FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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NUS makes its mark in the 2006 Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition

NUS Law School beat past year champions, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), to qualify for the finals of the 2006 Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition. However, after a fierce competition, the Universite Libre de Bruxelles team won the 18th Jean-Pictet Competition. This is only the 2nd year that NUS has participated in this competition. One of its team members, Elizabeth Kong, was also nominated for overall best speaker. The other members were Veyoma Hevamanage and Emmanuelle Saada.

Held from 5-10 March 2006, the event in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia, attracted the participation of 48 universities worldwide. Teams were evaluated primarily on their knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and their capacity to apply it in real-life situations. The panel of 15 judges embodied the expertise and experience in the various practicing areas of IHL. Their backgrounds included the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the United Nations, the International Criminal Court and the academia. Each team was rigourously tested on their ability to debate, negotiate or otherwise persuade in various settings, ranging from a United Nations plenary session to a bilateral meeting with a rebel group commander.

Competition aside, the participants also shared the camaraderie of being in the “Pictet family” which spans seven continents. The organisers repeatedly declared “compete, meet and enjoy!” and provided platforms for friendships to form through food and merry-making.

On behalf of the NUS Jean-Pictet Team 2006, the Faculty would like to thank their kind sponsors Singapore Red Cross, coaches Associate Professor Eleanor Wong and Associate Professor Robert Beckman, tutor Mr. Simon Tremblay, the NUS Jean-Pictet Team 2005, and the Jean-Pictet Committee and the jury members for hosting them.