Force will prioritize implementation strategies, considering the economic costs and opportunities for Midwest industry and the wider regional economy, and thinking through workforce development needs.

The Task Force cochairs and members are meeting regularly over the next twelve months to develop regionally beneficial recommendations on critical issues likely to be included in future federal legislation such as cap and trade programs to reduce GHGs; higher fuel economy standards; increased use of biofuels, including both corn-based ethanol and cellulosic ethanol; the role for renewable power sources; carbon sequestering; improving regional transportation infrastructure; and methods to increase economic competitiveness in the auto industry and manufacturing as well as newer industries related to energy efficiency. A report of Task Force findings and recommendations will be published and used to impact federal energy and climate change policy in 2009.

- On the question of whether China builds trust and cooperation among Asian countries, it receives low ratings on a 0–10 scale from Americans (3.5), Japanese (4.6) and South Koreans (4.9), ranking China third or fourth among the group.
- But when asked whether China will increase its prestige by hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics, pluralities or majorities in all countries surveyed agree that it would.

On the United States:

- The United States ranks at or near the top of every category in the Soft Power Index.
- Pluralities or majorities in China, Japan, South Korea, and Indonesia all agree that U.S. influence in Asia has increased over the last ten years.

- Majorities in China, Japan, Vietnam and South Korea see overall U.S. influence and U.S. cultural influence in Asia as positive.
- The United States is given the highest mean score on a 0–10 scale for importance as a trade and investment partner by South Koreans (8.5), Japanese (8.0) and Vietnamese (8.0). Chinese give both the United States and the EU the same score (7.6), significantly ahead of Japan (6.7) and South Korea (6.8).

On U.S. – China Relations:

- Americans have very cool feelings toward China. On a 0–100 feeling scale, Americans give China a very low average rating of 35, down from 40 in 2006 and 44 in 2004. Sixty-eight percent of Americans believe they share “no” or “little values” in common with Chinese.

- Chinese give the United States an average rating of 61 on the 0–100 scale of feelings, which is significantly warmer than the rating of 51 which it received in 2006. Sixty-six percent of Chinese think the United States is having a “somewhat” or “very positive” influence in Asia and sixty-three percent believe the United States has been either “very” or “somewhat effective” in managing tensions between Taiwan and China.

- Both publics are concerned that the other country could become a military threat to their country: seventy-six percent of Chinese and seventy percent of Americans say this could happen.

The Chicago Community Trust Supports Local Efforts to Meet Challenges of a Global Economy

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Lookingglass Theatre Company, and the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation may not appear to have much in common, but all three groups share at least one thing: a debt of gratitude to The Chicago Community Trust. For ninety-three years, The Chicago Community Trust has distributed grants to diverse Chicagoland organizations that work to better the city now and for the future. The Trust has partnered with The Chicago Council on Global Affairs for the past several years as a major funder of the Council's Global Chicago projects.



Trust President Terry Mazany reads to students at Holy Angels, a Big Shoulders Fund school.

When Chicago banker Albert W. Harris founded The Chicago Community Trust in 1915, the idea of a community foundation was still novel. Today, there are more than 750 such organizations in the United States, and Chicago's, the fourth largest and second oldest, garners national respect. Through the years, The Chicago Community Trust has remained committed to its original mission – providing ways for Chicagoans to give back to their community.

With assets nearing \$2 billion, the Trust and its donors give \$114 million annually to hundreds of area nonprofit organizations working in five areas: arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, education, and health. This May, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced a \$10 million grant to assist the Trust with efforts to strengthen Chicago neighborhoods and focus on efforts that will contribute to Chicago's global competitiveness.

One of Chicago's greatest strengths is its active nonprofit community, which looks to the Trust as a key resource. In reviewing

more than 1,000 grant requests each year, the Trust has tremendous knowledge of area nonprofits, which it shares with donors looking to direct their funds in meaningful ways. The Trust partners with local philanthropists and brings together donors and organizations to develop strategies that will maximize the impact of giving.

