

SMU School of Law wins Asia Cup Moot 2010



(From L-R) SMU law undergraduates Jill Ann Koh, Professor Professor Wakamizu Tsutsui (Chairman of Asia Cup Organising Committee), Stephanie Yeo, Chelsea Tan, and Jonathan Muk

A team of four SMU third-year law students was crowned champions in the Asia Cup 2010 moot competition held in Tokyo earlier this week, defeating leading powerhouse law schools from Japan, China Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

This championship marks the second win by SMU law school in international moot competitions in 2010 alone. It comes hot on the heels of an earlier win in the Monroe E. Price International Media Law Moot in Oxford in March this year, another international moot competition.

Asia Cup is an annual moot competition centred on international human rights and humanitarian laws. It is organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

More than 20 law schools participated in the competition, including many leading law schools from around Asia such as Thammasat University of Thailand, Law School of Renmin University in China, Universitas Pelita Harapan of Indonesia and Universiti Utara Malaysia.

During the national qualifying rounds, SMU law school defeated NUS law school to go on to represent Singapore in Tokyo. This is the first time both law schools meet head-to-head in a competition.

The students – Jill Ann Koh, Jonathan Muk, Chelsea Tan, and Stephanie Yeo – spent more than four months preparing for the competition. They aced the competition despite not even having studied those areas of law before, namely, public international law and human rights.

SMU also picked up prizes for best oralists and best written memorials. The SMU team was coached jointly by Assistant Professor Chen Siyuan and adjunct faculty Mr Wu Zhuang-Hui.

This is the first time SMU law school has participated in the international Asia Cup moot competition.