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JANews
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JAN, in partnership with TechQuest, held four hackathons in Ife, Nsukka, Kaduna and Uyo to find young tech talent to help us build out some major digital initiatives we are embarking on ahead of our 20th anniversary next year.

Over 170 teams applied, out of which 61 teams were shortlisted, from which emerged four winning teams that received cash prizes and swag from our sponsors. The overall winner will be selected from the final four in early July at a ceremony in Lagos and I can’t wait to begin working with these young geniuses who will help transform JAN over the next year! Thank you so much to our partners for making it happen.

Earlier this month, Bunmi Banjo, who heads the Digital Skills for Africa program at Google reached out to ask if we would like to incorporate digital skills training in our entrepreneurial programs at secondary schools across Nigeria and we said a resounding “YEAH!!!”. Now we have JAN staff and Google trainers going from school to school, city to city, to conduct digital skills training just in time to help our Company Program students develop and implement their digital marketing strategy ahead of the Regional Company of the Year (RCOY) competitions also happening this month and next.

Speaking of RCOY competitions, I’m writing this letter from the Abuja airport, where I’m waiting to board the plane back to Lagos after witnessing another exciting group of student entrepreneurs battle to represent their region as the best student company at the upcoming National Company of the Year competition. I was blown away by the innovative products and services on display, ranging from a group of students who had used Zobo to develop an indicator paper that worked even better than litmus paper in their science classes to another group who had developed a website connecting farmers to consumers across the country and made over twelve million naira (yes, N12,000,000) in revenues in less than nine months!!!

I am also immensely grateful to all the volunteers who have been working hard to teach JAN programs in schools.

June has been such a nationwide-activity-packed month that we are just giddy with excitement – and possibly a little dizzy! Three projects had my colleagues and me going around the country this month in unprecedented fashion: hackathons, youth entrepreneurship competitions and digital skills training!

DEAR FRIENDS,

June has been such a nationwide-activity-packed month that we are just giddy with excitement – and possibly a little dizzy! Three projects had my colleagues and me going around the country this month in unprecedented fashion: hackathons, youth entrepreneurship competitions and digital skills training!
Finally, I would like to thank the writers of the Harvard Business School (HBS) Alumni Office who featured my work with Junior Achievement Nigeria in this month’s issue of their alumni magazine. I spent a week in June on the HBS campus at an executive education program for MBA alumni and it was really special to be presented with a copy of the magazine with the 2-page spread (see photo above).

One of our most popular programs, the Venture in Management Program, is from HBS so I look forward to working with the school to develop more programs for our young entrepreneurs in Nigeria.

Thank you for partnering with us to improve the lives of Nigeria’s youth.

We have had three RCOYs so far, in Lagos, Abuja and Jos, all cities in which Citi sponsors the Company Program. Next up, Ebonyi, Abia and Anambra, cities in which FirstBank sponsors the Company Program.

Did I already mention that #WeHaveTheBestBoardMembers???

In July, we will also have RCOYs in Port Harcourt (also sponsored by Citi) and in Osogbo and Ibadan, sponsored by our newest Partner-in-Development, the ACT Foundation, the high-impact foundation set up by Access Bank. To say we are grateful for these high-impact partnerships would be the biggest understatement of the century!

I am also immensely grateful to all the volunteers who have been working hard to teach JAN programs in schools this month – from the various alumni paying it forward as volunteers and judges at our RCOY competitions to the corporate volunteers from IFC and UPS, who have partnered with us to conduct the JA Be Entrepreneurial program in public secondary schools across Lagos. I was particularly impressed by the passion displayed by the IFC Country Manager, Eme Essien, who first served as a JA volunteer when she worked in the United States. The girls at Gbara Secondary School, Jakande, Lekki, could not bear to let go of her by the end of the program and she couldn’t let go of them!

Thank you for partnering with us to improve the lives of Nigeria’s youth.

Warm Regards,

Simi.
Staff of International Finance Corporation (IFC) Nigeria were at a JAN partner school, Gbara Community Secondary School, Lekki on the 6th of June, 2018, where they taught the JA Be Entrepreneurial program as part of their Volunteers Day activity.

Led by the Country Manager, Mrs. Eme Essien, twenty members of IFC staff interacted with over 300 students, empowering them with practical business skills as well as motivating them with their own individual stories. In addition to teaching the JA program, the staff committed to adopting the school and providing infrastructural support for the students’ learning. We thank IFC for partnering with JAN to prepare our youth for a successful future.
Junior Achievement Nigeria has partnered with Google to implement the Google “Digital Skills for Africa” program recently expanded to include secondary schools. The goal of the program is in line with JAN’s goal of providing its student companies with digital marketing skills to promote their products and services to customers.

Trainings are currently being conducted in multiple schools in over ten cities across Nigeria. Following from this, student companies would also compete for the “Best Digital Marketing Campaign Award” at the National Company of the Year competition in October. We thank Google for empowering our students with digital skills and working with us to raise a generation of digitally savvy youth.
HACKATHONS: JAN CONCLUDES NATIONWIDE HACKATHON IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TECHQUEST

Last month, JAN in partnership with TechQuest Nigeria set out to organize four hackathons for young developers to identify young tech talent to join the JAN team in building digital solutions for scaling impact.

The nationwide hackathons took place in Ife, Kaduna, Nsukka and Uyo, with Ife kicking off in May and Kaduna, Nsukka and Uyo taking place in June. From Kaduna, the winning team of Nafiu Garba and Ibrahim Isa, presented a mobile app that featured current technologies like Chatbots and Artificial Intelligence, displaying a knack for research and team work.

The duo of Ani Emmanuel Linus and Ofoegbu Ugochukwu Valentine emerged winners at the Nsukka hackathon.