“This city and the region are fortunate to have The Chicago Community Trust as a resource,” said Marshall M. Bouton, president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. “The Trust plays an important role in supporting local organizations that are responding to the challenges of a global economy.”

In 2006, The Chicago Community Trust awarded \$60,000 to The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, funding two Global Chicago reports: one about Chicago's Mexican American community and another about the city's global future.

As a result, in September 2007, the Council published “A Shared Future: The Economic Engagement of Greater Chicago and Its Mexican Community,” a Task Force report calling for an unprecedented partnership among all levels of government, business, nonprofit agencies, and all parts of the Mexican community to realize the potential of Mexican immigrants and their children to participate fully in the economic, social, and civic life of Chicago. Immigrant integration is top priority focus for the Trust, and Terry Mazany, president and chief executive officer of The Chicago Community Trust, participated as a member of the Task Force.

“One key finding of the Task Force is that many immigrants are moving directly to the Chicago suburbs,” said Mazany. “This

is a new development, and these communities do not necessarily have a strong nonprofit infrastructure like the city. We're looking to build leadership capacity and provide local governments with the tools to offer needed services for growing immigrant populations in these areas.”

Mazany also participated as a member of a Council Task Force that published a report titled “The Global Edge: An Agenda for Chicago's Future” in the fall of 2007. The Task Force identified priority areas – infrastructure, human capital, and global engagement – for ensuring that Chicago adapts to compete in the global era. Education is a key aspect of providing the necessary human capital the city will rely on in the future. More than a third of The Chicago Community Trust's grants support efforts to improve all levels of education in the Chicagoland area.

Mazany, who in 2004 became the fifth executive to lead the Trust, first came to The Chicago Community Trust in 2001 to head the Education Initiative. The \$50 million initiative, supported by The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, aims to strengthen classroom instruction and increase the number of high-quality school options for Chicago families and their children. The initiative targets three priority areas – literacy, professional development, and alternative models of schooling – and works with Chicago Public Schools and Catholic and Lutheran schools in Chicago to facilitate reform and improve the quality of education. In 2007, the Trust recommitted an additional \$50 million in funding to the initiative to support continued and expanded education improvement in area schools.

“For the city to remain competitive, we must provide superior educational opportunities at all levels,” Mazany said. “Opportunities that will provide the best training for Chicagoans and will also attract new talent to the city.”

In 2008, The Chicago Community Trust awarded another grant to support The Chicago Council with new Global Chicago

projects gleaned from “The Global Edge” report. The current \$60,000 grant will help the Council with three objectives: working with the Chicago’s African community, working to create a network of internationally oriented, Chicago-based nonprofits, and improving the Global Chicago Web site to make it a better resource for the city and its residents.

“Our status as a global city is not absolute or predetermined. We have to work for it. This raises the stakes and puts competitive pressures on the quality of leadership,” Mazany said. “The Chicago Council is a thought leader, helping to shape our understanding of Chicago’s position in the world, and defining our role and the opportunities and challenges we face as a first-tier global city.”

Q&A with Chicago Council Board Member Leah Zell Wanger



Chicago Council Board treasurer Leah Zell Wanger with the first lady of Ukraine, Kateryna Yushchenko.

Leah Zell Wanger’s interest in international relations began during her studies at Harvard where she received a Ph.D. in Modern European Social and Economic History. She has since built a career straddling cultures and operating outside established categories. Leah served as lead portfolio manager of Acorn International, a \$5 billion small-cap equity fund and also served as the firm’s head of international research. Wanger Asset Management, of which she was a founding partner, is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America. She is a nationally recognized expert in international investing and a pioneer in the international small-cap category, where she distinguished herself at a time when few women occupied top positions in financial services. Leah is in the process of starting a new asset management firm named Lizard Investors, LLC, which will focus exclusively on investment opportunities outside the United States. In addition to serving as treasurer of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Leah sits on the boards of Harvard University, the German Marshall Fund, and the International Rescue Committee.

