**Scenario**

Tohuko Electric Power Company has decided to increase the number of nuclear reactors it currently has in operation. As a result, the Company has decided to site a nuclear power plant in Akita. Akita is home to the former castle town of Kakunodate, a famous hanami spot which is also well known for its beautifully preserved, former samurai district. Of all the samurai houses in Kakunodate, six are open to the public and offer visitors the chance to see arms, antiques, and other treasures of some of Japan’s highest ranking samurai families. Akita also has the deepest lake in Japan, Lake Tazawa, which is located next to many popular hot spring resorts, visited by tourists from all over Japan. In addition, several rivers and canals run through the city. Because of the abundant water source this location is an ideal spot for the new reactor.

The city has an estimated population of 336,250 and density of 364.6 inhabitants per square kilometre (944.3 /sq mi). The total area is 905.67 square kilometres (349.68 sq mi). There are several major universities and research institutes located in the city. Oil refining, woodworking, metalworking, and the production of silk textiles are the main industries, but a small portion of the population still makes its living from fishing the lakes, rivers, and canals in the area.

In order to site the nuclear power plant in Akita, the Tohuko Electric Power Company will need to acquire land located on the outskirts of the city. While the majority of the population lives in the urban areas, the area targeted for the new plant is home to approximately 3,500 individuals. Most of these individuals will lose their homes and small family farms.

The individuals expected to lose their property are not happy with the proposed nuclear power plant. The local fishing association is also concerned because the plant will increase water temperatures in the lake which they believe will impact the ecology of the lake, and thus, their livelihood. University students and scientists in the area also have expressed concerns regarding the dangers of nuclear power, especially in light of the damage to the Fukushima reactor after the recent earthquake.

The government supports the placement of the nuclear power plant in this area. The local mayor is in agreement that the power plant would increase jobs thereby helping the stagnant economy, but is concerned that the money brought in from tourism might be impacted since a nuclear power plant on the horizon will significantly decrease the scenic beauty of the area which most tourists come to the area to enjoy.

**Groups**:

Government officials

Tohuko Electric Power Company officials

Local Mayor

Students/Scientists

Farmers

Fishing association

**Discussion Questions:**

**Government Officials/Power Company Officials**

1. What steps did you take to site the plant? (e.g. Did you first try hard social tools, then soft tools? Did you start with capacity and hortatory tools then switch to authority tools when those did not work? Etc.)
2. Was the negotiating process difficult? What kind of resistance did you face?
3. Were the tools you used helpful in siting the plant? Why or why not?

**Students/Farmers/Fishermen**

1. What steps did you take to stop the siting of the plant?
2. What was the government response to your efforts to stop the construction of the plant?
3. What tool or tools were most effective (if any) in convincing you to allow the siting of the plant?
4. If you decided to fight to the death and not agree to the siting of the plant, why?
5. Could the government had done things differently to convince you to site the plant?

**Local Mayor**

1. Were you for or against the siting of the plant? Why?
2. What steps did you take to help site the plant?
3. What steps did you take to help your constituents who were against the plant?
4. Do you think the tools used by the government were helpful in siting the plant?

**Government officials**: Only allowed to use hard tools to site the plant. You must site the plant at all costs. Failure is not an option. Your job depends on it.

**Government officials**: Can use both hard and soft tools to site the plant. You must site the plant at all costs. Failure is not an option. Your job depends on it.

**Tohuko Electric Power Company officials**: Time is money. The longer the delay in siting the plant, the more money lost. As a result, you want the government to site the plant as fast as possible and will put pressure on them to do so no matter the costs.

**Local Mayor**: It is up to you to decide what has more value. The incentives offered by the government (if any) and the added revenue/jobs the nuclear power plant will add to the local economy vis-à-vis the potential risk of decreased tourism and possible retaliation from disgruntled citizens when it comes time for reelection.

**Students/Scientists**: You do not want the nuclear power plant, but you are not at risk of losing your land. Your objection to the plant is based on the risks/consequences you feel are associated with living next to a power plant. You can protest, demand compensation, demand public hearings, or even a referendum. It doesn’t mean that you will get compensation, a hearing, or referendum, however. In addition, your protests may encounter strong police resistance. It is up to you to decide how you will go about preventing the construction of the plant.

**Farmers**: You will lose your land if the nuclear power plant is sited. You can protest, demand compensation, refuse to leave your farm no matter what, demand public hearings, or even a referendum. It doesn’t mean that you will get compensation, a hearing, or referendum, however. In addition, your protests may encounter strong police resistance. It is up to you to decide how you will go about preventing the construction of the plant.

**Fishing Association**: May or may not be impacted by the nuclear power plant. There are obvious concerns regarding the impact of rising water temperatures and loss of livelihood. You can protest, demand compensation, demand public hearings, or even a referendum. It doesn’t mean that you will get compensation, a hearing, or referendum, however. In addition, your protests may encounter strong police resistance. It is up to you to decide how you will go about preventing the construction of the plant.