Greatest Debating Show on Earth



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WHEN you are debating with bright young lads of Oxford, Harvard, Monash, Yale, and Cambridge, especially when you are holding the flag of Bangladesh and pride of your university, it really does matter. Doing well isn't good enough; you must give your best. This year's World Universities Debating Championship will test your temperament as a debater or as an adjudicator with the world's top debating universities. So those who are planning to represent your university from Bangladesh, this is the time to get things started for WUDC 2008.

World Universities Debating Championship-WUDC is the second largest student events in the world and this year it will see near about 360 teams, 720 top debaters and 400 experienced adjudicators from more then 80 countries. With 500 officials and observers, this championship is going to set a new record of being the largest event ever. Assumption University of Thailand will host this biggest and ultimate debating tournament from December 26, 2007 to January 4, 2008.

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This year Bangladesh is planning to send the biggest contingent after 2005 MMU Worlds for this global event with participation from the top debating universities. This article will focus on issues related to the Adjudication in British Parliamentary WUDC System and show how the championship runs with its efficient adjudication policy.

People from any profession can become adjudicator in World Universities Debating Championship but they should pass the WUDC Adjudication Test for being selected as an adjudicator. World Universities Debating Council with some regional debating organizations like AIDA, AUDC, EUDC and All Asian Debating Councils has its own version of Adjudication Test but the similarities lie in their objectives; and that ensures accountability and quality of adjudication. Each adjudicator is ranked according to his/her performance in the Test. Age, sex, country and other variables are carefully discarded from this evaluation. I saw many university students doing well compared to some senior judges in the adjudication test and they became Chair in some of the preliminary rounds in last year's World Debate held in Canada. So if you are planning to go this year's Worlds please take your preparation as an adjudicator from now.

Modern debating adjudication, in particular World Universities Debating Champions, is not restricted to just deciding the winner of the debate, rather their responsibility includes convincing the audience with reasons for their decisions. Adjudicators have to pass their Adjudication Test and evaluation by their fellow adjudicators and debaters on a time to time basis.

Debating room of WUDC has four teams with two on the government side and two on the opposition. Every team has two debaters with different responsibilities. One Chair Adjudicator presides with the adjudication panel. Chief Adjudicator of the championship selects the Chair and other members of the panel who are known as Panelists for each debate. Adjudicators are asked to mark the debaters on the following grounds: Matter, Manner and Method like any other international debate.

Few of you will be surprised to hear that debaters have the right to evaluate the adjudicators' performance after Chair Adjudicator gives his/her adjudication to the debaters. It's a both way evaluation system; where debaters and adjudicators appraise their performance. This value was added in World Debate and in Asian Universities Debating Championships-AUDC from its very beginning. Debaters become the Judge of their Adjudicators' performance. This gives the right to debaters to give their opinion on adjudication and ranking.