Q: How did you first become involved with The Chicago Council?

A: International affairs have been my lifetime passion. As an international equity manager, I started attending Council events about twenty years ago. The Council was a natural fit to broaden my knowledge of global issues. As my understanding and appreciation for the organization grew, I became more involved. In the mid-1990s, then-Council president John Rielly asked me to serve on the board, and when Marshall Bouton became president in 2001, he asked me to serve as treasurer, a role that I maintain today. It is rewarding to be associated with an organization that advances Chicago’s voice to the world and that provides different perspectives and opinions on foreign affairs.

Q: Why is The Chicago Council on Global Affairs important to Chicago?

A: Chicago is a world-class city and deserves a world-class foreign affairs organization that educates and addresses the opportunities and challenges of a global era. U.S. foreign policy historically has been dominated by organizations along the Boston to Washington corridor. The Chicago Council is uniquely positioned between the coasts to be the foreign policy organization of the heartland and to contribute a fresh voice to the national discourse on foreign policy issues where we have comparative advantage, such as immigration and agriculture.

Q: If you could meet any global leader from any period in history, who would you choose and why?

A: Margaret Thatcher is a woman of conviction, strength, and charisma. She rises above gender as a world-class leader. Her strength of character is inspiring. She single-handedly changed the economy of Britain and put that country on a path of modernization which serves as a model to many other developed economies. I had the privilege of meeting her at a Chicago Council event, an experience that I will never forget.

Q: What global affairs topics do you believe should receive more attention?

A: There can never be enough coverage of ways in which the developing world and the mature economies can build bridges of understanding and cooperation. We are citizens of the world. How are we all going to get along?

Q: What else would you like people to know about The Chicago Council on Global Affairs?

A: What makes The Chicago Council great are the individuals it engages, both those who reside here in Chicago and those who come here because it exists. The dialogue that the Council fosters and the intellectual capital on topics of foreign relations that it generates make it a key asset for the city and the Midwest generally.

Better understanding of global issues is indispensable to me in my profession as an international investor. More important, as Americans, we need to be informed about what goes on outside our borders in order to build a better world for our children. For those purposes, the Council is an invaluable resource.

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Argentine Social Entrepreneur Honored with Hart Fellowship

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In addition to establishing CIPPEC, Ducoté has served as an international consultant for the United Nations, Transparency International, the InterAmerican Development Bank, World Economic Forum, and the World Bank. As an entrepreneur in Argentina, he has started several small businesses, including a flower shop, a photocopy store, and a children's entertainment center, in addition to three nonprofit organizations.

"The Chicago Council on Global Affairs is delighted to have honored Nicolás Ducoté as the first Gus Hart Fellow," said Marshall M. Bouton, president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. "His tenacity, entrepreneurship, and commitment to his country are exactly the traits that the Hart Fellowship seeks to celebrate."

Ducoté also delivered The Chicago Council's annual Gus Hart Lecture on the evening of Tuesday, May 6, and met with a small group of Chicago Council Young Professional members at a local Argentine restaurant on Thursday, May 8.

The Hart Fellowship—established by the Hart family in honor of Gus Hart, former vice chairman of Quaker Oats and former chairman of The Chicago Council—is given annually to an emerging Latin American or Caribbean leader. It is designed to provide the fellow with perspectives on Chicago's best practices and also for Chicago to gain insight into the economics and politics shaping modern Latin America. Ducoté, the first to receive the prestigious award, was selected from a pool of more than seventy candidates nominated by ambassadors, diplomats, business leaders, activists, and government officials from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The Hart family is pleased to join with The Chicago Council in honoring Gus Hart and his commitment to fostering understanding between Latin America and the United States," said Margaret Hart, wife of Gus Hart. "We look forward to bringing to Chicago other leaders like Nicolás Ducoté with the talents and skills to advance these goals throughout Latin America."