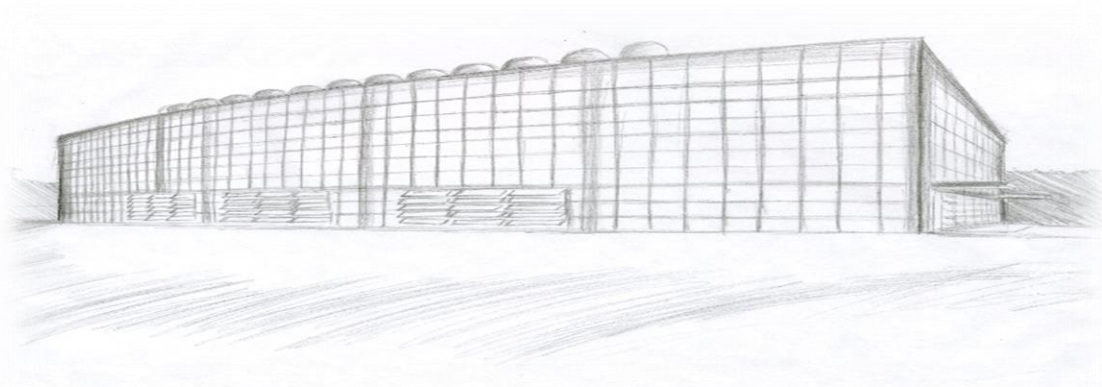


UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**THE 2017 PAN-ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COMPETITION****THE RULES****1. Background**

- 1.1. The Centre for Comparative and Public Law of the University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Unison are co-organizing the Inaugural Pan-Asian Human Rights Moot Competition (“PANAHRM”) in June 2017 at the University of Hong Kong (HKU), Hong Kong. This is the first international competition of its kind focusing on emerging human rights issues and questions impacting the Asia Pacific region. It is intended that this will become an annual competition whereby the host university will be rotated among participating institutions across Asia. However, at this initial stage as interest and participation levels and rise gradually, it will continue to be hosted by HKU’s Faculty of Law.
- 1.2. Selected candidates shall represent their universities to compete with other university teams from the Asia-Pacific region. The event anticipates participation from law schools in Asia, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Taiwan. This list may gradually be expanded as the PANAHRM becomes more widely known. Law schools around the world are welcome to propose their participation in upcoming rounds of the competition. However, where the Competition has reached its limits in terms of its resources to be able to host a large number of teams from around the region and beyond, priority will be given to law schools from the Asia Pacific region to develop and cultivate a rich discourse on human rights issues in Asia.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1. Participating students must be registered at the school which they purport to represent at PANAHRM. Students who have completed their studies (by way of completion of the required units necessary for the award of their degree) as at the registration deadline are unable to be part of a team.

2.2. Candidates being proposed as part of an institutional team to participate in the selection round of PANAHRC must satisfy at least **one** of the criteria below:

2.2.1. Be Law students currently enrolled in a degree programme in the field of Law (LLB, JD, LLM, PCLL); AND

2.2.2. have **completed** a specialised course(s) in international law or international human rights; OR

2.2.3. have represented their law schools in an English speaking, **international-level** moot before; OR

2.3. Interested candidates who have no prior experience in public international law and/or international human rights law are also encouraged to apply although may find the competition tough given the rigorous nature of the Moot Problems the PANAHRC will be focusing on.

3. Team Composition

3.1. The Teams that will compete in Hong Kong as part of the Oral Rounds of the 2017 PANAHRC will be selected based on their performance in a General Round comprising the submission of written memorandums, which will be judged by a panel of experts.

3.2. Teams will comprise 3 members, two of whom will compete as oralists and one will be supporting the oralists as a researcher.

4. Registration and Selection Process

4.1. The registration form must be completed [online](#). The deadline for submitting the registration form is **Friday 21st April 2017**. **The registration form requires extensive details of all three team members, including past mooting experience, work experience as well as past course enrollment. It is therefore recommended that you complete the form together as a team to ensure complete registration details are furnished.**

4.2. The registration form includes space for the name and email address of the Team Contact Person. The Team Contact Person can be a team coach or a member of the team itself.

4.3. Teams are required to submit proof of endorsement of the team's participation as representative of their institution through the Dean or Head of Department of their respective institution. This proof of endorsement should reach panahrc2017@gmail.com by no later than 4pm, 21st April 2017.

4.4. Once the teams have registered, they are expected to commence working on the Moot Problem and prepare two memorandums (one for the Claimant, the

other for the Respondent) in accordance with the stipulated guidelines for Drafting of Memoranda.

