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June 3, 2015

War Game One Reflection

For the first Climate Change Science War Game I was part of the energy team. For my individual part, I researched international policies and negotiations. Before coming on this dialogue I had an interest in climate change and how it will affect the economy so I was aware of some the international climate change policies and negotiations. The policy I was most familiar with was the Kyoto treaty. But after further research, I learned more about what the policies entailed and what they have planned for the future, such as the 2015 Paris Conference of Parties and the agreement the nations hope to sign to help combat climate change. Of particular note, I found it interesting to learn about smaller agreements between nations that are making an impact, like the hydropower dam agreement between Nepal and India, creating clean energy.

For the most part, I thought my group worked well together and we learned a lot from each other. I was not as familiar with some of the science behind climate change but I really enjoyed learning about it from my own group as well as other sectors from the other presentations. Within my group I learned more about different types of renewable energy sources such as the magic carpet technique, which captures the energy from waves. It also lessens the effect of waves on the coastline while simultaneously generating clean energy. Growing up along the coast in Massachusetts and watching the waves endlessly crash upon the beach, and at times flooding some roads, made this new technology of great interest

because it could potentially help low lying coastal communities save their coastline as well as create clean energy.

I learned a great deal from my own team, but I learned even more from the war games and presentations. One point I thought was interesting was that the agriculture team wanted to use GMOs and the health sector was okay with that provided that long-term studies were conducted. I thought they would have argued for long-term studies before expanding the GMO project or that they would be against it from the beginning because of the unknown effects. Another interesting topic that was introduced was telemedicine. I had never heard of it before but I thought it was an interesting way to bring health care to rural areas.

During this process, I learned a lot about nuclear energy. Before the war game, I was familiar with it but I thought of it in a negative light. However, my opinion regarding the use of nuclear energy changed after the war game. I now believe that nuclear energy is a good source of clean energy and think of it with a potentially positive contribution toward reducing climate change. However, in the future before nuclear energy is expanded, there will have to be strict regulations and proper waste disposal but it is a viable option to seriously consider.

As a group when we talked about roles, I was originally supposed to be team leader two, but as the war game went on some of the roles became blurry and I felt I was able to contribute more during the small negotiations even though I contributed to the big debate as well. I found it more beneficial to meet one-on-one with other sectors because it allowed the groups to better understand what each other's specific goals were and come to compromises that both agreed to in the end.

During the large debate, I found it more chaotic and harder to come to agreement because everyone wanted the best outcome for their sector even though all groups had the same ultimate goal of reducing climate change. While the large debate was a little more chaotic, everyone seemed to have the chance to express their opinion and amend the policies that we came up with. I was impressed that our policies were aligned with those of Prime Minister Modi.

Having never participated in a war game before, I learned a lot about how to work with other sectors to compromise and research a common goal. During the large debate it became apparent that all sectors depend on each other and it is crucial that all sectors work together. Each sector has the same common goal of reducing climate change but have different ways of going about getting there. I also realized how difficult it is to come up with a solution to climate change because there is not a single right way to make an impact on climate change because any change will have a domino effect on other sectors.

After having time to reflect on the war game, I wish the small negotiations had been longer because it seemed that just when we would start to talk about what we wanted the ten minutes were up. Had we had more time, I think more detailed and further agreements on policies could have been researched with positive results.

Overall throughout the war game I learned how all the sectors depend on each other and it is important to work together to help reduce carbon emissions. No one sector can solve climate change alone because each sector depends on another. The answer to combating climate change is not an easy one and that is why it is

important for all sectors come together to decide on the best possible solution. If our war game is any indication of what goes on during the international negotiations in the real world, it is easy to see why making a step forward is much harder than one can imagine. But the hope is all nations will understand that any step forward in any sector will ultimately benefit all human life on earth.