

Interviewee 1

Interviewee 1 is an undergraduate economics student. The question we discussed was: Discuss the possible impacts of global warming over the next 100 years. He has some knowledge of climate change issues. He discussed the possible impacts of global warming in three dimensions: environmental, economic and social. He believes that the first impact will be on the environmental level. Warming will directly cause the melting of glaciers in the polar regions. This means that the habitat for polar life is shrinking. The living conditions of polar life are deteriorating. This could lead to extinction and a decline in biodiversity. In addition, melting glaciers will cause sea levels to rise, which could have a huge negative impact on the livelihoods of coastal lowlanders.

Economically, combating global warming will require significant government support, which will lead to increased financial pressure on governments and potentially lead to a reduction in social welfare spending. The government may be able to cover the fiscal deficit by means of higher environmental taxes. In the short term, higher operating costs for companies may result in unemployment in high carbon-emitting industries. In addition, as mentioned above, sea level rise will directly cause economic losses in coastal areas.

At the social level, he thinks that global warming may exacerbate inequalities. Richer countries typically have a higher environmental carrying capacity, while less developed countries have a relatively lower one. This means that the costs of coping with climate change are likely to be higher in poorer countries, which could exacerbate the North-South divide. Because warming will increase the frequency of extreme weather, the agricultural sector will typically be affected harder than industry and services. This implies that inequalities between countries will increase, and income differences between industries within countries may also increase.

Interviewee 2

Interviewee 2 is a Master of Social Sciences majoring in Asian Studies. We discussed the question "What has been done to solve climate change as an existential threat? So his answer was based more on his own understanding and intuition than on academic knowledge. He believes that climate change continues to increase, but that human society has had some success in responding. For example, the UN has created a specific agenda for climate change (I think he was referring to the UN 2030 Agenda or the SDGs) and is the world's largest international organisation to coordinate national responses to climate change. He believes that the UN has the most important role to play in this issue. Although it is not legally binding, it

is the largest platform for communication and collaboration between countries. At the same time, regional organisations can address regional climate issues more specifically, such as the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In addition, he believes that advocacy by governments and supranational organisations has had some success. For example, as a result of their advocacy, there is an overwhelming acknowledgement that climate change is a serious and growing problem. Through awareness-raising, the public will pay more attention to the social responsibility of companies and monitor the work they are doing to save energy and reduce emissions. This has forced companies to compete in the environmental field.

Interviewee 3

Interviewee 3 is an undergraduate student majoring in education. We explored the question "Why is international funding lacking to address such a threat?" and, like Interviewee 2, she had no previous expertise in the field. She believes that the main reason for this is that international economic activity is dominated by the private sector. The private sector prioritises profits and does not pay more attention to environmental protection than government policies such as environmental taxes and tradable pollution targets. The main actors of economic activity are not actively involved in tackling climate change. This explains the lack of funding to address climate issues.

To address this paradox, she emphasises the importance of education. Not only is education compulsory for students, but education for the public is equally important. Moreover, she believes that awareness and education by municipalities are more important than by the state, as it is more accessible to the public. The aim of education is to deepen people's awareness of environmental issues so that they, as consumers, put more pressure on companies to be socially responsible. In this respect, the views of Interviewee 3 and Interviewee 2 are very similar.

However, Interviewee 3 believes that the most critical aspect of solving the climate problem is R&D. This is because public pressure will not change the priority of profit for business. The government and the public should pay more attention to and support technological R&D and education in relevant academic institutions.