PRMIA Risk Management Challenge
2020

Boston · Chicago · Egypt · Hungary · Ireland · London · Montreal ·
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Official Program Handbook

Official Page: [http://www.prmia.org/prmc](http://www.prmia.org/prmc)

*Updates to the Program Handbook may be made until the registration deadline: January 6, 2020.*
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1 Organizing PRMIA Chapters

Thank you to the following chapters and their representatives for their generous support in our effort to deliver a new learning experience for future financial services professionals and subject-matter experts.

Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS
Oscar McCarthy, Partner, Avantage Reply

Boston, MA, USA
Dan Dibartolomeo, President, Northfield Information Services, Inc
Sohayla Fitzpatrick, CRP, Managing Partner, Fitzpatrick Risk Governance, LLC (FRG) Managing Partner, Global FinTech Strategy

Budapest, HUNGARY
Tamas Toth, Freelance Advisor
Barbara Dömötör, Assistant Professor, Finance Department, Corvinus University of Budapest

Chicago, IL, USA
Peter O’Neill, Director, Risk Analytics, Archer Daniels Midland Company

Dublin, IRELAND
Monika Smatralova, Head of Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process, Permanent TSB
Alan Bluett, Partner, The Panel

Cairo, EGYPT and KSA
Ahmed Arafa, Head of Reporting and Collateral, ABk Egypt

Kraków, POLAND
Jadwiga Żarna, Risk Specialist, Can-Pack S.A.

London, UNITED KINGDOM
Kathryn Kerle, Chair of the Board, Greater London Mutual
Oleg Lebedov, Managing Director, Ten Diffusions Limited
Pradip Lamsal, Risk Management, Nomura International
Esperanza Cerdan, Chief Risk Officer, Global Head of Enterprise Risk Management, DWS Group
Nala Worsfold, Principal, Financial & Risk, UK Finance

Montreal, QC, CANADA
Kabil Jaa, Analyst, Credit and Liquidity Risk, PSP Investments
Jean-Charles Bouvrette, Director, Integrated Risk Management Modelling, Desjardins
Linda El Ghordaf, Partner, Financial Risk Management, KPMG
Ryan Kastner, Chair, Senior Associate, Financial Strategy Group, Mercer

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Petr Chovenec, Director, UBS
Michael Ivie, MD, Head of FS Consulting, Phyton Consulting
Victor Chen, Executive Director, JP Morgan Chase
Abhishek Ojha, Vice President, Credit Suisse

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Paris, FRANCE
Jean-Michel Beacco, College de France
Joel Bessis, Professor Finance, Groupe HEC Paris
Antoine Frachot, Head, Graduate Schools of Economics and Statistics
Pierre-Yves Maurois, Owner, PYM Services
Valerie Pilcer, President, Valorisk, Mines ParisTech

Russia, MOSCOW, RUSSIA
Sergey Ivliev, RD at PRMIA Russia, COO, Lykke

Toronto, ON, CANADA
Andreea Amariei, Associate Vice President, TD Securities
Victoria Guo, Associate Director, Scotiabank

Vancouver, BC, CANADA
Carlos da Costa, University of British Columbia

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2 Sponsors

International Premium Sponsor:

MathWorks®

Accelerating the pace of engineering and science

Regional Sponsors:

In-Kind Scholarship Support:

QuantUniversity, LLC

www.quantuniversity.com

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3 Competition Framework

3.1 Competition Goals

The PRMIA Risk Management Challenge (PRMC) is a case competition that empowers undergraduate and graduate students by taking them beyond the classroom and giving them exposure to real-world business situations. The Challenge offers students the opportunity to apply the concepts they have learned and showcase their knowledge, critical thinking skills, leadership, and presentation abilities.

Students say one of the highlights of their experience is the chance to grow their professional network and gain insight into the risk industry as they meet with students, faculty, and risk leaders from around the world.

