

4th Tony Oposa Intergenerational Moot Court

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Reflections from Students at the University of Normandy Caen, France

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As law students, we are especially interested in sustainable development issues and the transition toward a more democratic world that will be more respectful of our ecosystems and biodiversity. This Moot Court focused on geoengineering projects particularly in the oceans. The reason for concern about this topic is that the goal of geoengineering is to change the natural processes in the face of climate change. If the oceans can naturally absorb carbon, then the proposal is to act so that they can absorb more. If the clouds can block solar rays and counter global warming, then something should be done so they can block more. However, all of those techniques are risky and have unknown consequences for our beautiful landscapes that may no longer exist for future generations.

As the representatives of the European Union, we highlighted that something needs to be done to urgently deal with climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is prudent to act using only some geoengineering techniques that are strictly regulated.

Beyond restricting the right to pollute, it is suggested to rethink our juridical systems to integrate respect for biodiversity and humans rights. Beyond the juridical aspects that every team had prepared very well, the collaborative aspect of this Moot Court allowed us to enjoy the exercise without stress or competition.

The 4th Tony Oposa Intergenerational Moot Court was an opportunity to work a cooperative and intercultural spirit so that every team could add their ideas. The ultimate goal of these events is to consider the larger scope of law in providing solutions to conserve the planet for future generations.