

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Singapore Red Cross to Sponsor NUS Teams in Two IHL Competitions

The Singapore Red Cross has agreed to sponsor teams from the NUS Faculty of Law to take part in two international competitions involving international humanitarian law.

International humanitarian law is a set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not participating or who are no longer participating in the hostilities, and it restricts the means and methods of warfare. International humanitarian law, or IHL, is also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict.

This is the third time that Singapore Red Cross is sponsoring an NUS team to the International Humanitarian Law Moot organised by the Hong Kong Red Cross Society. NUS first participated at the second moot in this series in 2002, and the NUS team emerged as the champions.

The objective of the IHL Moot is to raise the awareness of international humanitarian law in the region. The IHL Moot is a traditional international law moot court competition in which students prepare written and oral arguments for one of the parties in a hypothetical case before the International Court of Justice.

In March 2006 teams from East Asia, Southeast Asia and Australia will go to Hong Kong to compete in the 4th Red Cross IHL Moot Competition. The NUS team in the will be comprised of two final year law students, Ms Sheryl Wei Kejia and Ms Fong Lee Cheng. The NUS team will be coached by Assoc Prof Eleanor Wong and Jason Chan, a former star mooter at NUS. Jason is currently a Deputy Public Prosecutor and a part-time tutor in the Faculty of Law.

The Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition was first held in 1989 on the initiative of the French Institute of Humanitarian Law. It is organized by the Comite pour le Concours Jean-Pictet, with the support of other institutions such as the ICRC. It is named in honour of Jean Pictet, the author of the Principles of International Humanitarian Law and the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. NUS participated in this competition for the first time in 2005.

The Jean Pictet Competition is held in a different place each year. The 2006 Competition will be take place in the city of Vrnjacka Banja in Serbia Montenegro from 4 to 11 March 2005. The Jean Pictet Competition has two divisions, one in English and one in French. The winner of the English and French divisions will compete in the international final.

The Jean-Pictet Competition is not a normal moot court competition. It is a unique week-long learning experience in which teams of three students from around the world compete against each other by attempting to find solutions to practical problems of international humanitarian law that arise in a fictitious armed conflict. During the Competition the teams are required to assume different roles, such as advisers to ministries (defence, justice, etc.), lawyers, jurists, delegates of the ICRC or of a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society, or rapporteurs to an inter-ministerial committee, a court, military officers, an international or non-governmental organization, etc. The participants are given a different role for each exercise so that they can understand and appreciate international humanitarian law from many perspectives. After the first two days, the best teams are selected by a jury of eminent

international experts follow to proceed to the semi-final rounds.

A team from NUS will be taking part in this Competition in 2006. This will be the first time that the Singapore Red Cross is sponsoring the NUS team to this competition. The three students representing NUS in the 2006 Jean-Pictet Competition reflects the fact that the NUS Faculty of Law is becoming a global law school. The NUS team is comprised of Ms Veyoma Hevamanage, a LL.M. student specializing in international law who did her LL.B. at the University of Edinburgh; Ms Emmanuele Saada, an exchange student from the Faculty of Law of Poitiers University in France, and Ms Elizabeth Kong, a Diploma in Singapore Law student who did her LL.B. at Cambridge. The team will be coached by Associate Professor Eleanor Wong.

Singapore Red Cross's sponsorship of these teams is part of its programme to enhance awareness of International Humanitarian Law in Singapore. It hopes that through participation in IHL moots, greater interest would be generated in IHL among Singapore law students and the public generally. This can identify future leaders for the further dissemination of IHL and other humanitarian principles which are the core of the Red Cross Movement.