As the year is drawing to its end it is time to reflect on the past months. 2015 has been an exciting year packed with achievements and challenges.

During the last quarter two major events have enriched the life of the association. On 25th November, JA Mascareignes held its sixth annual certificate Award Ceremony at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre and saw a large participation of its partners, stakeholders and supporters.

The first week of December saw the participation of the winning teams of the JA Mini Company competitions for 2014 and 2015 in the JA Regional Competition. This high profile event took place in Libreville, Gabon in the presence of His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon.

The JA Mascareignes teams flew the Mauritian colours high in the Gabonese sky and reaped an unprecedented five awards.

We would like to thank the Ministry of Education, Heads of Educational Institutions, rectors, directors, teachers, NGOs for their cooperation and for the trust place in our organisation. A special word for the students who have participated in our programs

Our thanks go to JA Worldwide and to JA Africa for their unfailing support and to the Members of our Managing Committee for their support and guidance. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks to our sponsors without whom all this would have been feasible.

We look forward to be working with you all in 2016.

Michele Lionnet
Executive Director
It was a night to remember for the JA Mascareignes team and for Executive Director Mrs Michèle Lionnet: “I am very proud and happy of how well both of our teams performed. Coming back with 5 Awards is simply fabulous.

The 2015 team, GreenBiz, from MGSS Moka was the star of the night with 3 awards to their name. “GreenBiz did really well. The level of the competition, in Gabon was exceptionally high. The awards were a recognition of their hard work, team spirit, creativity and innovation.” The best facilitator award also went to Mauritius, with Mrs Nisha Sewpal, from MGSS Nouvelle France (Eco Frames Co. Ltd). “I am proud of her, she was involved at more than 100% with her team and applied all the mentoring qualities that we promote and value”.

Apart from the trophies, this was a fantastic experience for all our students. “There was a big change in their attitude. They left as teenagers and came back as young adults.”

The 2015 Regional JA Mini Company Competition of the Year (COY) was a big success for JA Mascareignes (Mauritius), with an unprecedented 5 Awards won:

1. Citi Client Satisfaction Award 2015 (GreenBiz/MGSS Moka)
2. FedEx Access Award 2015 (GreenBiz/MGSS Moka)
3. Runner Up Mini-Enterprise 2015 (GreenBiz/MGSS Moka)
4. Best Facilitator Award (Mrs Nisha Sewpal, Eco Frames Co Ltd/MGSS Nouvelle France)
5. Runner Up Model Nation Awards (JA Mascareignes, Mauritius)
COY 2015
Greenbiz- MGSS Moka

“It has been an enriching experience for me, as a mentor, and for my students. They have understood what it means to be entrepreneurs on a global level and have acquired a better understanding of the World of Work.

The competition has also allowed our student to grow as individuals. They have become more confident and are better able to express themselves.”

Karishma Naga Govinda

“The Africans were rich in communication skills and ideas. Before going to Gabon, we had prepared ourselves to be the best, we were fully equipped to fight this battle of young entrepreneurs of Africa. Our hard work paid off as on first day itself for the trade booth, sales of our green products kept on rising and we were being constantly complimented for our work. This gave us hope that we could be among the winners of COY 2015.”

Fyona Seesurrun

“The JAM competition taught me many things. To begin with, I became responsible and hardworking, working with friends taught me the value of teamwork and I learnt a lot about sportsmanship. Even though, we did not win the first prize, I was happy we could at least participate in such a prestigious competition. It was an opportunity to grow as an individual, and I would welcome this type of competition any time in my life.”

Nivesh Pydatalli

“The competition was very enriching. It was very enjoyable as it was great to meet students of our age from all around Africa. I learned a lot from them and the competition will surely be forever engraved in my memory.

First of all, I learned to be more independent. I became more of an extrovert and learnt how to socialise better with others. I was quite surprised that when I came back, my parents told me that I had grown up and was more of a young adult than a teenager.”

