Costa Rica was implementing its own social and economic development policies long before the United Nations set the Sustainable Development Goals.

From renewable energy and universal access to education and health care to a longstanding tradition of democracy, peace and inclusive growth, Costa Rica’s development has not been typical of the time or the region.

Roman Macaya, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States, will give an overview of the policies that allowed Costa Rica to achieve important economic, social and environmental goals, and describe the challenges his country faces in these areas.

Roman Macaya was sworn in as Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States of America on August 20, 2014, and presented his credentials to President Barack Obama on September 18, 2014.

Macaya’s multidisciplinary career as a scientist, businessman, advocate, politician, academic and now diplomat has enabled him to live, study and work for many years in Costa Rica and the United States. As ambassador he has promoted collaboration between Costa Rica and the United States in education, health, science, culture, energy, conservation, security and human rights. He has also promoted foreign direct investment in high-value services and in the life sciences, trade, ecotourism and medical travel.

Macaya holds an MBA in health care management from the Wharton School, a PhD in biochemistry from UCLA, and a BA in chemistry from Vermont’s Middlebury College. He is married and has four children.

The talk is open to the public. For information contact Hassan Vafai at hvafai@email.arizona.edu or 520.621.5949.