

## **APIIT Law School's Inter-School Debate Competition 2023: St. Peter's College Emerges as Champions**

APIIT Sri Lanka, founded in 1999, has earned a reputation for its significant contributions to the higher education landscape in Sri Lanka. With an enrolment of more than 2000 students and current annual intake of over 1000 students, APIIT stands out as one of the most well-established facilitators of foreign degree programs in the country.

It is known for its collaboration with Staffordshire University, UK and the Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation in Malaysia. APIIT is highly regarded for its dedication to grooming students into industry-ready professionals. The institution has proven its commitment to producing well-rounded graduates by a combination of a rigorous curriculum and a wide array of extra-curricular activities.

In the year 2023, APIIT Law School demonstrated its commitment to fostering a dynamic learning environment by organizing a series of engaging events. Among the events held by the institution, the Inter-School Debating Competition took centre stage. This year's competition brought together talented debaters from 19 schools across the country, providing them with an opportunity to hone their persuasive argumentation and critical thinking skills.

The Preliminary and Quarter-Final rounds of the competition were conducted online through video conferencing. The Semi-Final and Final rounds took place as physical events at the APIIT Law School Moot Court.

The final round of debates was nothing short of awe-inspiring, with St. Peter's College Colombo and Muslim Ladies College displaying remarkable oratory skills and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter. The audience was treated to a feast of compelling arguments and thought-provoking rebuttals, leaving them both inspired and enlightened.

After a closely contested final debate, St. Peter's College Colombo emerged as the Champions, with Muslim Ladies College Colombo and St. Joseph's College Colombo securing the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up positions respectively. Acknowledging individual brilliance, Mr. Sasindu

Suriyaarachchi from St. Peter's College was awarded the title of "Best Speaker" for his eloquence and analytical acumen. Furthermore, medals were presented to the Top-10 best speakers of the Preliminary Rounds.

The Final Round of the competition was adjudged by a distinguished panel consisting of Dr. Dilini Pathirana (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo), Additional Solicitor General Mr. Shanaka Wijesinghe, and senior Attorney-at-Law Mr. Shanaka Cooray. To ensure a fair and unbiased evaluation of the debaters' arguments, the preliminary and quarter-final competition rounds were adjudicated by APIIT lecturers and experts from the Colombo Independent Debaters' Society.

The event culminated in a grand closing ceremony graced by the esteemed presence of former Attorney General and President's Counsel, Mr. Palitha Fernando. Participants were lauded for their dedication and passion throughout the competition. APIIT Law School reiterated its commitment to organizing similar events in the future, aiming to nurture socially conscious and legally aware individuals for the betterment of society.

APIIT Law School's dedication to hosting events such as this reflects its unwavering commitment to empowering students with practical experiences and knowledge beyond the classroom setting. By providing opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities, the institution nurtures well-rounded individuals who are not only academically competent but also equipped with essential life skills for their future endeavours.