

My experience in the second war game was fundamentally similar to the first war game, yet I found the feeling of this war game extremely different. I feel that my team and the other teams had many misconceptions about the purpose of this war game. Throughout the process, I still learned many new things, in terms of prioritizing work, negotiations and public speaking, and about national and international policies and politics.

I found that preparation for and understanding of this war game was much more difficult than for the first war game. The first war game was clear in our sectors and our purpose: to maximize our sector's gains in climate related investments. This second war game, although it should have been as clear cut, was not. National and international politics turned out to be far more challenging and convoluted. Implementing climate change policies varies with each nation, and many international tensions that are not related to the climate can and did come into effect. For example, the US debt to China is not particularly related to climate yet it was a large point of discussion during this war game.

As a part of the United Nations team, I was the expert in research and education in India. However, performing my research turned out to be more challenging than expected. First of all, it seems to me that once the dialogue reached the vacation spots in Kerala, everybody forgot about their assignments and the fact that we were on an educational trip. We still went along with all the academic sessions, but the idea of working on the war game seemed very far off and it was very preferable to enjoy the trip to India while we are here. It was challenging to make myself overcome these sentiments and think about the war game. Due to lack of internet and health issues, I did not truly begin working on my war game until perhaps a week or so beforehand. From this, I can draw that in life, there are many distractions and more exciting things to do. However, it is important to remember your main purpose and keep it in mind. Definitely enjoy and experience what you can, but not without complete abandon.

In terms of my research, I learned about the state of education in India. From my previous research in the healthcare sector, I knew that many critical points of national development show how

far behind India is. My experiences in India, seeing the large numbers of poor and underprivileged people, have also contributed to this. Therefore, I was not too surprised to learn about the poor state of Indian education. Only some sixty some percent of adults are literate despite a near 100% elementary attendance rate. This indicates a disparity in the education system: either more people are attending schools now than in the past, or the education system has failed to properly educate its students. The high elementary attendance rate, however, does not translate too well to higher levels of education. I was also not too surprised to learn about how little the general public knew about climate change. What really shocked me was the high number of graduate and undergraduate level students – well educated and wealthier individuals – who did not know about climate change. In further analysis, I realize the reason could be that India has more immediate problems to resolve today than climate change. Working to end poverty and improving health, water, and food access would have a greater impact on improving the development of the nation. Climate change is not such an obvious, immediate threat to the national health, and so would not be well known in the country.

My experience as the negotiator was a strong point of learning as well. I do not enjoy large group discussions, as the discussion moves very quickly between topics. I prefer thinking about what I will say before making an input, and thus rarely make a point because somebody will speak before me. During this war game, I was allowed to take more of the leading discussion roles. My team did a good job in supporting me with this. They did have many inputs and a lot of information, so when I did not know the required information, my team could respond for me. I was able to bring up and debate new points with other teams. For example, I brought up discussions with the India team to open up the US-India energy dialogue to all UN participants. As negotiator I believe was successful in getting the goals of the UN. The UN managed to secure promises of carbon caps and financial assistance from G7 nations to developing SAARC nations. Discussions like this are not my forte and it is something I do need to practice. My experience as negotiator was an overall positive one and the discussions were mostly

successful. There were no major points of contention with any other team, although there were some points of confusion. This was the section where I learned the most: how to communicate my ideas to others and come to an agreement on them. It is a skill I will be using into the future and am glad to have used and gained confidence in.