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Climate DOC 2015

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Individual Reflection on War Game 2

My time in India has been incredible and mind-opening. I have been able to experience a part of the world that I hadn't before, and to learn about a field that interested me but I didn't have a strong background in. Being assigned to Team India excited me, but also made me extremely nervous, since India was the center of the war game and the teams were advised to adopt policies around it. I understood that my team and I had an opportunity to gain a lot of knowledge and have a large effect on the war game, but, initially, I wasn't really sure how to do either of those things.

The time leading up to the war game was a stressful one. The hotels we had been staying had little or no Wi-Fi, thus limiting my team's ability to provide factual evidence of certain aspects in our presentation. We worked on our presentation when we could, but it was hard to find the motivation and time to do work when we were in such interesting places such as Rishakesh and Varanasi. This trip I have struggled with balancing travelling and educational work, but have been able to do both while sacrificing sleep.

Within Team India, I was assigned to do research on prehistoric and historic India. The individual presentations that the DOC students did at the Leela Hotel in Kerala were helpful in giving me an idea of things I could possibly research within India's lengthy and unique history. I decided to focus on the Indus River Valley because of its global impact and also the influence it had on the migration of people to India. The information I found was extremely interesting as it

was related to a book I have been reading while on this Dialogue, *Collapse* by Jared Diamond. This book discusses the significance of climate change on the collapse of historical civilizations. I researched that there is evidence to believe that the residents of the Indus River Valley sought to live elsewhere because of a significant drought that lasted 200-300 years because of weakened monsoon patterns. I couldn't help but be worried about what might happen to India after I read an article talking about the weakened monsoon season of 2015 due to the warming of the oceans.

After thoroughly researching the historical significance the history of India had on climate policies, I started to see why India couldn't limit its emissions. I looked at India's industrial policies after independence, and noticed that India has developed at a fast pace and with it, has allowed the countries around it (SAARC Nations) to develop as well. Still, India does contribute to global emissions but only because it has to in order to develop properly. Through this war game, I understood how energy, economy, and industry are so influential on the development of a country.

My group worked relatively well together and shared various points of views towards our war game strategy, but ultimately decided to work hard towards the goal of allowing India to develop without having an emissions cap be a factor that impedes development. Each group member worked extremely hard on making our presentation comprehensible while remaining sophisticated. Our presentation was finished, but we encountered several problems of how to get the presentation to the moderating team. Wi-Fi again was the issue. After a significant amount of stress and communication between our team and the moderators, we were able to find a way to give our presentation to the moderators on time. I learned the importance of finishing things ahead of the time they are due in case unexpected factors, such as this, come up.

The fun began on the morning of the 21st of June when we entered the conference room. Team India was set to go third out of the five teams. We listened intently to the presentations of China and the US, while I took detailed notes on each. Taking notes and trying to listen to the content of the presentation was a difficult task, luckily, my team had paid attention so between my notes and their opinions of the presentations we were able to have a good grasp on the concepts presented by each team.

But, of course our presentation couldn't go all the way without an unexpected twist! The internet wouldn't cooperate and wouldn't allow our GoogleDoc to present properly, but our team was able to adapt to the conditions and present a great presentation. Personally, I noticed that during the war game, it was hard for me to "become" team India. I often referred to India in the 3rd person, and thought about India's policies as an outsider looking in. I felt that I developed a lot in between the questions after our presentation and our final discussion in the global policies in turning India's policies into a more personal discussion (especially when Team China proposed their idea on dams).

As the war game progressed, I felt more and more uncomfortable about how people were putting in policies that I thought weren't really related to a war game regarding climate change. I felt that some groups were implanting ideas that drew away from the focus of the war game. Many of the points presented were valid and understandable, but I felt that they held too big of an importance in this war game, and took away from the meaning of a war game focusing on climate policies and initiatives.

During the negotiations, I realized how hard it must be for policy makers to come to compromises that could possibly limit their country. These policy makers speak for the lifestyles of many people in their own country and their decisions can have such a large impact on a

country's way of life. Travelling to India and actually seeing the economic and living conditions of India, gave me the passion to adopt policies that would strengthen the country and also gave me the confidence to argue for India.

Overall, I felt a lot better about my own performance in this war game than the first. I felt more comfortable with the people on my team and I felt that we disagreed about very little over the course of the war game. I thought some of the policies that were discussed during the war game were too off topic at some points, but overall I felt I gained a strong understanding of how difficult it can be to draft world policies when every nation has such different needs and wants.