



中国首届国际人道法模拟赛

MOOT COURT

COMPETITIONS on IHL



HONG KONG RED CROSS
Branch of the Red Cross Society of China



ICRC

IN BRIEF



WHAT IS A MOOT COURT COMPETITION?

Moot court competition is an extracurricular activity in which students take part in simulated court proceedings. Students are presented a fictitious case and are required to submit written briefs and participate in oral argument before a panel of professors or other legal practitioners, who serve as judges. They are expected to present legal arguments based on the facts of the case. Their skill lies in identifying the points and articulating their arguments in support of their position.

IHL MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Over the years, the ICRC has been instrumental in organising IHL moot court competitions in various countries in Asia Pacific. Since 2005, the winning teams from each national level IHL moot court competition are invited to participate in the Asia Pacific IHL Moot Court Competition organized by the Hong Kong Red Cross, in collaboration with the ICRC and three partner universities in Hong Kong.

In recent competitions, participating universities were from:

- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- India
- Japan
- China
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- The Philippines
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

THE WRITTEN AND ORAL ROUNDS

- each team is required to submit a written brief or memorial before the oral rounds take place
- the written briefs or memorials are marked by two international law practitioners
- the oral rounds take place before a panel of judges in a court-like setting, composed of national or international judges, legal practitioners and scholars
- the evaluation of the teams' performance is based on their knowledge of the law, the relevance and weight of the arguments presented, and their advocacy skills

THE CASES

- the cases debated at the national and regional competitions address current issues of international humanitarian law and international criminal law
- the competing teams are composed of two students, and they may be assisted by a researcher and/or a coach
- each team is assigned a role as prosecution or defence
- the case is made available to participants at least three months before the oral rounds.

THE FINAL ROUND - THE ASIA PACIFIC RED CROSS IHL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Asia Pacific Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Court Competition was first organized in Hong Kong in 2003 with the aim of raising awareness on humanitarian issues and to promote the spirit of humanity through enhancing the understanding of IHL among law students.

It was first organized as a local moot court competition by the Hong Kong Red Cross, the University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong. The event gradually developed to be an annual regional competition for the Asia-Pacific region with the ICRC as the co-organizer in 2005, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong as the third partner university in 2009. Today, twenty universities from countries in Asia Pacific participate in this prestigious competition with a view to promote IHL in the region.

DISSEMINATION OF IHL AMONG ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been actively involved in the promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in leading academic institutions around the world. It supports IHL teaching and research and is committed to encourage the integration of IHL into the curricula of universities. The aim is to ensure that future leaders and opinion makers understand the practical relevance of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles. Partnerships with universities are thus essential to foster respect for IHL. By encouraging universities to offer courses in IHL and by giving assistance to professors who teach this subject, the ICRC is able to reach out to students who will be the next generation of leaders. Today, students learn the rules of IHL applicable in times of armed conflict. Tomorrow, they will promote and apply them in their respective professions.

Over the years, the ICRC has also been involved in the development of national and regional moot court competitions on IHL. These competitions, which have become increasingly popular in recent years, are highly motivating for both students and professors. Moreover, they encourage more interactive teaching methods based on analyses of contemporary practice. Depending on the local environment and the level of the competition, they are organized by the ICRC delegations in cooperation with local partners such as National Societies, universities, students associations, etc.



In ICRC's experience, moot court competitions on IHL eminently contribute to generate interest in IHL and humanitarian issues amongst students and teachers. Students find it interesting and entertaining while they participate with utmost seriousness. They often engage in extensive reading and research on IHL issues. It further allows them to hone their law practitioners' skills.

FIND OUT MORE

Contact the ICRC delegation nearest to you, or your local Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

In collaboration with the Hong Kong Red Cross Society.



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