Damordaran Gopaulen

“Going to the Regional Competition in Libreville was a great achievement for us all. Being able to stand out of the crowd and winning the second prize was a massive success. The Competition was tough, but with the right mindset, we achieved something that we did not think we could at first.

My best memory was how our booth was always full with customers. Even when it was the 2014 sales booth going on, we still had a small crowd in front of ours.”

Adjmal Dreepaul
"The competition has been a very enriching experience. It provided a platform to discover the talents and innovative ideas emerging from the African youths. Despite their young age, they have shown amazing creativity. The future belongs to those who can harness this creativity and innovation coupled with hard work, dedication and commitment. The participants have made the most of the exchange and networking opportunity they had, which was the real essence behind the competition.

I am proud of my team's performance and was delighted to have won the "Best Facilitator Award".

Nisha Sewpal

"The Company of the Year competition was simply an amazing experience. It really proved to be a turning point in my life as a student as I have acquired so much during the program. My best memories was during breakfast when both Mauritian teams (2014 and 2015), had the time to sit down together and share their experience of the previous day. It felt like we were a family."

Deerish Beeharry

"Personally, the competition in Gabon was a wonderful experience. It might have been quite tough to come out with the first prize but we are winners in real terms as we have been able to make new friends from other countries. We also got entrepreneurial skills which have prepared us for our future career."

Ansooyabaye Babajee

"The competition has been very interesting and enriching. Besides, it has enabled us to learn more about other foreign cultures. The moment we spent together like a family will remain a lifetime cherished memory."

Avishtee Mootten

"It was quite difficult but interesting as well. My best memory was during the trade booth. It was fun selling and marketing our products. We got to meet various persons from different countries and also got to know about their cultures. This competition has developed my communication skills and boosted up my confidence."

Jhiavish Baboolall
Community and Learning Engagement
La Maison d’Accueil de Sainte Croix
by Kendy Soobrayen (UTM Student)

The Mauritius Council of Social services (MACOSS) organized a “day of discovery” which was held on 15th July 2015 for the undergraduate students of the University of Technology Mauritius (UTM) at La Tour Koenig. UTM seized this opportunity to launch the ‘Community and Learning Engagement’ CLEn, to enable young people to meet the NGOs invited.

Through the CLEn, it is mandatory for the undergraduate students to choose NGO for an internship. Many of us chose Junior Achievement Mascareignes also known as ‘JAM’. JAM is dedicated to work with the youngsters enabling them to develop their entrepreneurial and employability skills and to become financially literate.

During our internship, some of us had the opportunity to implement JA @ Notre Quartier, at La Maison d’Accueil de Sainte-Croix, a home for children and youngsters. It provides recreational as well as artistic activities to the kids after school. The main objective of La Maison d’Accueil is to help parents to custody their kids in their absence. The institution welcomes children from the age of 5 to 13 years old.

Furthermore, a small survey was carried out among the volunteers from the University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM).
Community and Learning Engagement
La Maison d’Accueil de Sainte Croix

“First of all, it was a pleasure to work with the kids from La Maison d’Accueil de Sainte-Croix. The kids were really sweet and friendly. They did their work really well. Sometimes, it was necessary to motivate and entertain them but they were good listeners and were really interactive during these two day sessions. Personally, I have discovered some hidden skills in myself. I am thankful to JAM to have given me such an opportunity to work with them.”

Vishnee Narainen.

“I had a great experience over there by helping those small kids aged from 5 to 13 years old. To make them better understand the importance of a job in today’s life. We taught them how to use and save money. I had a wonderful team of children which I took charged during the 2 days of work. Coming to the internship, it was awesome and interesting. This internship helped me a lot in terms of overcoming my timidity. Today, I can proudly say that I am not shy and I am now able of talking in front of a class, thanks to JAM. I had great moments with the children especially on last day of our internship. Thank you,”.

