

WORLD FINALS EXPERIENCE REPORT 2022

The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences

Semi-finalists

Space Law was an arena that none of the members of the team had ventured into properly before our participation in the Manfred Lachs Moot Competition. Once the competition began, the meaning of words like 'Cologne' started having a different connotation for us and very quickly we were immersed in issues involving who and what the launching state is. Our preparation reached an all-time high once we met the Memorial Qualifiers for the Asia-Pacific Rounds, which was something we genuinely did not expect. The Asia-Pacific were the most challenging rounds for us where we were continuously revisiting our arguments each day, finding new loopholes and revising them after each round. Every round taught us a new way in which the facts and the law involved in the problem could be interpreted even though we had been working on the same for some months. Although the process was challenging, it was equally exhilarating.

While we thoroughly enjoyed this process, it being online held us from experiencing the true potential of Space Law, which we finally experienced at the World Finals, which were held offline. After we won the finals of the Asia-Pacific Rounds, our thrill was heightened by the fact that the world rounds were to be held in Paris. The months of preparation for the World Rounds were like a blur with intervals of planning our trip to France.

When we reached, the first instance of our interacting with the Moot was the preliminary meeting of the teams that had reached the World Finals and a tour of the Paris Convention Centre, where the IAC was being held. We were awed by the scale at which the conference was taking place. There were individuals from all fields, not just law. There were interactive sessions and paper presentations on several fascinating topics. The ones we attended were extremely enlightening and

interesting. Two days passed in a blur while preparing for the Semi-Final Round. While we lost that round, the experience was irreplaceable. We interacted with various luminaries who articles we had read and even cited. The feedback we received from the judges was extremely helpful. We also attended the Finals that took place after another day. We had the privilege of meeting and interacting with Judges Tomka, Nolte and Xue, who were judging the Finals. We were also invited to attend the annual IISL cocktail dinner party and were felicitated at the same. The entire experience was enjoyable as well as extremely gratifying. We are very thankful to JAXA for funding the team for the World Finals.