

MMU's Bid for The Unity Tournament

Dear All-Asian Debate Community,

First allow us to apologise for not being able to be there to present this bid personally, and to not be able to share this magnificent tournament. This is the first All-Asians in 9 years that we have missed, and please be assured that it is not due to any lack of faith we have in the organizers, council members or participants.

We want to see all you again next year, but at a tournament that doesn't force us to be in a political camp. We don't want to have to compete and bicker and challenge with another tournament, in a continent we all share. We want a tournament that was what the All-Asians was about when it first began – a place where all Asian debaters can come together, get support from each other, compete vigorously and become stronger for it. We feel, as many feel, that the best way to get there is to bring the Asians and AUDC together in a new tournament.

We are committed to the process of Asian Unity, the Asian Unity Tournament and the Asian Debate Federation. If you accept this bid, we will host a tournament for you next May, but it will be called the Asian Unity Tournament. It will still be your tournament, with your rules, and a constitution that you enable and empower.

We will make this bid 3 times. Here at the NSU All-Asians, then at the IIU AUDC and finally at Ateneo Australs. It may not be enough to bring all of Asia together again, but it will bring more Asian debate institutions together than ever before. It will allow institutions to attend a tournament where the only political statement you make is that you care for Asian debating and want a united Asian debate community, and we believe that will help bridge the divide that is so damaging to us all.

This process starts with you, only because you sit at council first. We wish we could have done more, but we are trying and we will be working harder. Try not to see this as a burden, but rather an opportunity to lead; to give the process an irreversible momentum; to give encouragement and to be part of all the people working for unity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the numbers listed in this document.

We hope to see you next year, at the 20th Asian Debating Championships, the Unity Tournament.

Best Regards and Good Luck for the Tournament!

The MMU Unity Tournament Bid Team

Organisational Background

MMU has hosted the All-Asians (2000), Australasians (2003) and Worlds (2005). When we first bid for Asians in 1999, it was because there were no other bids. It was our first Asians.

The Asians community reacted well to our efforts at hosting, and showed up in force to create what was the largest Asians at the time. We also started the Allasiandebate mailing list to facilitate communication during the hosting process, and it is now the largest mailing list in Asian debate, connecting more than 400 debaters from all over Asia.

In 2002 MMU bid for Worlds in Toronto, and in a tense second round of voting, lost to NTU, Singapore. The year after, we hosted the Australasians. While SARS and terrorism in the region kept many teams from further away at home, teams from Asia supported it in numbers large enough to create an awesome tournament. A record number of Asian teams broke and two Asian teams made the semifinals for the first time.

In 2005 MMU hosted the World Universities Debating Championships, for only the 3rd time in Asia. It was the largest Worlds at that time, with 304 teams. Even though we only had a year to plan and run that tournament, with the help of many other Asian institutions, we conducted and participated in debate workshops in 5 different countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Korea). Everybody who wanted to come to Worlds that year, we gave a place, whether we knew they were coming or not. That year saw record numbers of Asian teams breaking and the initiation of the Developing Nations Forum, an event that has continued till this day.

From this brief history we would to summarize the following

- a) We have the organizational support and experience to run a good tournament. Many of the organizers, school administrators and corporate sponsors who were part of past efforts are available, interested and ready to do it again. The alumni who were involved in hosting these past tournaments will also be available to lend their support to the new organizing committee.
- b) We have had long, productive and close relationships with the Asian debate community, and will continue to do so. Our school and our debaters have gained from debate in Asia, and we hope we have given back too.
- c) We believe in and are committed to the development of debating in Asia. We have actively supported development in and outside of our region, have engaged everyone equally, never discriminated against any institution regardless of where they are from and definitely not by the tournaments they have won. We sincerely believe it is in the interest of everyone to have a strong, united debate community in Asia, and have held these principles long before they became so controversial.

Tournament Logistics

The tournament will be hosted at our MMU Cyberjaya Campus, where we hosted Austral and Worlds. The logistics will operate in the same manner – teams will be accommodated in the city center and bused the 30-40 minutes to MMU. This will happen only for the 3 main debate days. Every other component of the tournament will be held in the hotel itself or in venues close by (public buildings, corporate offices or schools).

- Debate Venues – Successfully hosted 75 simultaneous debates and almost 1000 participants (during Worlds). We are confident that this has prepared us to host an Asian Style tournament of 150 teams or more.
- Registration fee – we confident we will be able to maintain the registration fee within the range of around 220 USD (RM700).

Adjudication & Our Team

Our plan is to have two Co-Chief Adjudicators, someone from MMU and someone from AUDC.

Proposed Co-Chief Adjudicator : Suthen Tate Thomas

Tate is an ex-All-Asian Champion and Australasian Grand Finalist. He was 2nd Best Speaker in Asia (2005) and 3rd Best Speaker in Australasia (2004). He has broken at Worlds at a debater (2003) and was the sole Asian representative in the Worlds Finals Judging Panel at Assumption Worlds (2008). Tate will also be a DCA at the upcoming Ateneo Australasians.

MMU and Malaysia in general have a fairly well established adjudication pool. We have a strong alumni of Asians breaking debaters and judges, who will be available to judge the rounds. With the permission of council, we would like to invite these judges to judge the preliminary rounds of the tournament, without having to register as formal judges. They will still have to present a CV, MPJ Form and if convenient, take the adjudication test.

Proposed Convenor : Ahmad Shoaib aka Kandahar

Kandahar is an Asians quarter-finalists, national debate champion and all-round good guy. He has been debating actively at Asians, Australs and Worlds for the past 3 years, and was part of the organizing team when MMU hosted Worlds in 2005. As an active member of student organizations in MMU (including the past President of the Debate Society and current Treasurer) is well connected with the university structures and has a lot of experience organising events. He'll also be the first Afghan convenor, ever.

Contact Information

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