Sohinee Kunniiah.

“It was a nice experience to do an internship with the children at La Maison d’Accueil de Sainte-Croix. It was interesting to teach the children about how the different jobs in their community are interdependent and interrelated. I developed my communication skills and increased my knowledge on financial aspects. JA ©Notre Quartier program is innovative and interesting as it helps children and guides them in choosing their future career and helps them to learn about money management and tax. It was a great pleasure to work with the members. I would like to thank all the JAM team members.”

Jeshina Poinen.

“It has been a pleasure for me to be part of Junior Achievement Mascareignes. Working with the students, interacting with them, has been a great and memorable experience. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the University of Technology, Mauritius for organizing the CLEn which was part of paper based work and has provided my friends and I the opportunity to volunteer for JAM. The students were enjoying learning new things that will be of great importance for them. JAM’s experience helped me to develop my communication skills. These activities were full of fun performed in a joyful environment where everyone worked together as a group and developed their problem solving skills.”

Atisha Shirlall.
"My first thought, as I entered the venue of the workshop, was like that of every other student coming to attend a one-day event during the summer holidays. But how would I have known, ignorant soul that this day would prove to be very helpful but also very memorable? We were first introduced to the members of the JA Mascareignes team and I was surprised to see them all bearing huge smiles contrary to the usual stone faced resource persons we usually see. The first activity of the day was a memory game. For the first time I was happy for my shy nature (which quickly vanished during the course of the day), as I was asked to remember only 7 names. I can assure you that after that game, my ribs were hurting from so much laughing and many friends were made. I can still remember the names of the poor mates who had their names deformed and had to repeat them after each round.

During the day, many other activities were organised. What really amazed me was the subtle way that the JAM team incorporated the activities to make us grasp the concepts that we were being explained. Who would imagine that a simple "jeu de devinettes" game would make us understand the need for a good communication? This workshop exposed us the need for good teamwork, posture, and physical appearance. Personally I learnt about a lot of things that are not taught at school, things that you unconsciously do which are not appropriate for a specific situation. The 16 Success Skills explained to us were new things that I’m sure most of us will now apply in our daily lives as they can prove to be very useful.

At the end of this day, I went back home as a new Nudhistee: someone who can work effectively in a team, someone who can write a good curriculum vitae, someone who can grasp the attention of an interviewer. I have developed eternal friendship bonds with other students from other schools and with the five members of the JAM team. (And not to forget the massive storage of selfies!)."
"06th November 2015 is one of the most memorable day of my life when I got to learn many new things about the world of work as on that day, there was a Job Shadow held at the LIC House, Port-Louis which was organised by the Junior Achievement Mascareignes.

It was a great pleasure for me to be a part of the workshop as I acquired knowledge about what the world of work is all about and discover the history of insurance, its importance, the various risks involved and how to deal with them, the types of insurance and job opportunities in this field.

Since the start of the session, we were welcomed warmly by an employee of the LIC Company who introduced us to the insurance company. There was also an active interaction between the participants and the speaker. Moreover, the quote "If you want to shine like a sun. First burn like a sun" said by the speaker left a print on my mind which would really change the life of a hardworking person who is determined to achieve success by overcoming obstacles lying in his way and by never giving up.

However, the best part of that session was when some of us were told to prepare instantaneously and present a small sketch to increase our understanding of what we had learnt. It was in the form of a press reportage where there was an audience and two insurance officers answering to insurance related questions. Basically, it was a good activity which encouraged us to public speaking, improving our communication skills. This exercise boosted our self-confidence.

At the end of the day, we were youngsters that had gained a fruitful and enriching experience through this workshop. It won’t be wrong to say that all this has been possible thanks to the initiative taken by the Junior Achievement Mascareignes without whom our learning process would not have been so advanced. I would be glad and I’m looking forward to attend such workshops in the future and I would like to thank JA Mascareignes and LIC for giving us the opportunity to acquire new knowledge."
Que pensez-vous des programmes de Junior Achievement Mascareignes?