3.1.1 Vision & Objectives

The competition promotes thought leadership and career development for students through an international competition. Its objectives are to:

- Promote the financial services sector internationally through an international case competition.
- Develop analytical and decision-making skills of future risk leaders currently enrolled at the undergraduate and graduate level at universities across the globe.
- Improve the employability of students participating in the competition.
- Identify top talent among competitors for potential employment opportunities.
- Create networking opportunities for students interested in pursuing risk careers.
- Promote understanding of both hard and soft skills required to work in risk management.
- Promote the strategic importance of risk management by aligning analysis to strategic direction.

3.1.2 Our Past Performance (2019)

The PRMC bridges the gap between university students and a career pathway in risk management. By instilling confidence and providing tangible real-life experience, we encourage students to enter into the profession post-graduation. Twofold, our goal is to provide the industry with newly graduated university students who are well-versed in risk practices and who have experience applying their studies in real-life simulations.

- 76 teams representing 290 students from 34 colleges/universities participated globally.
- 92% of surveyed student participants rated the overall challenge ‘Excellent’ or ‘Good.’
- Surveyed participants most valued the competition for the networking, educational experience and university, peer-to-peer, and career connections.

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3.1.3 Testimonials

Malo Gueguen  
Concordia University  
Data Analyst Intern at AirAsia  
"The PRMIA Risk Challenge is so empowering because it treats the competitors as any other risk manager in the financial sector meaning competitors are expected to deliver industry specific analysis and reasoning while developing new risk management strategies. This allows students to develop and practice their skills in order to truly get an in-depth understanding of the risk management field. Personally, this challenge opened my mind up to a completely new aspect of the financial sector which I had never previously thought to explore. Thanks to the PRM, I find myself almost a year later contemplating a career in risk management."

Sinéad McInerney  
University of Limerick, MSc of Science in Risk Management & Insurance  
“Overall, the PRMIA risk management challenge was a fantastic experience. Each stage in the competition challenged us, pushed us to think creatively and enhanced our team collaboration skills, all of which will benefit us as we begin our career endeavors. It allowed us to apply our knowledge to real life risk management cases, which boosted our confidence. The opportunity to present our findings and network with risk management practitioners was thrilling. Therefore, I cannot recommend the challenge enough for both undergraduates and postgraduates. You gain a true understanding of risk management, and it is also a great opportunity to network with individuals in the risk management field, especially in a time where risk management is paramount to the success of every business.”

Meagan L. Prins  
McGill University, Honours Investment Management  
Incoming Investment Banking Summer Analyst, Goldman Sachs, NY  
“The PRMIA RMC provides students with an unparalleled opportunity to think critically about risk management and to apply the theory that many of us have learned in the context of our academic degrees to real-world business problems. The cases provided were equally engaging and challenging, and really encouraged us to dig deep in our analysis. In addition to the preparation of the presentations, having the opportunity to network with an exceptional international community of risk management professionals as well as students made the experience truly unforgettable.”

Shirley Fan  
University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management, Master of Financial Risk Management  
Investment Risk Analyst in British Columbia Investment Management Corporation  
"From this case competition I not only learned a lot of risk management industry knowledge that I cannot get from school courses, but also it provided me with a very good opportunity to get to know more risk management professionals. The case that PRMIA provided was quite practical and had a very close association with the current financial industry.”
3.1.3.1 Accolades

PRMIA earned a 2016 American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Power of A Silver Award for its Risk Management Challenge Initiative. Key award criteria included:

- Through the PRMIA Risk Management Challenge, association volunteers focus their efforts on developing the future generation of professionals in their industry.
- Students compete in teams and gain first-hand experience researching and analyzing a real-life risk industry case scenario.
- The Regional and International Challenges offer students the opportunity to network with industry professionals, interact with local chapter volunteers, gain insight and knowledge from industry judges and discuss problem solving with peers and industry judges.
- The initiative provides students insight into the benefits of belonging to a professional association and cultivates a commitment to enhancing their career pathways through future involvement in the association.

"Congratulations to PRMIA and its partners for their hard work and for helping to make the world a better place," said Sharon J. Swan, FASAE, CAE, Chief Executive Officer of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and chair of the Power of A Awards Judging Committee. “Their initiative exemplifies how associations are a positive force in our everyday lives – not just to the profession or industry they represent, but to society at large.”

