

RSGF 2021 Online Settings of the Virtual Country for Discussions

【Problem 1】Disasters Mitigation and Water Problems

Problem	Disasters from typhoons
Related SDGs	#6, #9, #11, #13, #15, #17
Mission	Consider the disaster mitigation measures to prevent damages by typhoons and the assurance of secure and safe water!
Tasks to be cleared	① Can the people living near the river live with safety and security? ② Has the country developed effective disaster prevention measures? ③ Are the river system control measures environmentally friendly, and can people ensure stable water use for farming?
Roles	1. Farmer living near the river 2. Poor person living in the slum near the river 3. Resident living in an urban area 4. Governor 5. NPO person
Situations /Controversial points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A big problem for the country has been heavy rains caused by typhoons every year. Flood damage has even affected urban areas. Due to flooding and sewage problems, rural and urban water supplies cannot be used safely and securely. • Since the width of the river is narrow, heavy rains quickly cause the water level to rise, causing frequent floods. • Heavy rains also cause landslides which have become a problem for the area. • The levee situated along the river was built 50 years ago, but collapsed during the heavy rains several years ago. • There are pros and cons to levee or dam construction. City and urban residents are in favor of building them to reduce damages to homes and businesses. • For the construction of the levee, the residents of the riverside area (slum area) face (the possibility of) forced eviction, and eventually they will lose their homes. • Agricultural land will be lost due to the construction of the levee causing farmers to lose their jobs. • Dam construction will force deforestation. • Stable and safe use of water for farmer's agricultural land is not possible due to the poorly built river system control. • NPOs are working toward the realization of a circular economy. They are aware of existing problems with environmental issues, disaster prevention, securing safe water, and supporting slum areas, but they have not yet been able to carry out sufficient activities. • The government has been making efforts such as spending more of the national budget for economic and industrial development, but has not put much effort developing policies for disaster prevention, environmental problems, and poverty problems in slum areas. • Climate change is considered to be a major factor in the repeated heavy rainfall.
Research hints /Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the problems and requirements from the viewpoints of the assigned roles. • Research about relevant situations related to damage and problems in countries or regions which have been affected badly. • Research about the living environment of slum residents (reasons for living there, jobs, hygiene, etc.), the poverty situation and the causes / reasons for poverty. • Research about the advantages of levees/ dam construction and tree planting. • Research about examples of environmental destruction caused by the construction of levees or dams • Research about the cost of levee or dam construction, and about how to use the national budget in emerging countries • Research possible ways to prevent floods • Find out what is needed for disaster mitigation due to climate change

【Problem 2】 Industrialization and Environmental Destruction

Problem	Deforestation by rubber farming and environmental destruction by industrialization
Related SDGs	#1, #3, #4, #7, #8, #9, #11, #13, #14, #15, #17
Mission	Encourage rubber farms and rubber industries to create a sustainable business model which protects biodiversity!
Tasks to be cleared	<p>① Are rubber farms and rubber industries sustainable?</p> <p>② Are children's human rights protected?</p> <p>③ Has the impact on the natural environment (animals, plants, humans, CO₂ emissions) been minimized?</p>
Roles	<p>1. Ocean coast resident</p> <p>2. Rubber industry worker</p> <p>3. NPO person</p> <p>4. Fisherman</p> <p>5. Rubber farmer</p>
Situations /Controversial points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing, manufacturing and exporting of natural rubber has become a major industry and income provider for this country, and the industrialization of the coastal area has been remarkable in recent years. Deforestation caused by rubber plantation development is contributing to global warming, and at the same time, animals living in the mountainous areas of this country are in danger of extinction. Rubber plantations are often run by small families and their income is low. In addition, their standard of living has not improved in the system. The enrollment rate and literacy rate are low in the mountainous areas. Due to poverty and a fragile local administration, the dropout rate of primary school students is high. Children living in the mountains are not provided enough education. In addition, rubber plantations utilize child labor so this as well as child marriage due to poverty have become big problems in the community. Along with the industrialization of rubber manufacturers along the coastal area, environmental pollution has devastated rich fishing grounds, and the ecosystem is collapsing. As a result, it has had a great impact on the fishing industry. With the development of rubber manufacturing companies, there has been an increase in CO₂ emissions. As industrialization progresses, environmental pollution is causing biodiversity to be lost at an increased rate. Residents near the coastal areas have reported health issues such as respiratory infections, heart disease and lung cancer. The rubber manufacturing industry has been accused of damaging the local environment and abusing the human rights of local inhabitants. NPOs are working to solve problems related to poverty and preventing child labor with the aim of realizing children's rights such as health, nutrition and education. They also want to protect the natural environment and biodiversity while ensuring the coexistence of humans and nature.
Research hints /Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the problems and requirements from the viewpoints of the assigned roles. Research the relationship between deforestation, biodiversity loss, and global warming. Research the problems of child labor and child marriage related to industry, as well as educational problems of the people living in poverty. (school enrollment rate, literacy rate, etc.) Research the relationship between the development of industrial areas and CO₂ emissions, and pollution. Research the impact on marine life and loss of biodiversity while developing industry. Research examples of sustainable products.

【Problem 3】 Disparity in Urban Areas

Problem	Disparity in Urban Areas
Related SDGs	#1, #3, #4, #10, #16, #17
Mission	Realize a diverse society!
Tasks to be cleared	①Can people of all segments in society lead a sustainable and secure life? ②Is crime decreasing in the society? ③Does the society guarantee basic human rights and diversity with reduced disparities?
Roles	1. Governor 2. Wealthy person (Person from a large company promoting development) 3. Poor immigrant (Working immigrant with low wage) 4. Slum dweller 5. Middle-class local resident
Situations /Controversial points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three economic class systems (wealthy, middle class, and poor) in the urban areas of this country, and the disparity between them is wide. • In the urban areas of this country, there is a mixture of areas where the rich live and areas where the poor live. • In urban areas, there is a push by large construction companies to promote development. • People who work in large companies that promote development receive a high income and lead wealthy lifestyles. • In recent years, the number of migrant workers of other ethnic groups from neighboring countries is increasing. • Workers who have immigrated in search of jobs can only work in low-wage jobs. In addition, they have no permanent residence, and there is insufficient support in education, employment, medical care and social welfare which considers their language and culture,. • Employment of immigrants, working environment, and their low income are the problems, and also they are discriminated against due to economic disparity and the differences of languages, culture, and customs. It is difficult for immigrants to adapt to the culture of the local community. • Infrastructure such as water and sewage systems is not maintained in the slum areas. • It is becoming more and more difficult for people living in the slums to work due to the influx of immigrants. • There are frequent crimes in urban areas such as drugs, theft, gun trade, and prostitution. • As the number of migrant workers increases, local residents are worried about the deterioration of their living environment in terms of security.
Research hints /Case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the problems and requirements from viewpoints of the assigned roles. • What kind of society is one without disparities? • Research the cases of countries with wide disparities and social problems caused by disparities. • Research the causes of poverty among low-wage workers such as slum dwellers and the cycle of poverty. • What kinds of jobs do migrant workers have? Research about employment issues, working environment, income, social security, and education for migrant workers. • Research about diverse societies, and what is necessary to pursue it. • Research the meaning of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and problems related to them.

