

War Game 1

Individual Reflection

Coming to a completely different culture is a big challenge. Moreover, if in this new environment you have to take non-major related classes. However, I find India and Indian culture so interesting that I decide to take a risk. As for now, when we are about to end our dialogue, I feel like this was one of the best decisions I have made lately. The experiences I gained in this country during our stay will last for my entire lifetime. Civil engineering classes, which did not sound very interesting to me in the beginning, appeared to be crucially important not only to students majoring in engineering, but also to me. As long as I am studying international security, I am proud to understand climate change at the level I understand it now.

Coming to War Games, these were very different from the debates/negotiations I have participated in before. First of all, I would like to emphasize that I appreciate the idea of negotiation process. Generally, while doing the role-playing for any class, we would just stop after pointing out our ideas. This time, having a chance to negotiate with other members of different sectors gave us a lot of different opportunities to see the possible outcomes of our policy recommendations.

As an energy team representative, I was enjoying being in a condition where your power is important to all the other sectors. One of the most important things that we have learned from the module sessions is that climate change is not a problem related to just one sector. It has a far broader spectrum and being able to talk with other groups and make necessary compromises made me feel good about my contribution toward climate

change awareness. I have realized how much can be done, if the ideas discussed during the war game one are actually brought up to the political pedestal and sufficient funds are directed towards the sustainable development.

Being in a team means approving the ideas of the majority. However, I did not quite agree with one idea that was suggested by the team energy. Specifically, it was the nuclear energy usage issue. My personal sympathy toward the nuclear energy is very low. First and foremost would be the problem of interpretation. Nuclear energy development is not safe. As neoliberalism advances as a global system, the more numerous growth of weapons and the ranks of the armies and national police happens. Along with these changes, I believe that the regulation of nuclear power usage as a source of energy versus using it as a manipulations weapon will be hard to control. Actually, I do not believe that G7 or other rapidly developing countries would agree to put effort in reducing nuclear “power empowerment.”

On the other hand, as discussed at Porto Alegre Call for Mobilization, air and water have become commodities and compared to emissions rate today nuclear energy would make a reasonable change.

In addition to my antipathy to the usage of nuclear power, I would add that I do not understand the logic of north vs south environmental responsibility division and I think that the nuclear energy usage will make the issue even more bias.

Continuing on solutions that drew my attention, I'd like to mention I was glad about the water team suggesting the idea of dams (especially seeing the Natural Remedies farm and seeing the complex natural irrigation system and the influence of rainwater collecting). In the beginning our team did not expect negotiations with healthcare team to be so fruitful.

My personal idea about how much healthcare sector would contribute to finding the solutions to climate change problems was 6 percent. (6 is random, actually. I just don't like that number). I considered industry's role to be vital, and healthcare role to be the least important. However, after the negotiations I was amazed on how much I agreed with healthcare team. Also, the team ideas were supported during Professor Joyashree Roy presentation at Jadavpur University. Going back to nuclear energy, I realized that nuclear energy usage has another important side apart from political aspect, which is health related. The game of nuclear waste disposal is potentially lost. India, as a developing country, is not ready to properly manage the nuclear waste issue. The idea suggested by the healthcare team of setting a timeline, allowing annual checks and taking two years of scientific testing before establishing a new nuclear station made a sense to me and seemed to be the most reasonable argument to the nuclear power usage safety controversy. Also, in terms of nuclear power safety testing, I think that Greenpeace should go back to its initial work, which started in 1972 in a small Vancouver office and focused primarily on nuclear weapons testing to enable the Indian government to be more decisive about using the nuclear energy as an alternative energy source.

My last comment on energy sources is that I totally support the idea of investing in renewable energy and going greener. For this, I would use my power as the US team representative from War Game 2 and promise the funding for realization of this plan, especially for solar energy. (Just kidding, we are self-centered!!! We like the idea of emissions per GDP policy!)

After the War Game 1 it became clear to me that ecological sensibility should be demanded from everyone regardless of occupation, geographical location, or access to

government officials. In this case, in my opinion, the action of NGOs is the best tool to bring awareness to the people who are illiterate or do not have access to information to learn about the climate change. They have the power to get close to the cultural schools of thought according to the regions, ethnics, religions, etc. and make it an easier transition from knowing nothing about climate change to having a decent idea on what their contribution to the process is.