3.1.4 Awards

Each team that qualifies for the international championship receives a one-year PRMIA Sustaining Membership for each team member. The membership is valued at $US200 and includes digital access to the Wall Street Journal and discounts on numerous professional development resources.

The top two teams will receive scholarships for the Professional Risk Manager (PRM™) designation (valued at US$1,430 per student).

The winning team will receive a cash award of up to US$10,000. The award will be pooled from registration fees and is subject to US tax laws. The final amount will be dependent on registrations.
3.1.5 Fees

The registration fee is US$200 per team. Registration fees are pooled to form the cash award of up to US$10,000 for the winning team.

Each team must register online via the registration website: [http://www.prmia.org/prmc](http://www.prmia.org/prmc). The registration deadline is January 6, 2020.

There are no restrictions to the number of teams allowed to participate from any given academic institution.

3.1.6 Experiential Exchange

The PRMC aspires to encourage new ideas and practices across universities and industries by exchanging ideas at both student and professional levels.

3.1.7 Authenticity

A case study will simulate an up-to-date and real-life risk management challenge in order to offer participants practical experience in financial services and management consulting. The case study will be released on January 10, 2020. Additional questions to encourage deeper analysis of the case study scenario will be disseminated to the winners of the regional round for the international competition.

3.2 General Requirements

Students must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate-level college or university at the time of registration. There are no restrictions regarding the level of coursework required to participate in the PRMC. Students from across any of the following areas of study are encouraged to participate: finance, economics, mathematics, business or commerce, accounting, marketing, etc.

3.3 Competition Structure

Industry professionals develop a risk management case study for the PRMC which highlights relevant business problems with the aim of providing participants an opportunity to experience the challenges they may face as risk professionals and/or consultants.

There are three rounds to the competition. In the online preliminary round, teams submit a three-page executive summary which outlines their approach to the case study. Winners are chosen to compete in the regional round, hosted by PRMIA chapters, where they present their executive summary as part of a PowerPoint presentation to an industry panel of judges. Winners of the regional round receive additional questions that require deeper analysis of the case study as they compete for the international championship.

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3.3.1 Preliminary Round

The following steps outline the registration process, preliminary round, regional round, and international championship:

1) Teams consisting of 3-4 students register online and upload their CVs for inclusion in a global resume book that will be made available to PRMC sponsors and potential employers to promote professional networking opportunities. (Students may opt out of sharing their CV.)
2) The registration deadline is January 6, 2020.
3) The case study is disseminated to teams on January 10, 2020.
5) Team submissions are screened using a base set of criteria (see section 3.6.1).
6) Regional finalists are announced by February 21, 2020. A MATLAB challenge is disseminated to finalist teams for the regional round.

3.3.2 Regional Round

2) Regional competitions take place March 23 – 27, 2020 in various cities.
3) Each team has 20 minutes to make their presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A.
4) Judges determine one regional champion in each location, except for those regional hubs that have over 15 teams registered, where two regional qualifiers will advance to the finals.

3.3.3 International Championship

1) Additional questions which require deeper analysis of the case study are disseminated to the finalist teams by March 30, 2020.
2) Teams must submit a three-page executive summary and a PowerPoint presentation outlining their approach to solving the case study and addressing the additional questions by April 14, 2020.
3) Finalist teams travel to the United States to compete in the international championship on April 20, 2020, hosted by MathWorks in Natick, Massachusetts, outside of Boston. Please note: Students are required to cover their own travel fees and expenses. Check funding from your university, as these programs are usually available.
4) Each team has 20 minutes to make their presentation and 10 minutes for Q&A.
5) A lunch session will feature an executive panel of financial services practitioners who will discuss current challenges faced by the financial services sector as well as career development opportunities in risk management, finance, and consulting.
6) Following the final presentations, students and industry professionals participate in an informal networking session.
7) One winning team is chosen and announced.

