

## Climate War Game 2 Individual Reflection

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With the beautiful Himalayan Mountains of Mussoorie as a backdrop, the mood was set to begin climate negotiations for South Asian countries. For this second war game, I represented India along with my team of Justin, Will, Joyce, and Sabrina. I felt that our team played an important role in these negotiations simply because of the nature of India being such a population-dense, powerful economic powerhouse in Asia with significant potential to influence the future of carbon emissions policies and contributions. The other delegations that participated were from the United States, SAARC, China, and the United Nation.

Interestingly enough, I was surprised at how smoothly and diplomatically the individual negotiations initially panned out between the various organizations involved. In fact, they were more successful than the negotiations of the previous war game, which were solely between different sectors within India. I found it fascinating that it was easier for India to negotiate with other international organizations than it was for them to negotiate with the different sectors of their own economy. This was contrary to any of my preconceptions that I had beforehand. However, once all of the organizations were in the same room together, it was more difficult to reach a consensus.

Once again, my personal role was to present my team's primary presentation in order to give an overview of India's policies in the past, present, and future, and how they relate to climate change and aspects of the Indian economy. Not only was it necessary that we had an extensive knowledge of India's policies and standpoint with regards to

climate change and carbon emissions, but also a knowledge of those of each of the other participating organizations in order to be prepared for effective negotiations.

More specifically, I was tasked with researching the new, entrepreneurial India within the broad spectrum of the whole economy. With its relatively recent switch to a market-based economy, India is particularly conducive to entrepreneurship and small businesses. This topic was particularly relevant to climate discussions because since it is easier for new industries to be started, more jobs can be created which improves the condition of poverty and allows India to spend more time and effort focused on finding ways to reduce carbon emissions.

Again, I felt that one of the most valuable aspects of these war games is providing us, as students, the opportunity to learn from each other as equals. Personally, I feel that this environment is more conducive to learning than a traditional lecture. With everyone bringing their own research and personal experiences to the table, I believe that the negotiations were more dynamic and interesting. Being able to debate directly with our peers was an effective way for all of us to be actively involved in the discussions, and learn more from each other about topics that we individually may not be familiar with.

At some points I felt somewhat frustrated with some of the issues that were brought up by teams, especially since they sometimes seemed irrelevant and unfeasible. To be specific, too much time was spent on the topic of affirmative action because, while it is important on the larger scale of social issues, it was not particularly relevant to our climate discussions and reduced the efficiency of the negotiations. Furthermore, the USA was too focused on a measuring carbon emissions based on GDP, which was not only an inaccurate way to measure emissions, but was also never a mechanism to be used for

policy that the US government would agree to. With so much unnecessary time used for debating this, I felt that it took away from the importance of other issues being debated.

That being said, there was many valuable points brought up that impressed me. For instance, when China suggested that they alleviate the US of 5% of their debt owed to the Chinese as long as they invested that money in solar technology and the associated labor sourced from China. I thought this was an innovative approach to incentivizing the US to become more pro-active in their investment in renewable energy technology, and it was a positive addition to the discussion.

On the whole, I feel that I benefitted more from the first war game that was focused solely on India; however, this second war game was more of an exercise in being more globally aware of the nuances and complications that arise when dealing with not just one country, or even one geographic area. Certain aspects came up in discussions that I had not expected to deal with, and required more spontaneity and flexibility. These aspects included feminism and affirmative action, and religious conflicts such as those existing between India and Pakistan. Both war games were beneficial in developing personal skills and gaining an extensive knowledge of a wide range of issues.