

## **APIIT Law School Students Triumph at CDRC 2023 - Taking Sri Lanka to the Global Stage!**

From the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2023, students of APIIT Law School took part in the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the CDRC Mediation and Negotiation Competition, hosted by the International Bar Association (IBA) together with the Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC). CDRC was established in 2015 and has been reputed as one of the most prestigious ADR competitions in the globe over the years. This year's competition adopted a hybrid mode, with APIIT Law School representing one of the teams that took part online.

Samaa Shazuli, a third-year undergraduate of APIIT Law School participated as the Mediator representing APIIT Sri Lanka and emerged as the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up Mediator out of the 12 competitors. She was notably the sole online participant to successfully progress undefeated through the qualifier rounds. Samaa was coached by Sadiyah Reyal, an IMI-Qualified Mediator and Alumnus of APIIT Law School, Sri Lanka who bagged the Mediator Championship Award at the last edition of the CDRC Mediation and Negotiation Competition in 2022.

Diluki Silva and Aadhilah Ramzy took part in the competition as a Negotiator Team battling against several other negotiation teams from all over the globe that were competitively selected to participate at CDRC 2023. The students were coached by Mrs. Fidana Alieva, an ADB (Asian Development Bank) Workplace Mediator hailing from the Kyrgyz Republic, with experience as a dispute resolution professional for over ten years, who played a vital role in supporting the team to their success and assisted them in becoming the only Sri Lankan team to leave its mark at this year's edition of the competition. The team was also assisted by Mr. Felipe Glioche, a Brazilian Lawyer and Mediator.

2023 marked the second consecutive year at which APIIT Law School left its mark, with the first awards being the Mediator Championship title secured by Sadiyah Reyal and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up Negotiator Team awarded to Umar Safras, Tharuka Jayasinghe and Nohim Abeynayake last year. CDRC marked the fifth international event at which APIIT Law School marked its participation for this year, including the 18th ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition 2023 and Lex Infinitum 2023 held in Paris and India respectively.

The students representing APIIT are all part of the Moot, Debate and Mock Mediation Society of APIIT, which aims to build and promote the practical skills of students who are interested in Debating, Mooting, Mediation, and Negotiation. The training programs and practices conducted

by the society allow any student to improve their knowledge and skills in several areas of Dispute Resolution.

The developments in skill, ability and networking opportunities brought forward by the involvement in the Moot, Debate and Mock Mediation Society of APIIT Law School allows students to tap into their true potential as future experts and create pathways of opportunity for their careers.