- 4.5. Requests for Clarifications of the Moot Problem must reach the Moot Chair via panahrm2017@gmail.com by 25th April 2017 with the subject clearly indicating 'Request for Clarification of Moot Problem'. No further requests for clarification will be entertained beyond 25th April 2017.
- 4.6. Responses to Requests for Clarifications will be posted on the [PANAHRM Moot Website](#) by 28th April 2017.
- 4.7. Each team which has registered is expected to submit their finalized memorandums in the stipulated format by 19th May 2017 to panahrm2017@gmail.com and send 10 hard copies in accordance with the binding requirements indicated below to Secretary, Centre for Comparative and Public Law, 921, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong.
- 4.8. Once you submit your memoranda via email, you will receive an email confirming receipt of your documents. If you have not received the confirmation email within 32 hours of your submission, you are advised to resend your (unaltered) submission to the panahrm2017@gmail.com immediately.
- 4.9. Teams who fail to submit the memoranda by 19 May 2017 will not be eligible for consideration for the prizes being awarded for memoranda. Those who fail to submit their memoranda within 72 hours after the 19 May 2017 deadline (i.e. 22 May) will be deemed to have forfeited their participation in the remainder of the Rounds.
- 4.10. The submission of the registration form and memorandums do not guarantee a spot at the Oral Rounds of the PANAHRM. The Memorandums submitted will be assessed and evaluated by a team of judges and awarded a score. Eight teams with the top scores will be shortlisted as Quarterfinalists to participate in the Oral Rounds in Hong Kong in June 2017.
- 4.11. Results of the Quarterfinalist teams will be posted online [here](#) on 29 May.
- 4.12. The Team Contact Person will be notified of the result of their application. If successful, the Team Contact Person will be sent the following materials:
 - 4.12.1. the team's individual team number;
 - 4.12.2. information relating to accommodation and transport in the place of competition;
 - 4.12.3. any other relevant organisational material; and
 - 4.12.4. the results of each moot.
- 4.13. The Team Contact Person is expected to:
 - 4.13.1. to have regular email and Internet access;

- 4.13.2. check CCPL's website and the email address they provided in the registration form frequently for updates, particularly as the oral rounds approach and during the competition itself;
 - 4.13.3. be responsible for efficiently distributing all moot material to team members. Communication between the team and the organisers through persons other than the Team Contact Person is at the risk of the team.
- 4.14. Once teams are entered into the Quarterfinal round, they are expected to make the necessary travel arrangements and to complete the booking form for hotel reservations to be submitted to panahrm2017@gmail.com by 3 June 2017. Failure to submit the required details to enable a confirmation of the hotel rooms will result in the room being released by the hotel. HKU cannot guarantee rooms will be available for teams at this or other hotels and cannot help negotiate better rates for teams. Teams will need to make their own arrangements at this point.
- 4.15. A registration fee of HK\$2,700 per team of 3 people intending to participate in the Oral Rounds as Quarterfinalists must also be paid by 5 June 2017. Payment must be made by bank cheque and made payable to The University of Hong Kong. Please write down the name of your university and the names of the team members at the back of the cheque for reference purposes. Failure to pay the registration fee as directed will result in the forfeiture of the right to participate further in the PANAHRM and the vacant spot will immediately be ceded to the next top scoring team.
- 4.16. Should you wish to withdraw from the competition, the withdrawal deadline is **19th May 2017 by email to panahrm2017@gmail.com**. Teams withdrawing after this date, including after the payment of the registration fee, will not be entitled to any refund or disbursements for costs incurred.

5. The Moot Problem

- 5.1. The fact scenario for the written memorandum will be posted on the [PANAHRM Moot Website](#) on 18th April 2017. If the release of the Problem is delayed for any reason, a notice will be placed on the website.
- 5.2. The moot problem involves a dispute relating to international human rights law pertaining to the educational system of the fictional country of Serenatia.
- 5.3. The case will be argued in the fictional Pan-Asian Court of Human Rights, based in Kuala Lumpur and modelled on the European Court of Human Rights.
- 5.4. The facts in the dispute that form the subject matter of the moot are provided in the Moot Problem and any as supplied under the Clarifications procedure. Teams are not to introduce additional facts or evidence into the Moot Problem unless they are a logical and necessary extension of the given facts. Arguments presented on non-existing facts or evidence will be evaluated accordingly.

