

## **Asia Pacific Model European Union 2019 Reaching Consensus on “Defence & European Army”**

**HONG KONG, 27 April 2019** — The Asia Pacific Model European Union 2019 (APMEU) was successfully held on 26-27 April at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU).

Over 20 participants from eight universities including the University of Canterbury, Fudan University, Singapore Management University, National Taiwan University, Nanyang Technological University, University of Macau, Yonsei University and HKBU simulated the spring session of the European Council. The discussion revolved around “the Future of Security and Defence of Europe”. Specifically the participants focused on security cooperation between EU member states under a simulated ongoing Lithuanian crisis and creation of collective EU defence and security in the future.

The event, which is the fifth edition in the APMEU series, was opened with a speech by Dr. Jolita Pons, Deputy Head of the EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao. Dr. Pons, Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Head of the Department of Government and International Studies at HKBU and Prof. Martin Holland, Director of the National Centre for Research on Europe of the University of Canterbury jointly officiated the opening ceremony of the conference.

During the conference, Dr. Krzysztof Sliwinski, Associate Professor in the Department of Government and International Studies at HKBU, played the role of the President of the European Council.

Following the presentation of each Member State’s country position on the agenda items, several plenary sessions as well as both formal and informal debates, the group of 20 student delegates reached a conclusion that the EU member states should establish a collective defence mechanism under the principles of flexibility and inclusiveness and consider the creation of a European Army.

Eeva FOO from Singapore Management University representing Denmark and Rex Chan from HKBU representing Hungary were awarded the “Best Individual Delegates” to recognise their knowledge of the European Union and its policymaking, as well as their over negotiating strategies and diplomatic skills during the two-day conference. The “Best Delegation” award was presented to Cashias GUMBO and Xiyin LIU from the University of Canterbury as a team representing France. Other awards such as “Best Position Paper”, “Best Position Paper Presentation” and “Honourable Recognition” were awarded to outstanding performers during the simulation exercise.

### *About the Asia-Pacific Model European Union Series*

As a Jean Monnet Project co-funded by the European Commission, the “Asia-Pacific Model European Union (APMEU) – European Council Simulation” was jointly organized by the Europe Asia Policy Centre for Comparative Research of HKBU and the National Centre for Research on the Europe of the University of Canterbury.

The “Asia-Pacific Model European Union – European Council Simulation” is designed to familiarize students with the framework and procedures of international negotiation. It presents the participants with a unique chance to take part in a simulation of European Council (European Summit) meetings, thereby gaining hands-on experience in preparing for and conducting multi-country political deliberations about current real-life issues. In the process, the students also study the political, economic and social backgrounds of European Union member states in a comparative perspective. The simulation systematically encourages peer learning. The negotiations include three levels of bargaining: interpersonal, national and international, as participants are acting as Heads of State/Government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of existing EU member states to reach political consensus at the end of the simulation.