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National Inter-Varsity Mock Trial Competition

KOTA KINABALU: The International Islamic University (IIUM), WWF-Malaysia and Sabah Law Society (SLS) in collaboration with the Malaysia Center for Constitutionalism & Human Rights (MCCHR), are organising the inaugural National Inter-Varsity Mock Trial Competition 2021 from September 2021 to February 2022.

The competition aims to educate and create awareness among university students on issues related to the impact from unsustainable infrastructures and development through legal advocacy.

It also focuses on enabling public action through the initiation of public interest cases by preparing the legal fraternity with this mock trial competition.

The competition aligns with UN's SDG 9, which is to develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures, as well as UN's SDG 16 which is to establish peace, justice and strong institutions. WWF-Malaysia Trustee, Datuk Brenddon Keith Soh said, "WWF-Malaysia advocates for elements of biodiversity to be considered and included in development, right from the planning stage. This ensures a win-win situation for people, environment and the economy. WWF Malaysia strategy 2030 is committed to work on the advocacy to integrate the principles of sustainability in the infrastructure and development plan".

The competition features 10 teams consisting of

undergraduates from across the country, who come from both legal and non-legal backgrounds.

As this is the first time mock trial is held at an inter-varsity level in Malaysia, the competition held a workshop where the participants were briefed on the subject matter as well as the format of the competition.

The adjudication core, case scenario writers and speakers during the workshop consist of notable individuals from the Bench, the Bar and Academia. This collaboration is essential to the competition's success of producing rules and regulation that are as close to the actual court process as possible, with actual issues that are surrounding unsustainable infrastructures and development.

The competition was launched on Sept 22, on the Zoom platform and broadcasted live on YouTube and Facebook. The launch was graced by distinguished guests such as Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Richard Malanjum, former Chief Justice of Malaysia, who gave the key-note speech, Assoc Prof Dr Maizatun Mustafa, an expert on environmental law, Datuk Brenddon Keith Soh, Trustee of WWF-Malaysia, and Prof Dr Farid Sufian Shuaib, Dean Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyyah of Laws, IIUM.

The organizers and collaborators strive to meet all objectives set out above, to make the inauguration of the National Inter-Varsity Mock Trial Competition 2021 a successful one and to set the benchmark for mock trial competitions consequently held in Malaysia.