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TEAM JAMAICA ROBOTICS 2023 OFF TO SINGAPORE AIMING FOR A GENEVA REPEAT PERFORMANCE

New York, NY 21 September 2023

After an amazing performance in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2022, Team Jamaica Robotics is ready to match or surpass the performance of their 2022 peers in this year's **FIRST** Global Challenge (FGC) in Singapore.

The Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA) Inc. (UJAA) – the 65-member umbrella organization of alumni associations of basic to tertiary schools in Jamaica – has been consistent and deliberate in ensuring that Jamaica participates wherever in the world **FIRST** Global founder, Dean Kamen, finds a sponsor to stage this Olympic-style robotics competition. This year the event goes to Singapore! They will compete, in collaboration with alliances from more than 160 nations, over 4 days in the Singapore Expo, the island-country's over 100,000 square meters of column-free, indoor space spread over 10 halls.

This year's theme calls on **FIRST** Global teams to "reimagine the future of energy and create more sustainable ways to power our planet as they focus specifically on the role of hydrogen in the planet's renewable energy and reduced carbon future." Hydrogen-based energy technologies allow for enhanced methods of carrying and storing the energy generated from renewables.

Having spent most of their summer holidays at the FGC "Robotics bootcamp," students from over 30 schools participated in learning, training and building the competition robot. Although making the final team was not guaranteed, they knew that the experience would lead to teaching and sharing with their fellow students when they returned to school this month. The program is set up under the guidance and support of UJAA and lends itself to spreading Robotics in schools across the island, in secondary and primary schools.

Jamaica's 2023 co-ed team represents American International School in Kingston, Campion College, Glenmuir High School, Hillel Academy and Wolmer's Boys School.

The UJAA has been the primary sponsor since the FGC began in 2017. This year, the 7th staging in Singapore, is an expensive but worthwhile opportunity to give our young innovators the experience of meeting and competing with students from around the world.

In facing the realities of maintaining this ongoing opportunity for our students, UJAA launched **UJAAbotics**, "a fundraising initiative, through which all funding for our Robotics programs will be channeled." says President Donovan Wilson. Over the years, our robotics programs have been possible because of the contributions from our member associations as well as from fellow Diaspora community organizations, donors, sponsors, friends, and family. He sends an open invitation to readers and STEM aficionados to **Join the Robolution!**

Please visit the **UJAA** website at ujaausa.org/robotics/. Read about our robotics programs including our support of robotics in Jamaica, and donate here: <https://ujaausa.org/ujaabotics/>

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