Je pense que ces programmes sont excellents pour l'épanouissement des jeunes de notre pays car ils les préparent pour le monde du travail. À mon époque je n'ai pas eu une telle chance. Les jeunes doivent saisir cette opportunité et consacrer du temps à leur formation.

"...ces programmes sont excellents pour l'épanouissement des jeunes de notre pays..."

Depuis combien de temps êtes-vous volontaire auprès de l'association?

Je suis volontaire pour JA Mascareignes depuis 2 ans; cela m'a permis d'implémenter JA ©Notre Quartier, JA Our Nation®, JA Mini Company™, JA More than Money™, et JA Economics for Success™ auprès des jeunes que j'accompagne.

Qu'est-ce qui vous a motivé à implémenter ces programmes avec les jeunes?

En premier lieu c'est moi qui en sors gagnante. J'apprends beaucoup de ces programmes. Ma passion c'est de faire de nouvelles rencontres. C'est un grand challenge pour moi d'aller vers de nouveaux groupes et leur présenter les programmes de Junior Achievement Mascareignes. Ils en sortent toujours plus instruits, mieux formés et informés qu'au départ.

En tant que volontaire, vous êtes sur le terrain et vous allez dans différentes régions de l'île, comment les programmes de JAM répondent-ils aux besoins des jeunes?

Le contenu de ces programmes ne se trouvent pas dans les manuels scolaires des jeunes. Pour pouvoir attirer les jeunes, il faut maintenir leur attention. C'est exactement ce qu'ils trouvent dans les programmes de Junior Achievement. Cette éducation informelle, le matériel coloré et les jeux pédagogiques sont des atouts non négligeables.

Chaque jeune qui suit ces programmes devrait s'engager à inviter un ami à en faire de même. De ce fait on pourrait atteindre un plus grand nombre de jeunes.

"...Ils en sortent toujours plus instruits qu'au départ..."
Comment as-tu trouvé la formation sur l'Entrepreneuriat ?

La formation sur l'entrepreneuriat était très enrichissante et nous a permis de comprendre et de voir les choses différemment.

Grace à cette intervention de Junior Achievement Mascareignes, j’arrive maintenant à me projeter dans le futur. Le monde de l’entrepreneuriat semble moins flou et plus concret.

Qu’est-ce que tu as aimé durant la formation ?

Le fait d’avoir recu des informations très précises sur les institutions et démarches à suivre pour mettre sur pied un business.

J’ai aussi apprécié l’échange qu’il y a eu entre les animateurs et les jeunes présents. Les animateurs ont su susciter et maintenir notre attention.

Comment penses-tu que cette formation va t’aider à l’avenir ainsi que les autres jeunes ?

Cette formation m’a permis de remettre ma pendule à l’heure. J’ai toujours rêvé de me lancer dans l’entrepreneuriat et maintenant je me sens plus confiante et mieux préparée. J’ai compris l’importance de l’étude du marché. Bien souvent on commence un business sans se poser les bonnes questions ou prendre le temps de connaître son marché.

Cette formation m’a permis de connaître mes forces et mes faiblesses et m’a donné une direction à suivre.

Est-ce qu’on a répondu à tes attentes ?

Oui, Pleinement. Je dois juste me jeter à l’eau maintenant.
Junior Achievement Mascareignes’ Annual Certificate Award Ceremony was held on the 25th November 2015 at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. This year we were honored by the presence of Mr Lindsay Despois, Director of Secondary and TVET, from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

369 teachers and 56 volunteers were awarded a certificate for having successfully implemented the JA programs in 2015. JA Mascareignes would like to thank all those who had helped to make this event a success.
Photo Gallery
JA Mascareignes
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Our Benefactors:

- Etudes Robert
- Loita
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Should you wish to sponsor or volunteer for the organization, kindly contact us:

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