



Public Law and Human Rights Forum

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

www.cityu.edu.hk

The 2022 7th International Model UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Competition

Christine Wu
8 August 2022



The 2022 7th International Model UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Competition was held on 8th August 2022. The competition is co-sponsored by the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea with the aim of nurturing the next generation of diplomats to engage in human rights dialogues and promoting a deeper understanding of the UN UPR mechanism. The co-organizers, including Human Asia, Korea University International Human Rights Centre, International Christian University, City University of Hong Kong and Graduate Program on Human Security of Tokyo University, recruited students from different regions to participate in this role-playing competition. Students are expected to take on the role of national delegates of their respective governments to the UN Human Rights Council. They also have the opportunity to act as recommending states to review human rights policies that other delegates proposed. For four years now, participating students were chosen from a pool of highly qualified CityU law candidates and were given training delivered by **Dr Stephenson Chow**, Assistant Professor under the auspices of the Public Law and Human Rights Forum. This year, **Ms. Yiu Pui Ting Florence (LLB)**, **Ms. Chan Wing Lam Wynona (LLB)** and **Mr. Fong Fu San Christopher (PCLL)** were selected to participate in the competition as a team.

Professor Changrok Soh (President of Human Asia, Professor of Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University) and **Miss Imsuk Ha** (Human Rights Officer from UN OHCHR Seoul) delivered the welcoming speech. They indicated that the competition allows students to discuss and exchange ideas on human rights issues in-depth with people from other countries. They hope participants will find this experience rewarding. **Dr. Stephenson Chow, Dr. Mi-Hwa Hong** (Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science & International Relations, Kookmin University) and **Dr. Matsuda Hiromichi** (Assistant Professor of Law at International Christian University) served as judges of the competition.



From left to right: Christopher Fong, Florence Yiu, Wynona Chan

Our students **Ms. Chan Wing Lam Wynona, Ms. Yiu Pui Ting Florence, and Mr. Fong Fu San Christopher** have won the Outstanding Delegation Award (First Place) and the Best Teamwork Award (as Team China) at the competition, outperforming other students from HKU, the University of Tokyo, the International Christian University (ICU, Japan), Korea University and more.

Students' Feedback

"The MUPR Competition has opened my eyes to how countries address and collaborate on the betterment of human rights protection on an international level. It also increased my awareness towards human rights issues in the world and how I can make a positive change to society by joining activities that aim to address these issues, such as participating in voluntary services.

Furthermore, this invaluable experience enhanced my knowledge on the review mechanisms of the United Nations and its significant contribution in providing a platform for countries to engage in meaningful and constructive discussions. Human rights protection should not be territorial-bound, and I believe international cooperation is crucial in ensuring that continuous progress is made.

I would like to thank the School for giving me the opportunity to participate in this competition and I am especially grateful for Dr Stephenson Chow and Miss Christine Wu's guidance throughout this competition. We would not have been able to achieve these results without their kind support." - Florence Yiu

“Prior to joining this competition, my understanding of the numerous UN mechanisms went only as far as what was covered in a few lectures in a public international law elective I have taken. Though brief, the course did interest me and I was thrilled to learn about this competition in my mailbox one day, even more excited when Prof Stephenson Chow decided to recruit me as a member of the CityU team. Prof Chow has been a kind and dedicated instructor, he held a workshop introducing the team to human right-related concepts and how the UPR mechanism works before we started drafting the reports as the written component of the competition. The dialogues at the final oral round of the competition were intellectually stimulating, though a particular memorable incident was when another team wished to have an unofficial conversation with us, as they wanted to talk about some particular issues in a more detailed manner that was not done in the packed competition schedule. We had the opportunity to get to know the individuals in the team and it was an invaluable experience. Last but not least, I'd like to take this chance to thank Prof Chow and Miss Christine Wu, without whom we would not have had such an opportunity.” -Wynona Chan

“UPR is a unique UN mechanism to explore and review human rights issues. It is meant to be a platform for states to have constructive dialogues and facilitate international cooperation. Therefore, MUPR is more than a moot or debate competition where research and advocacy skills are practised. Beyond that, we shall inquire and respond in a politically and diplomatically sensitive manner. This requires understandings of not only the thematic issue itself, but also any delicate international relations and relevant policy considerations. MUPR is also a precious opportunity and rare multi-disciplinary platform for us to exchange ideas with students overseas.” - Christopher Fong