

EF Students Achieve High Rankings in Rotman International Trading Competition Again

Our team from the Department of Economics and Finance (EF), College of Business, CityUHK, has done an excellent job in the Rotman International Trading Competition during the past two years. This year, the competition, hosted by the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, was held online on February 19, 2021. Our EF team continued to be the best-performing team in Asia, beating prestigious universities including Harvard, UCLA, NYU, and the host, University of Toronto, to name a few.

The pandemic changed the competition in many aspects. We conducted almost all the activities online, from selecting and training team members to the practice sessions and the final battle. The schedule was exceptionally unfriendly to our EF team, with the 13-hour time difference between Toronto and Hong Kong since the host was in Toronto. The training was also challenging to coordinate as we have one team member in New York, another one in mainland China, and two in Hong Kong. The Internet traffic was also lethal, and it swallowed million-dollar profits when the trading software could not liquidate our positions in time. We could have achieved even better rankings should the competition be on site as usual. Nonetheless, our EF team managed to rank the 12th out of 44 teams in all three cases, respectively, including the BP Commodities Case, the Algorithmic Trading Case, and the Liquidity Risk Case. Overall, we are proud to announce that the City University of Hong Kong is among the top 10 universities in this international trading competition again.

The results are most inspiring for the whole CityUHK community. They manifest our successful e-learning practice in response to COVID-19. Our pioneering approaches to e-learning have enabled student learning and teamwork throughout the year and have made it compelling. Our EF team's consistently outstanding performance also demonstrates the persistent dedication and support from the EF department and the College of Business. The presence in the Rotman International Trading Competition is part of the measures to boost graduate job hunting. Our success helps the team members get interviews and job offers directly from the competition sponsors, including top hedge funds and commodity companies, and establishes a reputation recognized by the industry. Nowadays, HRs from hedge funds approach CityUHK for talented traders in our graduates.

Our EF team was coached by Dr. Jintao DU and advised by Prof. James BERGIN of the EF Department, with the self-giving assistance from a former team member, also a final year student in EF's Computational Finance program, Miss Xichen LIU. The secretary from the EF department, Ms. Rita WONG, and the graduate teaching assistant, Dr. Jessie XIAO, provided all the administrative support. The four undergraduate students who represented the EF department, CB of CityUHK were:

Name	Major	Program
BA Shanzheng	Computational Finance	BSCCBU4
CHEN Meijia	Computational Finance	BSCCBU4
WIDJAJA Raymond	Computational Finance	BSCCBU4
ZHI Yongzheng	Finance, Global Business (double major)	BBAU4

Our team worked very hard in preparation for the competition. It started with the strict and prudent recruiting process. Our coaching committee first selected eight candidates out of dozens of applicants via the online interview and then picked the top four traders after two training rounds. Our team members showed great passion, brilliant skills, and total commitment, learning quickly and thinking actively. The training schedule was tight and efficient. Despite the coursework and the approaching mid-term deadlines, our team worked at least eight hours per day on the competition during the four weeks before the final battle. We also received earnest help from our former team members, some of whom actually work as traders now. Finally, the competition started at 9 p.m. Hong Kong time, Friday, February 19, 2021, and lasted to 4 a.m. the next day. Our team members summarized their reflections on the competition during the very weekend to pass on their knowledge and experience to the future teams.

We shall thank all the team members, the EF department, the College of Business, and the university for their collective efforts. Let us congratulate our EF team and the City University of Hong Kong for achieving high rankings in the Rotman International Trading Competition again!



Figure 1. WIDJAJA Raymond (left) and ZHI Yongzheng (right) during the trading break.



Figure 2. EF team members: ZHI Yongzheng (left), BA Shanzhen (boy on the screen), WIDJAJA Raymond (right), CHEN Meijia (girl on the screen), and the former team member, LIU Xichen (middle).



Figure 3. EF team members: WIDJAJA Raymond (right), CHEN Meijia (girl on the screen), ZHI Yongzheng (middle), BA Shanzhen (boy on the screen), and the coach, Dr. DU (left).