



The winning SMU team at the 16th Asia Cup moot court competition, comprising (from left) Ms Eden Li, Mr Jerald Soon, Ms Nicolette Oon, Ms Bethel Chan and Mr Tan Jun Hong, with Mr Daniel Liu, their coach. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BETHEL CHAN

Third win for SMU law students at legal contest

By IAN POH

A TEAM of law students from Singapore Management University (SMU) has won a prestigious legal contest.

The university, which set up its law school in 2007, beat 18 teams from Asian countries including China, Vietnam and the Philippines at the 16th Asia Cup moot court competition.

Held annually in Tokyo, the event simulates court proceedings and is organised by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Society of International Law.

In beating Universitas Padjadjaran from Bandung, Indonesia in the final round on Wednesday, SMU secured its third win in the

competition in five attempts dating back to 2010.

Its team this year comprised Ms Bethel Chan, 25, Mr Jerald Soon, 24, Mr Tan Jun Hong, 23, Ms Eden Li, 22, and Ms Nicolette Oon, 21. All are in their second to fourth year of study.

Participants in a moot represent opposing sides in a hypothetical legal dispute. They make written and oral arguments to a panel of judges.

Preparations for the oral rounds of the competition were intensive.

These began in late July and included multiple practice rounds with alumni mooters.

This year's topic was international investment law.

The problem concerned the in-

terpretation and application of a bilateral investment treaty, in relation to issues arising from a state's alleged mistreatment of investors.

The team members had to juggle their research and training with law firm internships.

None of the team had studied international law before the competition.

Mr Tan and Mr Soon also won prizes for being the best and third best oralist respectively in the competition.

Mr Tan said: "Grappling with a completely unfamiliar area of the law was challenging, but I'm glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone and that our team's hard work has paid off."

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