

AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON SERIES

Ambassador Claude Heller
Ambassador Morten Wetland



Ambassador Morten Wetland
Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN

Ambassador Claude Heller
Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN

Economy and peace are the two important factors in economic stability and sustainable development.

Economic cooperation is essential in peace-building and fostering progress between nations on a political and social level.

BRIC countries making their presence known through economic advancement, cooperation with the rest of the world becomes necessary.

How can Global Economy Contribute to Global Peace?

The goal of the Ambassador's Luncheon Series is to promote peace and stability around the globe.



The Ambassador's Luncheon Series 2011 started with an important topic this year: "How can Global Economy contribute to Global Peace?" The first speakers were H.E. Ambassador Morten Wetland, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN and H.E. Ambassador Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN. Both of the Ambassadors talked about peace and stability in the world according their perspectives with respect to BRIC countries; Brazil, Russia, India, and China including Turkey as a key role player in the region and globally.

BIOGRAPHIES

H.E. Ambassador Claude Heller is the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations since January 2007. Prior to this position, he has served as Ambassador to France, Cuba and Slovenia, as well as Switzerland and Political Counselor at the Mexican Embassy in the United States of America, Permanent Representative to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. He was also involved in the peace process of Central America within the frame of the Contadora Group. Ambassador Heller was a professor at *El Colegio de México*. He is the author of several books and articles on foreign policy. He holds an undergraduate degree in International Relations Degree from *El Colegio de México*, and a Master's Degree in History and International Relations from the Institute of High International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

H.E. Ambassador Morten Wetland took up his appointment as Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York in August 2008. Wetland was previously State Secretary at the office of the Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg. He has also been State Secretary to the former Prime Minister of Norway, Dr. Gro H. Brundtland, as well as her campaign manager for the candidature to become Director-General of the WHO (1998). From 1998 to 2003 Wetland served as Norway's Ambassador to Germany. He has also been Assistant Director General at the Legal Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Energy, and Senior Vice-President, Corporate European Affairs, for Statkraft AS, the state owned energy company. Ambassador Wetland holds a graduate degree in law from the University of Oslo, where he specialized in international law. He was born in Oslo in 1951, is married to Hege Nygard Wetland and has two children.

KEYNOTES

BRIC countries making their presence known through economic advancement, cooperation with the rest of the world becomes necessary.

Norway has the highest level of female employment in Europe.

NAFTA has greatly improved Mexico's status since its inception in 1993.

Emerging economies do need to work with world powers like the U.S. and the E.U. in order to develop to their potential.

Mexico City is projected to be one of the top five fastest growing cities in the world.

Mehmet Kilic, Vice President of the Turkish Cultural Center New York, welcomed the speakers and the audience for the first lecture of the Ambassador's Luncheon Series. Mr. Kilic underlined the importance of economy and peace, which are the two important factors in economic stability and sustainable development around the world. He also said: *"the ultimate goal of the Ambassador's Luncheon Series is to promote peace and maintain stability around the globe."* The lectures given by Ambassadors aim to educate the global society about various perspectives and prevent conflicts through constructive engagement and dialogue and thereby contribute to peace and strengthen social co-existence.

Oner Ayan (Financial Advisor at Artio Global Investors Inc) moderated of the program. Mr. Ayan gave background information about the economic development of Norway and Mexico before he asked questions to the speakers. Later, Mr. Ayan moderated the Q & A session with the audience. When discussing the BRIC countries; Turkey is often also mentioned as an emerging economy competing to become a global power. This is not just important for an increase in GDP or wealth generation, but to have a say in global affairs and international relations. As America has seen with its rich diversity among its people, it is understandable to conclude that when more cultures and countries work together, great progress can be made. By the BRIC countries making their presence known through economic advancement, cooperation with the rest of the world becomes necessary.

H. E. Ambassador Wetland highlighted that Norway has the highest level of female employment in Europe. They also have the highest birthrate, proving their ability to enable women to have both a career and family instead of having to choose one or the other, as is the case in many other countries. He emphasized the importance of the European Union's contributions to peace. However, Norway is doing well on its own and does not necessarily need membership. He discussed Norway's trade relations with China and how since service industries now dominate the developed world there is really a need for emerging markets to take over manufacturing. Economic cooperation is essential in peace-building and fostering progress between nations on a political and social level and Norway is doing its part toward contributing to the global economy by maintaining low unemployment within its borders and working with the developing world.

H. E. Ambassador Heller presented the fact that NAFTA has greatly improved Mexico's status since its inception in 1993. Emerging economies do need to work with world powers like the U.S. and the E.U. in order to develop to their potential. This can be in the form of trade agreements or funding investments. Considering Mexico's free trade privilege with the U.S. and Canada, it is no coincidence that their exports are greater than those of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Venezuela combined. Mexico City is projected to be one of the top five fastest growing cities in the world. With the increasing economic influence, Mexico, like Turkey and China, are gaining influence internationally. By improving themselves and entering the realm of global powers, they can exert their perspectives on global peace and create progress toward a better world.