Five accounting students pitted their wits, and their language skills, against 10 other finalist teams from universities in Greater China to be named first runner-up in the Deloitte Tax Championship 2007 held in Guangzhou. The HKUST team qualified for the finals by beating 10 other teams from universities in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan in a regional contest, making them the only representatives from Hong Kong to figure in the finals.

The annual case competition, sponsored by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, required the use of Mandarin by contestants delving into aspects of China’s tax law, giving them a taste of what it is like to work as tax professionals in a real-life scenario.

The students, all local, were up against mostly native Mandarin-speakers more familiar with the subject. Anthony Hui Hong Yee, Queenie Lai Sin Tung, Geo Lo Ping Shun, Eddie Tang Chun Pui, and Edward Wu Yan Kwan were helped in their training by Professors Kai Wai Hui and Sabrina Kwan and Ms. Patsy Yip in the Department of Accounting.

“One of our key objectives of the championship is to nurture university students’ interest in tax studies and practice, helping to build the next generation of top-notch tax professionals contributing to overall excellence in the areas of taxation,” said Joseph Tse, tax managing partner of Deloitte China.

Winners were Nanjing University. Zhongnan University of Economics and Law came second runner-up. Forty-seven universities from the Greater Chain region took part in the overall competition.