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“From A Moral Standpoint Or An Efficiency Standpoint?”

*Climate Change and It's Effects on India's Development*

*War Games I 2014*

When I first found out I was going to be taking the role of the moderator in the First War Games, I was terrified and excited all at the same time. I saw it as a challenge, one that I would have to learn to conquer during the first weeks of our stay in India. Personally, the terror came with the fact that I would have to speak to and direct an entire room full of brilliant minds. Public speaking has always been an area with which I struggle often in my academic life. Even though I have been attempting to put myself out there more in order to conquer this fear, it is still something I am not fully comfortable with. On the other hand, the excitement was sparked by the opportunity this role came with to put myself out there once again and attempt to suppress that side of me that wants to hide under a rock every time I have to speak in public.

The combination of these two emotions persisted in me up until the day of the War Games I for the Climate Hazards course of the Dialogue. During this specific War Game, the group was divided into 5 groups, each representing a sector of India: Water, Healthcare, Agriculture, Energy, and Industry. The task given to the students was to think like a US appointed group consisting of experts in areas within their own sectors. They would then discuss and negotiate among sectors with the final objective being a list of policies they think should be implemented in India to further its development that would later be sent to the Prime Minister of India. Warning: Sounds easier than it is.

I had previously read the Center for a New American Security's *Clout & Climate Change War Game Participant Briefing Book* that recorded the entire process of the War Game as well as the outcomes of that Game. This gave me a general idea of how the Game would work and what my role would be in it. While I did this on my own, the other groups began their research on their specific area. From the input that I received from the group leaders, some groups decided to do research on their own and then bring it all together while others decided to work collectively. After their research, they were told to put their information and talking points in a PowerPoint presentation which all members contributed to. They then

sent these presentations to the myself, the moderator, 24 hours before the start of the War Games. With these, I compiled a PowerPoint presentation of my own with a summary of all the sectors as well as possible points of discussion and agreement.

These groups' presentations would then be used by the team leader for Session 1, where the team leaders of all the groups would have 20 minutes to present to the entire convention in order to give them a general idea of the deficiencies and needs of their sector. This would be followed by a 10 minute question period during which any member of the groups could ask any relevant questions to the presenting team. The order each team presented was decided based on their own requests. All but one informed the moderator that they wanted to go either first or last, and therefore she had to accommodate the teams as best as she could.

During this session, all the groups gave a brief description of the topic they were talking about, Water first, then Healthcare, Agriculture, Energy, and Industry in that order. The questions for this session did not create too much turmoil. The water group got questions regarding drip irrigation and related issues such as dams. Likewise, the healthcare team received questions about the steps that should be taken to make healthcare more accessible to the rural community. On the other hand, the agriculture team received questions targeted at the fact that their biggest problem is the inefficient use of water by the farmers. The conversations got a little more heated when it was the energy and industry's turn to answer questions. The energy sector got questions regarding the efficiency of India's energy as well as the trends of energy consumption. Investments were the main topic of the question and answer session of the industry team. During all of the question sessions, the moderator struggled with begin fair and taking questions from each team equally given that fact that there is only a certain amount of time allotted and most of the questions required follow ups or more in depth discussions. When this happened, the best solution was to just let the group presenting give a brief answer and then retake the issue during Session 2.

After giving a brief 1-2 minute presentation about what they believe are the points of contention and conflict based on the presentations from Session 1, all groups were given a lunch break where they would also meet with the other sectors to try to negotiate with each other. Since the groups were given free range for lunch, it was extremely difficult for the moderator to get all the members of the team in the same place so they could meet. It would definitely be helpful for further War Games that the teams be

provided lunch in the same room so it can be easier to meet right away. Because of the lack of time, the negotiation period had to be shorter than ideal at around 12 minutes each. More time given to these negotiations might have shortened the time spent in Session 2 of the War Game later. They had each previously told her the teams they wanted to meet with, which was all of them except energy and healthcare. The first set of meeting consisted of industry and healthcare and agriculture and energy. The second included water with healthcare and agriculture and industry and energy on the other side. Water would then proceed to meet with energy while industry and agriculture negotiated. The last of the meetings was between the water and industry teams. After the meetings, they met as a sector again to prepare a couple of slides summarizing their negotiations.

Moreover, when we reconvened after the break, the team leaders for Session 2 of each group had 5 minutes to present their slides. During these 5 minutes, there were to be no interruptions from other members of the convention or any questions after the presentation was done. Most of the teams were able to portray what they had achieved in around 2-3 minutes time. Once this was done, I had to go over every bullet point on the slides and make sure every team agreed with that specific policy recommendation. This is where it got tricky.

