

SMU team triumphs in simulated court battle

Students from the varsity win regional contest for second straight year

FOUR budding lawyers have argued their way to victory in a prestigious international competition that simulates real-life courtroom battles.

The students from Singapore Management University (SMU) successfully defended its championship title in the Asia Cup 2011 Moot Court Competition, held in Tokyo last week.

They beat 10 other teams from law schools in places across Asia, including Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Moots are simulations of real-life cases where contestants present submissions to a hypothetical court.

In this case, the topic was torture and other forms of inhumane treatment.

The team – Ms Chong Hui Ying, Ms Yeo Gek Min, Mr Devathas Satianathan and Mr Liu Zhao Xiang – argued for and against various positions in different rounds.

This was the second time the university had taken part in the contest, which is in



(From left) Student Liu Zhao Xiang, Prof Chen Siyuan, and students Devathas Satianathan, Chong Hui Ying and Yeo Gek Min. ST PHOTO: ASHLEIGH SIM

its 13th year and is highly reputed in Asian law circles. A team from SMU also won the competition last year.

The students, aged between 21 and 23, were selected to represent Singapore after submitting a 10-page written report on the moot problem to the organiser, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They won despite the fact that none of them except Ms Chong had taken the university's module on public international law.

It meant they had to spend most of their three-month summer break preparing themselves for the competition by scouring textbooks on the topic of torture and picking the brains of their

coach, Assistant Professor Chen Siyuan.

Mr Devathas, 23, was also awarded a prize for being the third best oralist, or orator, in the competition.

He said: "It was a great experience. I believe we all learnt more from mooting than we would have in a 15-week public international law module."

STACEY CHIA