



## Press Release

### **Singapore team becomes first university to win prestigious International Criminal Court moot court competition two years in a row**

*Singapore, 29 May 2016 (Sunday)* – The results are in from The Netherlands – mooters from the Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law have done Singapore proud by taking top position at the 2016 International Criminal Court (ICC) moot court competition. Having also won the moot last year, SMU now has the best track record in this competition, and enters the record books as the first university to successfully defend a championship in a major international moot.

The SMU team comprised third-year law undergraduates Nurul Ayu Fajarani, Angus Koh, Stephania Wong, Selina Yap and Joy Yee, and second-year Juris Doctor student Dennis Saw Teng Sheng – all of whom were competing internationally for the first time. The principal coach was SMU alumnus Edmund Koh, and he was assisted by Nicholas Liu, also an alumnus.

Jointly organised by Leiden University and the ICC, this competition was established in 2008, and is now the largest and most prestigious moot competition in the world on international criminal law. The competition has four editions: English, Russian, Chinese and Spanish, with the English edition drawing the most teams. This year, the English competition attracted a global turnout of 112 participating teams, with the best 60 teams qualifying for the international rounds held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 22 to 27 May 2016.

The competition requires each team to represent three sides: government, prosecution and victims. Each speaker speaks for 30 minutes in total - 20 minutes for main submissions and 10 minutes for rebuttal. Each round pits three teams against each other. The SMU team reached the championship final after eight matches, facing off against opposition such as former champions Bond University, University of the Philippines, and VU Amsterdam. In the championship final on 27 May, SMU was up against Germany's University of Cologne and India's National Law School of India University. In the end, it was the SMU team, with their conviction, clarity and composure, that won over the panel, which was presided by ICC judge Howard Morrison.

With these latest results, SMU now has a total of 16 international moot championships in 34 final appearances since the School of Law's moot programme was launched in AY2009/10. In this season alone, SMU has reached eight international championship finals, winning three. Last season, SMU had also reached eight finals, and won five of them.

"We knew that defending our title was going to be hard, especially given the high quality of the international teams, but we have outdone ourselves again this year by matching last year's record of eight international moot finals in a single season. With the continued support of the university and our partner WongPartnership, we look forward to scaling greater heights," said Assistant Professor Chen Siyuan, who heads SMU's International Moots Programme.

In April 2016, SMU also stood out from over 100 teams to become the first university to win the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition, organised by Oxford University, twice.

### Enclosures:

- Annex 1 – SMU School of Law international moot competition achievements (From Academic Year 2009-10 to date)
- For more info on the ICC moot court competition, please visit: <http://iccmoot.com/>
- Photo of the winning SMU team: (L-R) Angus Koh, Dennis Saw Teng Sheng, Stephania Wong, Joy Yee, Selina Yap and Nurul Ayu Fajarani (Photo credit: Edmund Koh)



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### **About Singapore Management University (SMU)**

SMU is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Comprised of six schools specialising in Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems, Law and Social Sciences, it offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes and is home to about 9,300 students. With an emphasis on generating relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues, and being Singapore's only university in the city, SMU enjoys strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community through its research institutes, centres and labs. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

### **About SMU School of Law**

SMU School of Law proudly welcomed its first cohort of 116 students in August 2007. Taught by a dynamic faculty with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and London, the School aims to nurture its students to become excellent lawyers who will contribute significantly to society. Trained with the ability to

contextualise legal expertise and to think across disciplines and geographical borders coupled with SMU's interactive pedagogy, SMU's law graduates are confident articulate and analytically agile.

The SMU School of Law offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems or Social Sciences, and a Master of Laws programme. The School has also launched a full-time graduate programme, the Juris Doctor Programme which can be completed within three years, and in some cases, accelerated for completion within two years. [www.law.smu.edu.sg](http://www.law.smu.edu.sg)

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### **Media Contact**

Huang Peiling  
Senior Asst Director, Corporate Communications  
Singapore Management University  
Contacts: +65 6828 0964 / 98453361  
Email: [plhuang@smu.edu.sg](mailto:plhuang@smu.edu.sg)

Annex 1

**SMU School of Law – International moot competition achievements  
(From Academic Year 2009-10 to date)**

<b>International moot competition</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
1. <a href="#">Ashurst Private Law Moot Competition</a>	University of New South Wales Law Society	<b>AY2015-16 runner-up</b>
2. <a href="#">Asia Cup International Moot Competition</a>	Japanese Society of International Law and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan	AY2010-11 champion, AY2011-12 champion, AY2012-13 runner-up, AY2013-14 runner-up, AY2014-15 champion, <b>AY2015-16 runner-up</b>
3. Asian Law Students Association Moot Competition	Asian Law Students Association	AY2009-10 runner-up, AY2013-14 champion
4. <a href="#">D.M. Harish International Moot Court Competition</a>	Government Law College	AY2014-15 semi-finalist; AY2015-16 octo-finalist
5. <a href="#">Frankfurt investment Arbitration Moot Court Competition</a>	Wilhelm Merton Centre for European Integration and International Economic Order of Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main	AY2014-15 runner-up
6. <a href="#">Hague Choice of Court Convention Moot Competition</a>	Hague Conference Asia Pacific Regional Office	AY2014-15 champion
7. <a href="#">International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition</a>	Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies	AY2014-15 champion, <b>AY2015-16 champion</b>
8. <a href="#">International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot</a>	Murdoch University	AY2012-13 quarter-finalist
9. <a href="#">Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition</a>	International Law Students Association	AY2010-11 exhibition champion, AY2011-12 exhibition champion, AY2012-13 runner-up, AY2013-14 runner-up, AY2014-15 16 <sup>th</sup> -finalist
10. <a href="#">LawAsia International Moot Competition</a>	LAWASIA	AY2009-10 runner-up, AY2011-12 runner-up, AY2012-13 runner-up, AY2013-14 champion, AY2014-15 champion, AY2015-16 semi-finalist
11. <a href="#">Moot Shanghai</a>	Shanghai Bar Association	AY2013-14 runner-up
12. <a href="#">Price Media Law Moot Court Competition</a>	University of Oxford	AY2009-10 champion, AY2011-12 quarter-finalist, AY2012-13 semi-finalist, AY2013-14 quarter-finalist, AY2014-15 runner-up, <b>AY2015-16 champion</b>

13. <a href="#">Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot</a>	Hong Kong Red Cross	AY2009-10 semi-finalist, AY2010-11 semi-finalist, AY2012-13 semi-finalist, AY2013-14 semi-finalist, AY2014-15 quarter-finalist, <b>AY2015-16 runner-up</b>
14. <a href="#">Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot</a>	Association for the Organisation and Promotion of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot	AY2014-15 runner-up, <b>AY2015-16 runner-up</b>
15. <a href="#">Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot</a>	A sister moot to the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot	AY2012-13 Asia-Pacific runner-up, AY2013-14 16 <sup>th</sup> -finalist, AY2014-15 champion, <b>AY 2015-16 runner-up</b>
16. International Law Competition <a href="#">Youth for Peace</a>	International University Mitso	AY2010-11 champion
17. <a href="#">WTO/FTA Moot</a>	Co-hosted by the South Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), and the Korean Society of International Economic Law	<b>AY2015-16 champion</b>

AY = Academic Year

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