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(On behalf of the team "WantE-residency" - Champion)

I first heard about HKEPC from an email sent by CUHK Econ Career Support. From the moment I saw it, I was eager to participate—mainly because there are so few competitions tailored to economics students. I had long been searching for an opportunity to apply what I've learned to real-world issues in Hong Kong, and HKEPC provided exactly that kind of platform. So I immediately started looking for teammates through various channels. It wasn't easy—I spent nearly a week assembling a four-member team and even considered giving up at one point. Fortunately, things worked out. I found three teammates, each with their own strengths, and HKEPC brought our individual goals together into a shared experience.

When it came to the policy content, we started quite late—our first team meeting wasn't until April 20. But rather than rushing to settle on a topic, we took our time to critically evaluate many ideas. We gathered a large amount of background information and quickly realized that Hong Kong had already experimented with a wide range of diversified strategies. We were really afraid to copy what had been done. Instead, we saw this as a rare and valuable chance to immerse ourselves in the policy-making process. It was an experience we all cherished. Our final proposal reflected not only our love for the city, but also a deeper understanding of its potential and history. By the end, our policy was shaped by both love and knowledge.

Throughout preparation and competition, I found the structure and pace of HKEPC to be very well-designed. The judges' feedback was especially helpful. One moment that really moved me was during the final presentation: because we had a lot to say, we spoke a bit too quickly. The judges pointed this out, but they were kind enough to give us a chance to repeat the parts they couldn't follow. Their guidance wasn't just about content—it also helped us reflect deeply on our presentation skills.

To be honest, we were deadline fighters. We submitted our first and second round pitch decks just before the 11:59 PM deadline. Also, we were the last group to present in the grand finale, which added to our nerves, since we didn't get to hear any other group's presentations. Right up until the moment the judges announced the winner, I truly believed we had little chance of winning.

Lastly, I'm so grateful to HKEPC—not only for connecting me with like-minded teammates, but also for the encouragement from professional judges, the flawless photography, and the delicious post-event afternoon tea provided by the organisers. This has been one of the most unforgettable experiences of my university life.