Their software application met all requirements and had the best User Interface. The final hackathon which took place in Uyo saw Enya Emmanuel and Nsikak Emmanuel emerge winners after 48 hours of programming. Their solution remained the best out of other participants, featuring great app features, and a user friendly interface.

“We remain grateful to TechQuest for the partnership.”

Following these hackathons, the best teams would be selected and invited to Lagos for induction into the JAN workforce following which they will begin implementation of their solutions.

We remain grateful to TechQuest for the partnership.
United Parcel Service (UPS) has sponsored the delivery of “JA Be Entrepreneurial” program in five secondary schools across Lagos State. The program is currently being taught by dedicated volunteers who have been trained by JAN staff on the program delivery.

Through the help of these volunteers, this program has been completed in Falomo High School, Ikoyi Lagos, Kuramo Secondary School, Victoria Island Lagos, Herbert Macaulay Girls School, Yaba, Lagos and Government College, Waziri Ibrahim, Victoria Island, Lagos reaching over 200 public school students to date. We thank UPS for being a partner in the development of our youth.
ORACLE STEM CAMP:
JAN AND ORACLE ORGANISE STEM CAMPS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

On the 13th and 14th of June, 2018, about 50 students from the JAN school network participated in a 2-day STEM Innovation Camp organized in partnership with Oracle and the Co-Creation Hub (CCHub).

The camp was designed to increase digital literacy and coding skills in young students and is a partnership that has run for the past three years. This year, students were trained on how to use SQL programming databases to store information, which can be used for solving crimes and creating solutions to problems. The students were divided into teams and tasked with designing frameworks for software applications using the SQL programming language.

The third place winners designed an application that can help eradicate the diversion of funds intended for agricultural purposes. The second place winners designed an application through which potential JAN volunteers could sign up and get assigned to schools to teach.

The first place winners designed a software application that can be used by the government and security agencies to keep track of homeless people in the country. With the application, families can also track their lost family members, or adopt a new person into their home. Facilitators from Oracle were very impressed with the students who in two days were able design such brilliant solutions. We thank the Oracle Academy for this partnership which is in line with our goal of raising more digitally savvy youth.
The search for the best student company to represent Nigeria at the Junior Achievement Africa Company of the Year competitions kicked off this month with the Lagos regional competition. The event took place on the 7th of June, 2018 with twelve student companies from eleven schools presenting their products and services to judges Mrs. Leila Fowler-Amba of Vivian Fowler Memorial College, our Executive Director Mrs. Simi Nwogugu, and Mr. Boye Oshinaga of Riby Finance (an alum of the Company Program).

The students were so amazing that our judges could not pick only one winner to advance to the National competition so they picked three!

Students displayed very innovative products from headphones that can be shared simultaneously by four people from Vibz Naija, a student company from Victoria Island Secondary School, to a flash drive + lighting phone charger from Voltage, a student company from Day Waterman College, to a mobile, rechargeable traffic light for road wardens from Inventive Explorers, a student company from Caro Favored Schools, Ajegunle.

It was really a great sight to behold and filled us all with hope for Nigeria’s future. Special thanks to our awesome judges for doing a great job and we congratulate all winners especially the first place winner, Inventive Explorers from Caro Favored Schools.
The JAN Regional Company of the Year Competition took place in Abuja on the 29th of June, 2018 with about 20 student companies participating. The judges: Mr. John Ede, Miss Chidinma Obi, Mrs. Rahila Aborisade and Mr. Joseph Otaru watched as each student company presented their products and services and were impressed at the level of creativity and innovation they displayed.

The first place winners were students from Government Girls Secondary School, Abaji Abuja who also won the award for best CSR project. They created an online market where they sold farm produce from local farmers directly to customers. They also developed an app which is currently live on the Google Play Store: Farmers Market.

The second place winners were students from Government Science Secondary School Abaji Abuja who produced a Vacuum Cleaner as well as interior decoration designs, made from periwinkle shells, which could be used in homes and offices. Students of Community Staff Secondary School Asokoro Abuja emerged third place winners. Their products included Lamps, Eggs Crates, a Flower Vase made from plastic materials and Table Mats made from Ankara materials.

The prize for Most Innovative Student Company went to students from Government Science Secondary School, Pyakasa, Maitama. They produced an indicator that can be used in science based experiments from dried Roselle (Hibiscus Sabdariffa) leaves.

We are proud of our Abuja students and look forward to welcoming them to Lagos for the National Company of the Year Competition set to take place in October.
The JAN Regional Company of the Year Competition took place in Jos on the 21st of June, 2018 with about 16 student companies participating. The judges: Mr. Iliya Vongjen, Mr. Kamsen Mordecai Dapim, and Mr. Dakadieng Ayuba Adams, watched as each student company presented their products and services and were impressed at the level of creativity and innovation they displayed.

The third place winners were students from Federal Government College, Jos who produced an electric blowing machine and a light stand. The second place winners were students from St. Louis College, Jos who developed a power generating device from car batteries. The winning student company was the team from Government Secondary School, Tudun Wada, who produced cooking gas made from cow dung and a fruits dryer powered by solar energy.

We are proud of our Jos students and look forward to welcoming them to Lagos for the National Company of the Year Competition set to take place in October.
Please volunteer your time (an hour a week) to empower Nigeria’s youth or sponsor a classroom of 30 students with just N50,000. Your support will go a long way towards helping us achieve our goal to reach one million students by 2020!

**CONTACT**

**BLOG**  www.ja-nigeria.org

**EMAIL**  info@ja-nigeria.org

**PHONE**  +234 817 201 3370

**SOCIALS**  @ja-nigeria

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**JAN NEEDS YOU!**