

Water Sector Reflection

Thurston Brevett

Goals

As the water sector, our goals were mainly aimed at preserving life across the spectrum, from the rivers to the cities to the farms. Each sector had a need for water resources. However, in our research concerning India, each sector mishandled usage of the water system in some way. Throughout the war game we sought to find a solution for each represented sector that allowed for proper handling from the other sectors as well. We settled on the cancelled dam and canal project as a mitigative measure against many simultaneous problems.

Negotiations

In our negotiations with the agricultural team, we stressed how the issue of ground water depletion was creating a potential issue for agriculture and could lead to catastrophe. It was easy to come to the consensus that GMOs could solve the short term issue of the population expansion while other measures would be used to increase the efficiency of water usage and food waste so that water stress was reduced.

In negotiating with the energy team, we agreed that the dams and canals could be used for distributing power by collecting the mechanical energy of the water a distributed points along the canals.

Similarly, negotiating with the health care sector was productive in that we proposed that bringing more fresh water to areas would allow more people access to drinking water and prepare cities for a sewage infrastructure. However, given the culture and circumstances we had observed in India, it was clear that the water would become dirty soon again without waste disposal and public cooperation through education, with the health care team promised to provide.

We did not engage in talks with the industry team prior to the debate.

Debate

During the debate, we as the water sector continually forced the conversation to revolve around the dam and canal project, blindly touting it as a perfect solution with minor ecological side effects that

were not represented at the debate. It was basically our response to every issue that appeared, from apparent flood mitigation, to water distribution, to an irrigation source. However, upon understanding the press' reaction to dams and researching further, it became clear that the effects of building dams were unclear, as in many cases they had the effect of altering water patterns in an extreme way such that floods increased or droughts began. This was a huge curveball in our plans, but we decided to continue despite the uncertainty. Although we did this in the interest of the water sector, in reality it was an extremely large risk that in real life I would question the integrity of in the interest of preventing more extreme weather.

Besides the dam and canal project, we pushed for measures requiring proper treatment and conservation of water by all represented sectors.

Results

In the end, our push for the dam and canal project was successful. However, I based on the press' remarks, during the press release, I responding by expressing recommendations to postpone dam production until the effects were well studied. It also follows that the funds we allocated would go towards that research until the effects all well enough studied to properly select the location and conservation parameters of the dam.

Reflection

In reflecting, the war game was successful from my team's perspective in that we achieved our main goal of gaining unanimous support for our dam and canal project. However, in the larger picture of solving India's problems, there is a chance that this project would create greater problems than it would solve. While stakeholder representation allows for debate between critical points needing compromise, it does not prove effective in considering all issues when stakeholders are omitted, and when uncertainty is involved. It also has the potential to give power to numbers rather than importance. In the future, I would recommend a dictator structure with a single intelligent person (that Thurston guy seems pretty tight) to gather all information and decide the priorities as it relates to the people of India rather than based on the deliberations of individual stakeholders.