

# Teaching by Simulation in Hong Kong Tertiary Education

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# Educational Simulations...

- “Sequential decision-making classroom events in which students fulfill assigned roles/tasks ... within an environment that models reality, according to guidelines provided by the instructor.”
- J.P. Hertel and B.J. Mills, Using Simulations to Promote Learning in Higher Education, Sterling, VA, Stylus Publishing, 2002. (p.15).

# Why Use Simulation?

- Real-world issues, but in safe learning environ
- Model reality, simplify complex realities
- Enhance student motivation
- Positive attitude toward learning
- Autonomy, responsibility, power to students
- Skills: collaborate, lead, decide, communicate
- “Gamification” of learning: fun, goals, rules
- Enact, apply, learn-by-doing, learn for purpose

# Modeling Complex Realities

- “Simulations have the power to recreate complex, dynamic political processes in the classroom; ...allows students to examine the motivations, behavioral constraints, resources and interactions among institutional actors.”
- C.M. Shaw, *Designing and Using Simulations and Role-Play Exercises*, International Studies Encyclopedia, 2010.

# HKAC Simulations in Hong Kong

- Climate Change Summits
  - Copenhagen 2009 and Paris 2015
- South China Sea (2012 and 2013)
- Six Party Talks on DPRK Nuclear Program
- G 20 China at HKU; G20 Germany at CityU; G20 Argentina at HSMC; generic G20 at EdU
- Negotiating Asia Trade Agreements 2017/18
- Belt and Road Initiative (in design)

# G 20 in Hamburg July 2017



# G-20 Summit Simulation in HK

- What is the G-20?
- Transnational Coordination to Solve Big Global Problems in an Era of Rising Nationalisms
- Annual summits; “sherpas” meet prior for prep
- 20 country teams (or fewer to simplify)
- Min 4 – Max 6 students per team
- Roles: HOS, Foreign, Finance, Environ Minsters
  - Health/welfare; education (at EdUHK); press





# Hang Seng's G20 Summit



# G 20 Heads of State

- Terrorism is unacceptable in all our nations. How can G- 20 states work together more closely to prevent the outbreak of terrorist incidents, and to prosecute the perpetrators, and their supporters, of acts of terror on innocent citizens? In particular, how can we prevent the uses of the Internet to promote terrorism, even while protecting the rights and freedoms, including privacy, of law-abiding citizens and commercial groups to use the Internet in the process?

# Heads of State at HSMC G20



# Foreign Ministers

- How can the G-20 governments reduce the number of refugees and displaced people who cross national boundaries, even while maintaining reasonably open borders for legitimate and free movement of our citizens?

# Journalists Interviewing Delegates



# Finance Ministers

- How can the G-20 governments coordinate in supporting lawful and efficient collection of tax from its respective citizens?
- After long periods of low interest rates, which were put in place after the 2008 financial crisis, how can our central banks gradually raise interest rates without adversely affecting economic growth?
- How can the G-20 governments assist each other in preventing money laundering of ill-gotten gains from economic crimes, especially in service of financing terrorism?

# Sherpa Policy Dialogues



# Environment Ministers

- What has been the experience to date in implementing the national targets for reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases (GHG) set in the UN COP 21 agreement in Paris in December 2015?
- Is it possible to establish a carbon trading system at a global level?



# Sherpa Meeting



# OTA: Negotiation Scenario (1)

## 1. Tariffs

- The Trade Agreement will contain a chapter on tariffs. The objective is to eliminate virtually all tariffs between the participating countries. Only a very few products will be considered for an exemption.
- All tariffs will be eliminated according to one of the following schedules:
  - Immediate elimination upon entry into force of the agreement
  - Five year elimination period, 20% reduction per year
  - Ten year elimination, 10% reduction per year
  - Exempt from elimination
- Negotiate a tariff elimination schedule for two product categories:
  - Consumer electronics
  - Rice



# OTA Scenario (2)

## Digital Commerce

- The Trade Agreement will contain a chapter on digital commerce. The objective will be to liberalize internet and electronic commerce to the maximum extent possible.
- For this opening round of negotiations, you will negotiate on the specific issue of local data storage requirements. You will need to address these points:
  - Shall any and all local data storage requirements be prohibited under the PTA?
  - If local data requirements are to be permitted under some circumstances, you must precisely define what those circumstances are.

# President Argentina G20 Communique



# Design the Sim Sequence

- How much time? What space can we use?
- One or multiple events
- Team formation and team building
- Research, preparation by students critical
- Stay in role (acting)
- Initial positions; negotiations; final agreement
- Suspense; reflection; rewards and recognition

# Program/ country team advisors



# Issues in Simulation Design

- Pressure to make a deal; constraints at home
- Use of online communication with F2F
- Journalists interview delegates; report; blog, etc
- Side-bar bi-lateral meetings on other issues
- Decorum and formal meeting rules
- Chairs of sessions; keep time; name tags; signage
- Intervening events, surprises, quick responses
- No-deal outcomes are also OK; reflection time
- Working group; sim committee; X-discipline



# Awards Dinner

