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Challenge Trophy

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Winning team from NUS together with Philip Yuen (CEO of Deloitte Singapore) (L to R) Rajul Gupta, Koh Shun Yuan, Koh Kian Sin and Yeo Yi Nah

AsiaOne

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SINGAPORE - Four students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) were crowned winners of the inaugural Deloitte Risk Intelligence Challenge Trophy (RICT), an inter-university competition aimed at raising risk awareness among undergraduates who will soon enter the workforce.

The quartet, Team Techcellence comprising Rajul Gupta, Yeo Yi Nah, Koh Shun Yuan and Koh Kian Sin bagged home a cash prize of \$2,000 in the finals held on Mar 9, 2013, at Nanyang Technological University (NTU)@one-north campus.

Buoyed by their victory over 40 other teams, 24-year-old Kian Sin, said: "The world is changing and we must embrace the fact that risks are abound. This competition has raised our awareness of risk and how we can approach it. It has been a great learning experience for the whole team and we are glad that the hard work paid off well."

Team Tutis from Singapore Management University were first runners-up and received \$900 cash.

Themed Risk in the reset world, the competition was sponsored by Deloitte Singapore and co-organised by NTU's Quantitative Finance and Actuarial Science Club.



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Held over 10 weeks, the competition drew 144 students participating in 41 teams representing NUS, NTU, SIM University, SMU and the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Participants competed in essay writing for the preliminary round where eight teams were shortlisted to progress to the semi-finals.

Teams at the semi-finals were tasked to make case presentations on the risk considerations for angel investors seeking to diversify their portfolio in the Life Sciences, Hospitality and Manufacturing industries.

The final round saw two teams debating on the merits and risks of using a quota system as opposed to a meritocratic approach to improve the gender balance in corporate boardrooms.

Teams were judged on their ability to reason and presentation skills as well on their levels of relevance, creativity and coherence.

Dr El'fred Boo, Associate Professor from Nanyang Business School at NTU, acknowledged that debating is a powerful tool for students to take an active role in honing their knowledge, skills and attitude.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to co-organise RICT with Deloitte. The interaction with risk professionals from Deloitte's Enterprise Risk Services practice has not only enriched the student's learning process, it has broadened their perspective too, and further entrenched their interest in risk management," said Dr Boo.

Mr Janson Yap, regional managing partner of Deloitte's Enterprise Risk Services practice recapped the positive experience of the competition: "I am heartened that many undergraduates from across disciplines have a real enthusiasm in risk issues surrounding them. Deloitte's first competition has provided a platform for them to constructively discuss their opinions of risks in the current corporate world and I hope to see even more students coming forward to participate next year."