

## FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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18 March 2008

### **NUS Law students chalk up wins at prestigious international mootings competitions**

The National University of Singapore's (NUS) Faculty of Law has been sweeping aside stiff competition from other prestigious internationally-renowned law schools to win big on the international mootings scene.

Since January 2008, they have been awarded champions in four international mootings competitions from different parts of the world. They include the Oxford Intellectual Property Mootings Competition held in London, the Alexander Stone Mootings Competition held in Scotland, the 6<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot and the international mootings competition at the Asian Law Students' International Conference held in Kuala Lumpur.

#### **Oxford International Intellectual Property Mootings Competition (14 - 16 March 08)**

An NUS team comprising 4<sup>th</sup> year law undergrads Liu Zeming and Nuraisah Ruslan had beaten off stiff competition from 23 international teams to clinch first position at the highly prestigious Oxford Intellectual Property Mootings Competition. They had beaten the University of British Columbia in the final round to clinch the title. This is the second time that NUS had won this competition in three years, an achievement that Lord Justice Mummery highlighted when announcing the results. Lord Justice Mummery was the chief judge of the competition and a senior Lord Justice of the Her Majesty's Courts Service under the Ministry of Justice.

Organised by the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre, this year's competition attracted teams from as far afield as Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. Teams from United Kingdom include Oxford University, Cambridge University, University College London, London School of Economics, King's College London, Edinburgh Law School, University of Aberdeen and others. The NUS team's participation in this competition was sponsored by the Singapore IP Academy.

#### **Alexander Stone Mootings Competition (13 March 08)**

An NUS law undergrad on exchange at the University of Glasgow had helped the university defend its championship title at the Alexander Stone Mootings Competition, a national-level competition among Scottish law schools. Top universities like the Edinburgh Law School, The University of Strathclyde, University of Dundee, University of Aberdeen and others participated in this competition.

Third year undergrad Navin Shanmugaraj Thevar was nominated to represent the University of Glasgow after clinching the 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in its internal mootings competition, the Glasgow Dean's Cup. Navin was the only exchange student participating in this year's Alexander Stone Mootings Competition, and the final of the competition was judged by a judge from the House of Lords, the highest civil court in Scotland.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot (8 March 08)**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot was co-organised by the Hong Kong Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross in collaboration with the Faculty of

Law of the University of Hong Kong and the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong. Clinching the first position for NUS were 4<sup>th</sup> year undergrad Chan Yong Wei and 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergrad Lim Ching Wen.

This is the second time that NUS has won this competition, touted as the first and unique Institute of Higher Learning moot competition in the Asia-Pacific region that aims to raise awareness of international humanitarian issues among law students through examination and debate of wider social issues rather than black letter law. Participating universities include China Foreign Affairs University from Beijing, Chulalongkorn University from Bangkok, Ewha Womans University from Seoul, Monash University from Australia, The University of Hong Kong from Hong Kong, National Taiwan University from Taipei, and others.

### **Asian Law Students' International Conference 2008 (10 - 18 Jan 08)**

An NUS team comprising 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergrads Joel Chen, Edward Ti, Zhuo Wenzhao, and first year undergrad Christine Huang had won the international moot competition at the Asian Law Students' International Conference (ALSIC) 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, organised by the Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA).

This year's moot problem centered around issues of International Criminal Law involving the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in respect of war crimes. The final round was held before a panel of three judges comprising two Malaysian Federal Court Judges, and a Judge of the Court of Appeal. After a tough battle against the delegates from Hong Kong, Singapore emerged champions, with one of the students winning the additional award of Best Mooter. NUS has won the last two international competitions in 2006 in Singapore, and in 2007 at Bangkok.

### **Other mooting achievements**

In addition, NUS teams did consistently well in all the other moots they participated in this year.

NUS were the runners-up in the Asia Pacific Regional Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moots. Final year student Adam Maniam was named overall best speaker as well as best speaker in the finals, a feat the judges described as rare.

Third year law undergraduates Harpreet Kaur Dhillon and Vishal Harnal came in third in the Asia Cup International Law Moot Court Competition which was held in Japan from 26 to 28 August 2008. Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan since 2003, this International Law Moot Court Competition is highly reputed among the Asian international law circles and has acquired a large number of participants and galleries every year. The team was also awarded the Fighting Spirit Award at this year's competition.

NUS also topped all scores in the general rounds of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot -- a moot where over 200 teams take part. The team advanced all the way to the quarterfinals and received honourable mention for its written submissions and oralist Wong Liang Wei.

In the Sherman Sterling Philip C. Jessup International law Moot, the NUS team also advanced to the quarterfinals losing only to eventual winners Case Western Reserve University.

Third-year law student Teo Kai Xiang represented Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven while on the Student Exchange Programme and was unanimously elected as the best orator for the European Regional Rounds of the Manfred Lachs Space Moot Competition. His team was ranked first at the end of the preliminary rounds and eventually went on to participate in the finals where they edged out their opponents in the oral arguments. The team was ranked second overall and notably, was one of only 2 undergraduate teams in the competition.

The NUS mooting programme aims at providing opportunities for students to take part in a wide range of international competition. While the school has an enviable winning record, it prides itself on, more importantly, consistently reaching an advanced level in virtually every competition it participates in.

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