



Press corps/ Sydney Morning Herald

Press Corps

Reporter: Benjamin Karpatkin

Topic: ECOFIN DEV/ Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Delegates from Asia and the Pacific Group had a few things to say on this issue. These delegates wanted to discontinue energy plants that emit carbon dioxide and encourage reduction, or even to go as far as to enforce getting rid of fossil fuels altogether. These delegates also wanted to match developing countries with developed countries so that the developed country could support the one that is still developing. On the other hand, the delegates from Oman also didn't want nuclear energy because they believe that it creates too much nuclear waste, and that would harm the environment. I didn't deny the fact that nuclear waste is harmful to the environment, but there are ways to dispose of it that are not harmful to anyone. I mentioned these possibilities, and when they heard them, they thought that I was mentioning good points. Afterward, they somewhat changed their original beliefs.

The Western European and Others Group was the next group that I observed. They had very similar beliefs to the previous one. They, like Asia and the Pacific Group's delegates, also wanted to get rid of energy sources that deplete non-renewable items. Similarly to the delegates of Asia and the Pacific Group, they wanted to pair developed and developing

countries to help the developing countries. In general, India said to give access to reliable, clean and affordable energy for all. I didn't get any information other than that on their group.

All other groups, except for the Asia and Pacific one, wanted to make solar panels much more prevalent and less expensive. This group also had the idea of pairing countries, so the more developed one could help the less developed country. They also wanted to raise the cost of fossil fuels so that people will be driven away from using them. Along with that, this group wanted to draw concern to energy in countries that are still developing. This large selection of countries was encouraging everyone to join the Paris Climate Accord. One of the delegates of Kyrgyzstan said this on the matter: "The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan thinks that we need to build more nuclear power plants, tear down fossil fuel plants to save the planet. We have enough nuclear energy to power the planet for about one hundred years. In these 100 years, we can make more solar panels [to power the planet]". Along with Kyrgyzstan, the Delegation of Hungary believed that nuclear energy is a very good alternative. More specifically, a delegate of Hungary said this: "We could recycle nuclear waste for a reliable power source", and he also said that "Hungary is about fifty percent nuclear powered". A not so believable exaggeration from that delegate was: "Hungary can supply the whole world with nuclear energy". The Kyrgyzstan delegate also said that "The Delegation of Kyrgyzstan is strongly suggesting that thorium reactors are the solution". On the other hand, some delegates didn't like the idea of nuclear power. I overheard a delegate saying something along the lines: "if the world goes nuclear, we'll explode". They were thinking of the nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan. In that case, all the safety mechanisms worked, but the tsunami was the thing that shut down the safeties, causing the meltdown.

All there is left to say is that, no matter what, clean, renewable energy is always better.