

Young Entrepreneurs shine at the 2017 JA Asia Pacific Company of the Year awards in Tokyo, Japan.



From L to R: Karen Reddington, JA Asia Pacific Board Vice Chair; Vivian Lau, President of JA Asia Pacific, 2017 JA AP COY 1st price winning team, KASCA from Thailand, Margie Wang, COO and CFO of JA Worldwide.

2017 marks the 7th JA AP COY, there were 76 students representing 19 student companies from 13 locations participating in the competition, the largest representation since the competition started in 2011. The student companies represented 13 locations including: Brunei, China, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

During the four-day competition and event in Tokyo, student companies were evaluated by a panel of judges comprised of entrepreneurs, academics, and representatives from the local business community. The participating student companies showcased and put their businesses in the real market place at the JA AP COY Trade Fair that was held in the Atrium at Tokyo Midtown on Feb 22.

The winners of the Asia Pacific JA Company of the Year Award were announced at the JA AP COY Awards Dinner in Tokyo, February 22.

Team KASCA from Thailand took the first prize for their concept of a sustainable, multi-functional board made from compressed rice husk that serves mainly as a device stand but also doubles as a personal organizer for a wide range of everyday items.

Team Golden Great Ganesha Student Company (3G SC) came second with their idea of producing practical, multi-functional and highly durably attractive ethnic bags.

Third place went to team Collar Couture from Guam, who designed a handcrafted couture bowtie with a twist – while designed primarily for pets, they can also be repurposed for children, men and as accessories.

Voted by other participating student companies, **team LovU from China won the Entrepreneurial Choice Award** with their multi-functions lighting umbrella.

Alongside with the JA AP COY awards and Entrepreneurial Choice award, **Team Hiraya from the Philippines won the FedEx Access Award**. Sponsored by FedEx Express (FedEx), Team Hiraya came up with the idea of the 'Pina bag', a versatile and innovative office bag which makes use of a combination of pineapple fabric and synthetic leather for a durable, high-quality product.

Please click on the following link to download official photos of all winning teams from the 2017 JA AP COY:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8ztl1c4brvqesf/AABNEo0bRe51qe3Nykxf24Hba?dl=0>

Vivian Lau, President of JA Asia Pacific, shared “We are proud of all the JA AP COY participating teams, national champions representing the 13 locations taking part in our flagship Company Program in the Asia Pacific region this year. Through the JA AP COY, students are able to gain key insights into the world of entrepreneurship; as well as making connections with other young entrepreneurs for life. This is one of the best experiences a young person can have in order to be successful in today’s global economy. I want to express great appreciation to the support and presence from our sponsors and judges; and to JA Japan for hosting a remarkable and memorable regional JA student event.”

About JA Asia Pacific Company of the Year Competition (JA AP COY).

The Competition celebrates the accomplishments of JA Company Program® students in the Asia Pacific region. During participation in the JA Company Program, students start and run their own businesses with support from volunteers from their local business community. They develop and market a product or service



with the goal of realizing a profit for their shareholders. The program currently impacts more than 450,000 students a year globally.

About JA Asia Pacific

JA Asia Pacific Limited is a member of JA Worldwide®, one of the largest global NGOs dedicated to addressing fundamental social and economic challenges of young people by educating and empowering them to transform their future and own their economic success.

JA Asia Pacific Limited aims to enable and empower youth to benefit from the region's economic development, and to create a positive impact in their lives and communities. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA Asia Pacific Limited provides in school and after school programs for students which focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. JA Asia Pacific envisions a future that young people dream big and, as a group, drive productive social and economic change.

The 18 Members JA Asia Pacific network is powered by over 30,000 volunteers and mentors from all sectors of society, reaching more than 650,000 students around the region.

For more information, visit www.jaasiapacific.org