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International Moot Court Competition in International Trade Law concluded at GNLU Symbiosis Law School, Noida emerges a winner and University of Southampton, United Kingdom a runners-up

**Your experience, and willingness to share this experience, make you richer says
Mr V. Lakshmikumaran**

Gandhinagar, February 17, 2020: The campus of Gujarat National Law University was graced with a large number of eminent authorities in trade law this weekend, with the 12th edition of the GNLU International Moot Court Competition being held from 12th-16th February 2020. This moot is based on international trade law and attracted **52 teams (including six teams from overseas law schools – one each from the United Kingdom, Australia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal)**. After two days of preliminary rounds, the top eight teams went ahead to the quarters and the top four battled it out in the semis. Sunday morning saw the awaited final rounds of the competition, where exemplary performance was delivered by participants.

The trophy was finally lifted by Symbiosis Law School, Noida, and the runners-up were University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

The finalist panel consisted of Ms Anuradha RV (Partner, Clarus Law Associates), Dr Werner Zdouc (Director, WTO Appellate Body Secretariat), Mr V. Lakshmikumaran (Managing Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys), Dr James J. Nedumpara (Professor and Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade) and Mr Shashank Kumar (Dispute Settlement Lawyer, WTO).

Mr V. Lakshmikumaran, the Managing Partner of Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan was one of the guests of honour of the closing ceremony of GIMC 2020. He spoke about how GIMC is *'keeping alive the niche area of international trade law.'* He told students that **the only thing which makes a lawyer richer is experience, and the willingness to share this experience.** He commends the performance of the participants since it involved a lot of research; given the complex moot problem.

The quality and level of excellence at the competition was also praised by many of the eminent guests, with Mr Nedumpara hailing it as *'one of the most efficient moots organised in India.'* He further shared his experience of judging GIMC for the past 2-3 years. Further, Dr Werner Zdouc appreciated the efforts of all the teams and stated *'all participating teams are winners.'* Mr Shashank also stated that the competition is *'inculcating interest*

in international trade law even though there are fewer job opportunities in this area of law. Ms Anuradha RV was also greatly impressed by the participants and congratulated them on their participation. She described the moot problem as *'one of the best problems of GIMC.'*

Overall, the competition was an enriching experience for all who were associated with it. **The problem involved the simulation of a World Trade Organisation Panel, and issues were raised with regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and General Agreement on Trade in Services.** It is expected that the next edition will be bigger and better, and will continue to advance interest in the field of international trade law.

Gujarat National Law University partnered Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys; Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe LLP; World Trade Institute, Bern; Centre for Trade and Investment Law and Centre for WTO Studies - – Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; European Public Law Organisation, Athens; Lex Witness; Eastern Book Company, SCCOnline, and Lawctopus to make this moot a success.

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