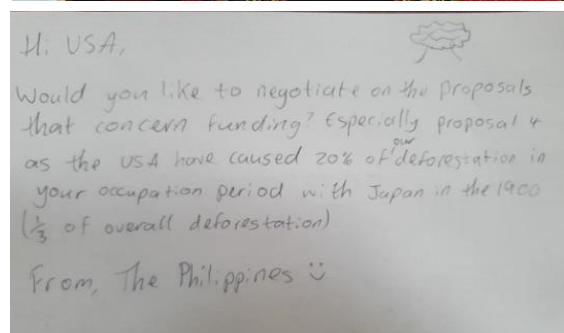


Introduction

On 11 October, WCIA and partners at Size of Wales were delighted to host their first face-to-face MockCOP event in two years. Students from 6 different schools in and around Cardiff came together at Cardiff City Hall to negotiate solutions and generate agreements in the quest to tackle climate change.

What is MockCOP?

MockCOP is an event that mimics the Conference of Parties (COP) which takes place each November. Student delegations prepare as a country and negotiate a resolution which all delegations are invited to discuss. They will then vote and agree amendments which, in turn, ensures students have a real opportunity to grasp the complexities of making agreements between countries with very different circumstances. The event was open to students between the ages of 14 and 18 and offered a opportunity for debate, critical thinking and creative negotiation.



What was the impact of MockCOP for WCIA?

This face-to-face nature of the event allowed us to work more directly with teachers than we had for several years. We had two completely new schools working with us this year. One described the event as “such a great day for my students”, asking us to keep in touch with future events around debate and negotiation because “they can’t get enough. The first thing they asked is can we do it again?” (Holly Richards, Coleg Y Cymoedd). The other teacher was known to us through debating and was really impressed with this new event: “I brought one group to test it out this time but next time I’d like to bring more.” (Julie Thelwell, Howells School).

What was the impact of MockCOP for students?

Students at the event were interviewed and described how the new format with a “free flow” negotiation section allowed them greater creative freedom and confidence with approaching a larger audience of different people. “I feel as though I really got going this time” (Danielle, Treorchy High). Others described how they appreciated the opportunity to think critically about amendments being offered and empowered to go further and take action.

“I’d really like to hear more about the Youth Climate Ambassadors programme. I hadn’t thought about what I could do about climate change but I’d really like to work with others and make a difference.” (Justna, Howells School)

