

Leadership Message

Never have we lived in a time when two-thirds of today's five-year-olds are predicted to work in jobs that have not yet been invented. With emerging economies that are experiencing rapid growth and changes in Asia Pacific, what investments should be made to ensure that our youth are ready to seize the opportunities in these economies and integrate into the future talent force? These are vital questions that policy makers, corporations, and civic societies are asking around the world. As JA celebrates our 100th anniversary in 2019, we are getting our youth and ourselves **#futureready**.

By empowering our youth to learn, create, and even educate and inspire others, the foundation for prosperity and long-term sustainability is laid. This is exactly the kind of vital work that JA in our 17 Asia Pacific locations does every day - investing in youth, in partnership with the private and government sectors, to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy.

Working with our funders, volunteers and partners who share the same vision as JA - be that in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, or Vietnam - remain focused on preparing our youth for the future - from Entrepreneurship to Employment (E2E). Sometimes E2E is design thinking, through innovative collaborations with technology partners and funders, to reach and enable more youth for entrepreneurial opportunities and employment in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Singapore. Other times, E2E is providing access to experiential learnings in work readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship skills in Australia, Brunei, Guam, India, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Turkmenistan. Our alumni, too, are part of our network of influencers helping us magnify our impact regionally and globally.

In 2018, the JA Asia Pacific network has served close to 790,000 youth, engaged more than 46,000 volunteers and teachers to empower youth across the region. Together, as the JA Asia Pacific network, we have made significant achievements in many areas.

- Educated 110,000 primary school students in 6 JA Asia Pacific locations on critical financial literacy through the Cha-Ching Curriculum
- Developed over 2,700 young entrepreneurs across 10 JA Asia Pacific locations through the 12th FedEx Express/JA International Trade Challenge Program
- Inspired over 15,000 youth through the JA Company Program and organized the 8th JA Asia Pacific Company of the Year Competition (JA AP COY) in Beijing, China; the largest JA AP COY ever in the region
- Nurtured youth in STEM learning and shone the spotlight on careers that utilize STEM skills in partnership in J.P. Morgan
- Created long term partnership with HSBC for the 11th year to promote financial literacy for young students across 8 Asia Pacific locations through the implementation of JA More than Money program
- Equipped youth with the 21st century work readiness skills with Bloomberg across 6 locations in the region

As the world continues to rise to meet the opportunities and challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution, at JA Asia Pacific, we believe that at the center of this revolution is Education 4.0. Our Education 4.0 not only focuses on preparing youth to create the future, but also embraces and lives out the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainability Development (SDGs).

In this 2018 Yearbook, you can read the many stories JA Asia Pacific and our 17 members who are engaging the private sector, governments, and communities to invest in our collective future. These investments do not just make economic sense, they help countless youth across the world improve their quality of life.

We thank Steve Wong, our former Chair of the JA Asia Pacific Board for his visionary leadership and unwavering support that has created the strong JA Asia Pacific network. We also thank our partners and funders for their continued support.

As we look out to 2019, we will continue to increase our impact and reach through organic growth and by leveraging on innovations, technology and partnerships so that we can realize the full potential of this region. We sincerely invite our partners to continue to work with us. Asia Pacific, home to 60% of the world's talent can become the powerhouse of tomorrow's talent pool. We must invest now to give our youth both the hope and the keys to the future. Together let's create this talent powerhouse.

