

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SMU Law Students Win Singapore National Round of the 2013 Philip C. Jessup
International Law Moot Court Competition**

A team of law students from the Singapore Management University (SMU) has won the 2013 Singapore National Round of the Jessup Moot Court Competition, defeating its rival team from the National University of Singapore (NUS) for the first time since the Singapore National Rounds began in 2011.

The proceedings for the 2013 Jessup Singapore National Round took place on Saturday, 23 February 2013 at the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court. Chaired by Attorney-General (AG), Mr Steven Chong, S.C., the judging panel included Judge of Appeal, Justice Chao Hick Tin and Partner of Allen and Gledhill LLP, Mr Ang Cheng Hock, S.C.

The competition was highly intense as students from both teams presented their arguments while skilfully handling numerous questions from the panel. After two rounds of strenuous arguments spread over 3 hours, the SMU team made history by clinching a narrow victory over the NUS team.

The SMU team will now proceed to represent Singapore at the International Rounds of the Jessup Competition which will take place from 31 March to 6 April 2013 in Washington, D.C. The winning SMU team comprises Mr Kenneth Tan, Mr Shaun Pereira, Mr Aleksandar Georgiev, Mr Liu Zhao Xiang, and Ms Chong Hui Ying, who was also named the Best Oralist for the Singapore National Round.

Said Ms Chong: “The competition was too close to call because both teams were well prepared. I think our advantage was in doing our best to engage the judges. It’s a huge honor for all of us to represent Singapore and we hope to do Singapore proud. Winning this competition affirms SMU is just as good a university to take up law and has potential for achievement.”

The Singapore Management University team also won the prize for Best Memorials for the 2013 Jessup Singapore National Round. The Singapore National Round is administered by the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers.

AG Steven Chong congratulated both teams on their excellent performance. He observed that the quality of this year’s contestants was among the highest he has seen in many years. He commended the contestant for their mastery of the facts and the law, their ability to speak at length without reference to their notes, and the ease and poise with which they responded to questions from the judging panel. AG Steven Chong also expressed the hope that contestants would build on the knowledge and interests they have gained in international law through this competition and some may choose to embark on a career in public international law.

Background on the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

Now in its 54th year, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the largest and most prestigious public international law moot competition in the world.

The Jessup Competition focuses on topical issues of public international law, in the form of simulating hypothetical legal proceedings before the International Court of Justice. The Jessup Competition is one of the world's premier international law events, with participants from over 500 law schools in more than 80 countries.

This year's hypothetical case relates to a dispute between two fictitious countries concerning the legal consequences of climate change resulting in the complete submergence of an island state's territory due to rising sea levels. The legal issues thrown up including:- whether an island state's statehood is extinguished by the submergence of its territory, the status of its citizens who are forced to emigrate as a result, and the protection of the state's assets and the treatment of its sovereign debts in this situation.

For about 30 years, Singapore, through the NUS Law Faculty, has been sending a team to the International Rounds of the Jessup Competition. Singapore currently has the best track record at the International Rounds, having been World Champion four times and Runner-Up eight times. Further information on the Jessup Competition may be found at <http://www.ilsa.org/jessup/international.php>.

Background on the Singapore National Round

For many years, there was no need for a Singapore National Round of the Jessup Competition as Singapore had only one law school. With the establishment of a second law school in SMU, the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) took on the role of the National Administrator for the Jessup Competition in Singapore.

The National Round consists of written and oral segments. In the written segment, teams submitted written arguments (Memorials), which were scored before the oral arguments are made. The Singapore National Round is declared after the conclusion of the oral arguments. Prizes are also be given for the Best Oralist and Best Memorials.

This is the third year of the Singapore National Round of the Jessup Mooting Competition. In both the first and second Singapore National Rounds in 2011 and 2012 respectively, the team from NUS won the competition and SMU won the award for the Best Memorials.

Among the judging panel in this year's Singapore National Round, Attorney-General Steven Chong, S.C. was a member of the NUS team which won the Jessup Competition International Rounds in 1982 and Mr Ang Cheng Hock, S.C. was a member of the NUS team which won the Jessup Competition International Rounds in 1994.