**Presentations at the regional round and international championship may be conducted remotely; however, teams must ensure high quality audio, video and internet are available.**

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3.4 Competition Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration opens</td>
<td>9/18/2019</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final registration deadline</td>
<td>1/6/2020</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team resumes/CVs due</td>
<td>1/6/2020</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study is disseminated to teams</td>
<td>1/10/2020</td>
<td>Via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-page executive summary due as part of preliminary round</td>
<td>2/11/2020</td>
<td>Online submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists are notified whether they advance to regional round; MATLAB challenge is disseminated to finalist teams</td>
<td>2/21/2020</td>
<td>Via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive summary, PowerPoint presentation, and MATLAB challenge solution due</td>
<td>3/13/2020</td>
<td>Online submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional round hosted by PRMIA chapters</td>
<td>3/23-27/2020</td>
<td>Varies by location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional questions are disseminated to finalist teams for the championship round</td>
<td>3/30/2020</td>
<td>Via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive summary and Power Point presentation due</td>
<td>4/14/2020</td>
<td>Online submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International championship hosted by MathWorks</td>
<td>4/20/2020</td>
<td>Natick, Massachusetts, USA (greater Boston area)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 Competition Guidelines

Participants are expected to use common sense in making this a fair competition. Strict adherence to the rules is therefore required. If clarification is required on an issue, case competition officials will be made available for consultation. Any doubts or disputes will ultimately be cleared with PRMIA Chapters that are designated as “Competition Hosts,” which have authority in all matters related to the rules and the competition.

3.5.1 Case Preparation Details

- Each team prepares and presents a set of solutions according to the case study given. For preliminary round screening, each team prepares a three-page executive summary of their approach to solving the case study.
- For the regional round and international championship, teams must prepare a three-page executive summary and PowerPoint presentation and present to a panel of industry judges. Regional round competitors must also submit their solution to a MATLAB challenge.
- Presentations at the regional round and international championship will consist of a 20-minute presentation and a 10-minute Q&A session. Items presented after 20 minutes will not be considered on the team’s scorecard.
- Teams are permitted to use an unlimited number of textbooks and reference materials to solve the case study. Reference materials are defined as any form of notes, compendiums, readers, collections of articles, and the like.

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• The executive summary may include a separate appendix which provides a detailed description of an apparatus used in the research, supporting data for a model used, or complex diagrams that would not fit in the body of the submission etc. We ask that the appendix be limited to two pages to ensure consistency among submissions.

• Presentations must be made in English using Microsoft PowerPoint.

• After the submission deadline teams may not make adjustments to their summaries or presentations.

• All finalists will present the same topic, but questions from the judges will be in response to the approach of each team.

• Teams are not allowed to watch any of the other teams’ presentations preceding their own.

• All materials produced during the PRMC are the rightful property of PRMIA.

• Teams are expected to develop original work to express their solutions to the case analysis.

• Teams may utilize a mentor based on the following guidelines:
  o Mentors may offer advice, references, and constructive feedback on the executive summaries and presentations.
  o Mentors should not spend more than 10 hours with each team they are mentoring before the case submission. Mentors may spend an additional two hours to review the team’s presentation skills before the regional or international finals.
  o Mentors may not contribute any research or content to either the written report or the presentation other than by providing guidance, direction, suggestions, and feedback to the report and presentation structure.
  o Mentors may not provide any strategic advantage to one team over another.
  o Teams are allowed to work with mentors for feedback regarding logistics and presentation skills.
  o Teams are not allowed to ask mentors for answers to the case analysis questions.

• All teams must comply with the above guidelines.

3.5.2 Practicalities

• Teams are allowed to use any available internet resources outside of their presentations.

• Team substitutes are only possible for medical reasons.

• Teams must use the PRMIA template documents provided which include all information about the teams. Graphical design is under team discretion.

• Regional and international judges may issue an additional wild card qualification should the final team score be within a 5% range of the winning team and with a unanimous vote from the judging panel.

• Late submissions will be penalized with a 10% discount on the final grade for each day of delayed submission.

• Teams that qualify for the international round may ask for mentorship from their regional judges.

• The regional and international round coordinators will be available to assist teams with any computer-related issues; however, teams will not be granted more time for their presentation in the event there are technology issues.

• All teams are responsible for their own transportation, hotel and travel expenses. Please check with your university for funding methods.