6. Written Memoranda

- 6.1. Each team must submit a written memorandum in support of the legal position of **both** the Claimant **and** the Respondent. During the oral rounds, teams are expected to present oral arguments in support of both positions in different moots over the course of the competition.
- 6.2. The [University's guidelines on plagiarism](#) apply to all aspects of this competition, and candidates should comply with these guidelines at all times.
- 6.3. Each team is to submit an electronic version of Memoranda in PDF format by email to panahrm2017@gmail.com. Please send the email with the subject "2017 Pan-Asian Human Rights Moot Competition ([School Name], Written Memoranda)".
- 6.4. Only memoranda electronically received by the deadline will be considered for the memoranda prize. Teams who submit their memoranda up to 72 hours late will still be permitted to compete in the oral competitions in Hong Kong.
- 6.5. For the purposes of evaluating applications, please ensure that the written memorandum complies with the following formatting guidelines:
 - 6.5.1. 1.5 line spacing;
 - 6.5.2. Size 12-font;
 - 6.5.3. Times New Roman;
 - 6.5.4. A 2.5 centimetre margin on all 4 sides;
 - 6.5.5. Numbered paragraphs; and
 - 6.5.6. Numbered pages.
 - 6.5.7. You must include your (1) university's name and (2) Team members' names at the Centre of the First page (cover) of each of your written memoranda;
 - 6.5.8. On the second page (not on the backside of the first cover page), you should indicate only the team's individual Team Number, as supplied to the Team Contact Person upon registration (see above) and whether the Memorandum is for the claimant or the respondent. The second page will therefore say, for example 'Team 1, Memorandum for the Claimant'. After this point in the memorandum, the header should only contain your Team Number and no other personal identifiers of your team members or university or country.
 - 6.5.9. Legal arguments with adequate references to facts and authorities are expected. Applicants are at their liberty as to which referencing style they are to adopt;
 - 6.5.10. Please include a summary of facts in the written skeleton submission;
 - 6.5.11. Memorands should not be more than **30** pages (each), double sided printing. Each side of paper produced for the memorandum counts as one page for the purposes of the 30-page limit.
 - 6.5.12. Each Team shall submit 10 copies of the Memorandum written for the Claimant and Respondent;
 - 6.5.13. Each Memorandum for the Claimant and Respondent should be separately bound with the Perfect Binding method and a clear plastic cover (not coloured) and all hard copies are to be submitted in one parcel via mail to reach HKU no later than 23 May 2017. Memoranda

which are held together by rubber bands, lightweight staples, paperclips, pins or other insecure means are not properly submitted and will not be considered for an award.

6.5.14. There is no need to submit copies of authorities referred to, if any.

7. Schedule of Events

- 7.1. Official registration for the oral rounds will take place at The University of Hong Kong on **Thursday 29th June 2017**. Teams should aim to be in Hong Kong no later than the evening of Wednesday 28 June 2017.
- 7.2. The Quarterfinal Round will take place on **Thursday 29th June 2017**. This will be accompanied with a reception and a dinner hosted by the University of Hong Kong at a venue to be specified.
- 7.3. The Semifinal and Final Round will take place on **Friday 30th June 2017** at the University of Hong Kong at a location to be confirmed.
- 7.4. An Award ceremony for the prizes for the winning teams as well as a Lunch for the judges and finalist teams will take place on Friday 30th June 2017 at a venue to be specified.

8. Oral Hearings

- 8.1. A moot will only proceed if both speakers for both teams are present. If both speakers of a team are not present 15 minutes after the published start time of the moot when the other team is all present, the presiding Judge(s) will have the discretion to automatically award the speakers of the fully present team with full round points and to declare their team the winners of that round. The absent team will receive no points that round.
- 8.2. If both teams drawn to meet in a semi-final round have argued for the claimant or for both the respondent in the quarterfinal round, the decision as to which team will be claimant or respondent for that round will be determined by the draw of a ballot. The winner of the toss will have 5 minutes to decide the party for which it wishes to argue in the semi-final round.
- 8.3. The draw ballot will be used to determine which team argues for which party in the final round. The winner of the toss will have 5 minutes to decide the party for which it wishes to argue in the final round.
- 8.4. It shall be left to the discretion of the Judges in each moot to determine the order in which the teams (and speakers) will present the arguments on the issues in the case.
- 8.5. A participating team is not bound by the terms of their written memorandum in conducting its case at any oral hearing. However, teams may not introduce additional facts or evidence into the moot unless they are a logical and necessary extension of the given facts.

8.6. *Duration of Hearing / Presentations*

- 8.6.1 Each Team will have a total of 35 minutes to make their oral arguments. How they choose to divide their time between their team members is up to the Team.
- 8.6.2 Teams should plan to allow for 15 minutes of oral argument for each oralist with 5 minutes reserved for Rebuttals.
- 8.6.3 Only one opportunity will be given to each team for a Rebuttal or Surrebuttal.
- 8.6.4 Teams exceeding their allotted time will be asked to stop promptly once their time is up. No allowances will be made to extend times beyond the allotted period. The Judge's decision is final.

9. Awards

- 9.1. The following awards will be presented at the end of PANAHRM:
 - 9.1.1. Champion of the Grand Final of PANAHRM
 - 9.1.2. Runners-Up of the Grand Final of PANAHRM
 - 9.1.3. Best Memorandum for the Applicant
 - 9.1.4. Best Memorandum for the Respondent
 - 9.1.5. Best Individual Oralist

10. Further Inquiries

- 10.1. In the event that you would like any further information regarding these rules or in relation to the competition, please email panahrm2017@gmail.com. No questions regarding the Moot Problem will be answered by email. All Clarifications will be posted on the PANAHRM Moot Website **on 28th April 2017**.
- 10.2. Where appropriate such queries may be passed to the selection panel for them to provide an answer. Where these queries are of a general nature, the answer provided by the selection panel will be communicated to every person who registers for the selection process.