

The 22nd Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Championship goes to University of San Agustin

(Hong Kong · 14 March 2024) The 22nd Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot (Asia-Pacific Region) was successfully held from 6 to 9 March 2024. This year, a total of 22 teams from law students across the Asia-Pacific region gathered in Hong Kong. After multiple rounds of simulated trials, the championship was awarded to University of San Agustin, followed by Thammasat University, who won the runner-up. Ms. Samantha Grajo from Iloilo City, Philippines, was awarded the Best Mooter of the Final Round.

The moot problem this year, with a background of the conflict between traditional religious values and urban development, involved humanitarian issues such as harm to civilians caused by drones and cluster munitions, the recruitment of child soldiers for hostilities and the use of narcotic drug during prisoner interrogations. In the intense competition, participating teams appeared in the court as counsels for the prosecution and the defence, conducting simulated trials in a fictional case at the International Criminal Court and presenting their arguments.

The competition invited Mr. Horace Cheung, SBS, JP, Deputy Secretary for Justice, Madam Justice Carlye Chu, Vice President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, Mr. Balthasar Staehelin, Head of ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia, Chairperson of Hong Kong Red Cross, Dr. Lau Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP and Mr. Ambrose Ho, SBS, SC, JP, Chairman of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot Organising Committee, to attend the award ceremony. During the ceremony, Mr. Horace Cheung, Deputy Secretary for Justice, highlighted the importance of upholding international humanitarian law. He expressed his hope that the accomplishments of all participants would inspire others to follow in their footsteps, and that all participants would continue to be champions of international humanitarian law for the protection of human life and dignity.

The competition welcomed nearly 50 professionals from the Asia-Pacific region, including former judges of Supreme Court, defence force, government officials, practicing lawyers, academics, and legal advisors from the International Committee of the Red Cross to serve as judges. They provided insightful questions and comments, allowing participants to gain a deeper understanding of the controversies and impacts of international humanitarian law.

List of Award Recipients

Winning Team
University of San Agustin
Runner-up Team
Thammasat University
Best Mooter of the Final Round
Ms. Samantha Grajo - University of San Agustin
Best Mooter of General Rounds
Best Mooter: Ms. Jessica March - University of Adelaide
First Honorable Mention: Mr. Kurt Schenk - University of Adelaide
Second Honorable Mention: Ms. Natalia Beadle - Singapore Management University

The Best Memorial-Prosecutor
The Best Memorial: Tribhuvan University - Prithvi Narayan Campus
First Honorable Submission: Thammasat University
Second Honorable Submission: University of Adelaide
The Best Memorial-Defendant
The Best Memorial: University of Adelaide
First Honorable Submission: Shandong University at Weihai
Second Honorable Submission: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Quarter-Finalist Teams (Top Eight Teams) (in alphabetical order)
1. General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University 2. Lloyd Law College 3. Singapore Management University 4. Thammasat University 5. The Chinese University of Hong Kong 6. The University of Hong Kong 7. University of Adelaide 8. University of San Agustin

List of the 22 Participating Teams (in alphabetical order)

1. General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, *Colombo*
2. Handong International Law School, *Pohang*
3. Jilin University, *Jilin*
4. Lloyd Law College, *Greater Noida*
5. National Taiwan University, *Taipei*
6. National University of Laos, *Vientiane*
7. National University of Mongolia, *Ulaanbaatar*
8. National University of Sciences and Technology, *Islamabad*
9. Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, *Beppu*
10. Royal University Of Law And Economics, *Phnom Penh*
11. Shandong University, *Shandong*
12. Singapore Management University, *Singapore*
13. Thammasat University, *Bangkok*
14. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, *Hong Kong*
15. The University of Hong Kong, *Hong Kong*
16. Tribhuvan University, *Kathmandu*
17. Tsinghua University, *Beijing*
18. Universitas Islam Indonesia, *Yogyakarta*
19. University of Adelaide, *Adelaide*
20. University of Auckland, *Auckland*
21. University of Dhaka, *Dhaka*
22. University of San Agustin, *Iloilo City*

Photo Captions



1. The winning team of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot (Asia-Pacific Region) - University of San Agustin from Philippines received the trophies from Mr. Horace Cheung, SBS, JP, Deputy Secretary for Justice.



2. Best Mooter of the final round of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot (Asia-Pacific Region) - Ms. Samantha Grajo showed extraordinary legal defense skills in the competition and impressed everyone.



3. Runner-up Team of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot (Asia-Pacific Region) - Thammasat University, representing Thailand won the runner-up and celebrating their achievement.



4. Chief Judge Madam Justice Carlye Chu (middle) and a distinguished judging panel, joined by Mr Horace Cheung SBS, JP, Deputy Secretary for Justice (third from left), Mr Balthasar STAEHELIN, Head of Regional Delegation for East Asia, ICRC (fourth from left), Dr LAU Chor-chiu, Chairperson of the HKRC (second from left), and Mr Ambrose HO, SC, Chairman of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot Organizing Committee of the HKRC (first from left), capture a moment together."



5. The distinguished judges of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot (Asia-Pacific Region)



6. The award ceremony marked the culmination of the event where 22 teams of law students from the Asia-Pacific region came together in Hong Kong for a remarkable International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot competition.



7. The victorious team from the University of San Agustin, Philippines, proudly shares their transformative journey. Their dedication and hard work in preparing for the IHL moot competition have paid off. Through this experience, they have gained a wealth of knowledge about IHL and have grown immensely.



8. On Day 3 of the 22nd Red Cross IHL Moot (Asia-Pacific Region), a group picture was taken to commemorate the culmination of 28 simulated trials conducted over the course of the past three intense days of moot oral hearings.

About the Hong Kong Red Cross

Established in 1950, the Hong Kong Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the world's humanitarian network serving over 190 countries. We dedicate ourselves to motivating people from all walks of life to put humanitarian spirit into action. With services in four main areas, namely, "Emergency Relief and Disaster Preparedness", "Community Health Service and Education", "Humanitarian Engagement and Education", and "Special Education and Rehabilitation", we provide a diversified humanitarian platform for Hong Kong citizens. For details, please visit <https://www.redcross.org.hk/en/>

About International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The International Humanitarian Law, or IHL, is also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict. It is a set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. It is specifically intended to resolve matters of humanitarian concern arising directly from armed conflicts, whether of an international or non-international nature.

Details: <https://www.redcross.org.hk/en/removement/ihl.html>

Introduction Video: <https://youtu.be/XJVMRCPa--4?si=rkj2WXPz4MDy4Da>

About Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot

The Red Cross IHL Moot Competition is co-hosted by the HKRC and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 2003, co-organised by Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong and Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong. IHL Moot aims to raise awareness on humanitarian issues among law students through examination of and debate on wider social issues, with an emphasis on real-world application rather than black letter law. Each participating university would be assigned at random the role of the prosecutor or the defendant for a fictitious court case. Participating law students would plead whether certain acts violated the Law of War and whether the commander of the concerned armed forces should have criminal responsibility for the violating acts. Over 1,000 law students from 23 countries or regions in Asia-Pacific Region participated the competition which is now the largest inter-university competition in scale of its kind in the Asia-Pacific Region. For details, please visit <https://www.redcross.org.hk/en/moot22/index.html>