

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT

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NUS Law Student's Presentation On Corruption Research Takes Top Prize

This year's Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference has awarded National University of Singapore's representative, Michelle Virgiany from the Faculty of Law, the prize for best overall oral presentation at the event. Michelle was selected to represent the university in the international conference which took place from 1 to 5 July, at the Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

The conference is a showcase for outstanding undergraduate students of U21 member institutions, which include those from countries like UK, Hong Kong, Australia and India. It aims to attract students from a diverse range of disciplines, and participating students have the opportunity to make presentations of their research.

Each university can nominate up to three students: one for an oral presentation, another for a poster presentation, and the other may be nominated to either category. This year's conference was based on the theme "Connecting to the Future".

Michelle presented her directed research paper, "The Corruption Conundrum in Indonesia", with a brief overview of how the prevalent corruption in Indonesia affects many aspects of the lives of both Indonesians and foreigners. She further illustrated how corruption impedes the country's growth, hinders the flow of foreign investments, and prevents law reforms from being implemented more effectively. Michelle also discussed the effectiveness of the anti-corruption measures implemented and outlined recommendations to improve the country's anti-corruption strategy.

"I learnt a lot from the oral and poster presentations as well as through interacting with the organisers and other participants. I was struck by the enthusiasm displayed by the participants when they discussed their research projects and since I came back to Singapore, I have been reading up on some of the research topics," shares Michelle, inspired by her experience.

A graduate of NUS Law's class of 2012, Michelle said that the experience was a memorable way to close her chapter as an undergraduate. She adds, "I am grateful to my directed research supervisor, Assoc Prof Gary Bell; NUS, especially the Faculty and the International Relations Office; Dr Mark Brantner, who gave me inputs for the presentation; the conference organisers, and the Japanese government for making this all possible."



Michelle Virgiany (2nd from left) together with winners of various categories at the Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference, pose with Waseda University's VP for International Affairs, Katsuichi Uchida (5th from left).