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Hong Kong Model European Union 2014 Reaching Consensus on “Cyber Security Strategy”

Hong Kong Model European Union 2014 (HKMEU) was successfully held on 25-26th April in Hong Kong Baptist University with over 40 participants students from three universities (Hong Kong Baptist University, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong) simulating the spring session of the European Council. The discussion revolved around “**Cyber Security Strategy**”. **Specifically the participants focused on cooperation between EU member states and creation of national Network and Information Security strategies.** This event is held in association with the European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao (EUO).

The event was opened with a keynote speech by Mr. Vincent Piket, Head of the EUO. Mr. Asad Beg, Head of Political, Press and Information Section of EUO, was the acting President of the European Council during the conference.

Mamta Thadani from the Hong Kong University, one of the six “Best Delegation” awardees, represented the United Kingdom. She believes that the Model EU training sessions “*have instilled in all of us the qualities of being a great speaker and an even better negotiator.*” She added “*The Simulation was indeed an unforgettable experience. The venue depicted of what an actual political simulation would look like; and the lengthy process of legislation formulation.*” Other 8 outstanding participants were awarded with the title of “Honorable Recognition” and “Best Position Paper”. This year, all awardees were offered an opportunity to visit European Union institutions in a week-long 2014 EUAP summer programme in Brussels / Belgium.

The award presentation was held at the Europe Day Reception in the evening of 12th May at Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel. They were congratulated by the Consul Generals of their representing countries.

Model European Union is a simulation of political decision-making processes in the EU, conducted regularly for students of European affairs around the world by leading Universities as well as European Parliament in Strasbourg. Participants act as heads of member states, heads of governments



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or members of European Parliament, discussing the future common policies of the European Union. Hong Kong Model European Union in particular aims to educate Hong Kong students about current events and salient topics in European politics and thereby contribute to a better understanding of the European integration process and the Union's external relations with Hong Kong and China. HKMEU is an unprecedented opportunity to become familiar with the complex decision-making processes in the European Union.

A series of five preceding training seminars were held for the participants by the HKMEU coordinator Dr. Krzysztof Sliwinski so as to familiarize students with the topics of the debate and to hone their negotiation and research skills. "The trainings are very demanding and each year some participants drop out from the exercise altogether. Those who make it to the very end always admit that the exercise proved a real challenge, albeit an enjoyable and profoundly educative." noted Dr. Sliwinski, Assistant Professor at the Department of Government and International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University.



43 participants of the MEU represented different EU member states to simulate the European Council decision-making process

The European Union Academic Programme (EUAP) is a consortium of four universities in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Baptist University, The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University), co-financed by the European Union. It is designed to strengthen EU-Hong Kong relations through academic work and enhance the understanding of the EU.



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Two students representing Spain at the signature board with the Consul-General of Spain, Mr. Juan Manuel López Nadal.



MEU winners were congratulated by representatives from the EUO and Consulate-Generals at the Europe Day Reception.

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