

CIRECC The Galaxy Team – Learning Report

The Cornell International Real Estate Case Competition is an annual event hosted by Cornell University. It has a regional round where universities from Asia, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia and Korea, compete against each other in CUHK. Judges were all very experienced professionals working in the industry. Team HKU is proud to have won the second place in the regional round so we received an invitation to join the global one in New York.

The case competition was about whether investors should invest in a certain real estate deal or not and how to develop the plan. To prepare for the competition, we researched on the economic backgrounds of different countries and tried to get an overview of the real estate trend of the regions. We were given 5 days to prepare for a 15-minute presentation, followed by a 15-minute rigorous Q&A session. The case was about a research centre in Manhattan – few blocks away from where we stayed back then. We were asked to analyse whether the company should invest into the deal and provide with detailed financial calculation. It was interesting looking into a real-life case in New York as it made the whole thing very realistic.



Hudson Research Centre

We first arrived at the competition venue the night before the presentation. We had to draw lots to decide on the groupings and order. Dinner was served with

the stunning night view over the Brooklyn Bridge – it was amazing to be able to compete in the famous Financial District. We got some time to mingle with other participants and meet new friends.

It was tough competing with all the top-notch universities from all around the world. We enjoyed listening to others' presentations so that we could observe how our peers looked at the deal and presented their ideas. After lunch, each team has another 15 minutes to listen to the feedbacks from the judges. This session has been rewarding because participants could ask the professionals any questions related to real estate and the judges were happy to discuss about their views and advices. We received valuable feedback and it was precious to know what could we do to improve ourselves.



Participants representing different universities from Hong Kong



Visit to the Charging Bull

Especially for the people in finance, visiting the Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange might be on their “bucket list” – yet we couldn’t believe that we actually competed right next to it. We were thankful for the opportunity and the support we were given by the Chui’s Student Excellence Scheme. Apart from learning a lot about real estate for the competition, we had also widened our horizons through travelling. This learning experience outside the classroom is unique and inspiring. It reminded us that we should keep improving ourselves because the world is so big for us to challenge and explore. We look forward to the many learning opportunities that lie ahead.