• All teams who participate in the PRMIA Risk Management Challenge are invited to attend the international round for professional networking opportunities.

3.6 Scorecards

*Updates to the Program Handbook may be made until the registration deadline: January 6, 2020.*
### 3.6.1 Preliminary Round Screening Criteria

**WRITTEN SUMMARY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure, Development, and Consistency</strong></td>
<td>Organization, flow and coherence of ideas within the executive summary</td>
<td>/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arguments and Resolution</strong></td>
<td>Understood mandate, identified problem, information accurate, quantity and quality of arguments, depth of analysis, and pertinence of the conclusion; consideration of methodology and ethics in development of ideas</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Originality and Professionalism</strong></td>
<td>Level of innovation, audacity and professionalism in making recommendations and proposing solutions</td>
<td>/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**

Total /10

### 3.6.2 Regional Round and International Championship Criteria

**WRITTEN SUMMARY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure, Development, and Consistency</strong></td>
<td>Organization, flow, and coherence of ideas within the executive summary</td>
<td>/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arguments and Resolution</strong></td>
<td>Understood mandate, identified problem, information accurate, quantity and quality of arguments, depth of analysis, and pertinence of the conclusion; consideration of methodology and ethics in development of ideas</td>
<td>/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Originality and Professionalism</strong></td>
<td>Level of innovation, audacity, and professionalism in making recommendations and proposing solutions</td>
<td>/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**

Total /10

*Updates to the Program Handbook may be made until the registration deadline: January 6, 2020.*
PRESENTATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Identification</td>
<td>Main problem(s) clearly identified, implications discussed</td>
<td>/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Analysis</td>
<td>Depth of analysis, correct interpretation, and relevant use of numbers and facts; alternative decisions evaluated</td>
<td>/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Recommendations</td>
<td>Recommendations clearly articulated; recommended solutions feasible and effects on stakeholders identified; important implementation success factors discussed</td>
<td>/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure, Development, and Consistency</td>
<td>Organization, flow, and coherence of ideas that support the executive summary are clearly presented</td>
<td>/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>Position clearly stated and professionally delivered; correct use of terminology; grammatically correct and clear layout</td>
<td>/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Total /90

4 Date & Venue

Regional Round Competitions:

Date: March 23 – 27, 2020 (Varies by location)
Venue: Date and location to be determined by each participating PRMIA chapter. Participating teams will be notified as soon as schedules are determined.

International Championship:

Date: April 20, 2020
Venue: MathWorks Headquarters, Natick, Massachusetts, USA (located 35 minutes outside of Boston, Massachusetts)

Please note: Details regarding the timing and location of the regional round competitions and international championship will be communicated to teams and posted on the PRMIA website as plans are finalized: http://www.prmia.org/prmc

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5  Competition Schedule

Example: Regional Round Competition*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:20 AM</td>
<td>8:50 AM</td>
<td>Team 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Team 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40 AM</td>
<td>10:20 AM</td>
<td>Team 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Team 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 AM</td>
<td>11:40 AM</td>
<td>Team 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch with Guest Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:40 PM</td>
<td>2:10 PM</td>
<td>Team 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:20 PM</td>
<td>2:50 PM</td>
<td>Team 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Panel Discussion with Industry Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>4:35 PM</td>
<td>Judges Announce Regional Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35 PM</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Networking Reception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Schedules may vary across regional hosts.

Example: International Championship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast and Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Team Presentations – Two Concurrent Tracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Team 1 / Team 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40 AM</td>
<td>10:10 AM</td>
<td>Team 3 / Team 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20 AM</td>
<td>10:50 AM</td>
<td>Team 5 / Team 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Team 7 / Team 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 AM</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Team 9 / Team 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:20 PM</td>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Panel Presentations with Industry Experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>3:20 PM</td>
<td>Two Finalist Teams Announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>First Finalist Team Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:10 PM</td>
<td>4:40 PM</td>
<td>Second Finalist Team Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:40 PM</td>
<td>5:10 PM</td>
<td>Jury Deliberation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:10 PM</td>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>Judges Announce International Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Networking Reception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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