Given the fact that the private negotiations could not be long enough, groups thought they had negotiated something with one team when they really hadn't. At first, it still remained pretty civilized and calm given the fact that infrastructure was a topic that all groups thought definitely needed more focus. This is the reason the first bullet point on our policy recommendations for the prime minister was the creation of corridors that would consist of this infrastructure that India so desperately needs to further develop as a nation in all its sectors. Thanks to the agricultural sector thinking about the population of farmers they had to protect, the industry sector agreed that these corridors would displace the least amount of farmers. Likewise, they would give them compensation by buying the land that they would later use to build the corridors as well as employment opportunities for this rural population. Along with these corridors, the second policy recommendation consisted of health centers or hubs where people can go for medical attention or any sort of help. They would also have the opportunity to receive education on all of the different sectors so that they can be aware of the importance of all these sectors and their effect on their lives. This education would include farmer education for any new or existing technology that

were to be introduced to make this sector more efficient. It is important to give this education to the farmers so that they can use the resources they are given effectively.

Likewise, given the concentration on climate change of this War Game, long term investment in renewable energy was an easy conclusion to achieve and recommend to the Prime Minister of India. In the same manner, the agricultural sector request to improve transport and refrigerate crop was easily passed. While the agricultural team was at it, they managed to get the industry team to accept to invest more in their sector. After the agriculture team had their go at the industry team, they decided to go at the energy team and ask for customized energy on farms, more specifically with solar and wind energy, which they were granted and was put on the policy recommendations list. This would be achieved by redirecting the subsidies that are currently given to farmers so that these can be put into areas that will aid the agricultural sector in a more significant manner than they are now.

Proceeding the agricultural sector's policies, the energy team agreed to sell energy to a local Smart Grid in hopes that this would help the energy efficiency problem in India. Along these lines, all sectors agreed to continue subsidies to energy and the importance of energy on farms for rural electricity. Also, the creation of micro finances that would help the farmers as well as selling farmers solar and wind energy to create the smart grids were policies that were unanimously agreed upon by all sectors. After some smooth sailing through these recommendations, there was a debate over the industry's investments on R&D. The energy team asked the industry sector to invest on solar, wave, and algae biofuels. However, the only one the industry team agreed to was solar energy since they believed this would be the only one that would be profitable enough. No matter how much the energy team fought for the other forms of energy, the only investment that got into the list of policies was the R&D for solar energy.

Even though the agricultural sector seemed to have gotten the better end of the deal, the convention could not reach a consensus regarding the long term harnessing of workforce in rural areas for industry. This came with the debate of the fact that agriculture takes up 51% of India's workforce but only contributes 17% of the GDP. The idea of taking these farmers, the ones who would not be as needed once the agricultural sector developed based on the policies recommended, into the manufacturing area of industry was thrown around, but no agreement could be made that would satisfy the wants of all sectors. Likewise, a big debate that took place during Session 2 was the export of electricity to Bangladesh in

exchange for natural gas. Some sectors did not like the dependency on other countries, while others thought India had enough electricity deficient areas that could use this power instead of giving it to another country. Just like the previously discussed point, no consensus could be reached in this specific topic.

By this point, most of the teams were content with what they had achieved or at least so I thought. A member of the water team realized that nothing on the list explicitly regarded water or the policies they believed needed to be implemented in order to better the water situation in India. Most of the things on the list were related to water, but nothing was put on paper. In order to make up for this, a new bullet point was added to increase infrastructure for safe and sanitary water. This was not all. To come would be almost an hour debate over the infamous 2012 Water Policy. When this was briefly addressed previously, industry decided to abstain so it was put in the No Consensus list. However, when the topic was approached again, the industry team asked the water team to elaborate on what this policy encompassed. Once the water team said the words pollution control, the industry team recoiled and immediately said they would not agree to the enforcement of this policy in India. The pollution clause was very vague in this policy as we found out from a water delegate, but it still caused the industry team to shut down and reject it completely.

As this debate kept going on, the convention called Professor Rajarshi Majumder to aid in clearing up the main points of the 2012 Water Policy. In the interest of time, the group decided to rename this policy the 2014 Water Policy ++ that would have 3 major points: water pollution standards, groundwater uptake, and the pricing of water. When asked if the teams would ratify these specific areas, the first was agreed to be a phasing out of pesticides according to the agriculture clause and was left subject to ratification by the industry team according to the industry clause. The second would also be a phased implementation of sustainable recharge and left subject to ratification by the industry clause. The third point regarding the pricing of water was the only one that all the sectors agreed upon.

After the water issue was settled, the War Games I came to an end at around 8:00 p.m. on May 23, 2014. Overall consensus was reached regarding the importance of putting resources into the building of infrastructure, the need for accessibility of all sectors to the rural population, as well as the need for more investment in renewable energy practices. The list of the policies the sectors recommended were

drafted and sent to the Prime Minister of India for further evaluation. Some sacrifices were made while other great steps were taken towards making sure that India can continue to develop not only as a strong economy with a healthy population, but also as a sustainable and green nation that can aim to fight climate change one step at a time.