



September 16, 2005

For Immediate Release

## **Citigroup to Sponsor MESE Tournament**

### **Applications from Middle School, High School, and College Students Nationwide to Be Accepted Starting September 21**

Citigroup will sponsor the MESE (Management and Economic Simulation Exercise) tournament organized by Junior Achievement Japan, which will begin in October 2005. In MESE, teams of middle-school, high-school, and college students aged 14 to 20 compete in the management of a virtual company. To date, the program has been included in integrated studies courses in middle and high schools, and management courses in universities nationwide. The MESE tournament has been given the nickname "Knowledge Nationals," and the search for participants is being widened. Citigroup is supporting these efforts. Applications for participation in the Knowledge Nationals will be accepted from September 21 to October 14, 2005. Applications can be made through the Website of the organizers, Junior Achievement Japan. <<http://www.ja-japan.org/>>

Citigroup agrees with Junior Achievement Japan's mission statement: "Develop the basic qualities in children to enable them to correctly understand the framework of society and how the economy works, and choose their own path in life and design their own futures based on their wills, no matter how society changes." Citigroup has been supporting this tournament since 1998. For this tournament, Citigroup will continue to provide funding for tournament qualifiers and tournament management, as well as provide grants for travel and other aspects of the tournament.

Applications are made for teams of at least two members from the same school. After online qualifiers (three rounds), the remaining eight teams will earn the right to compete at the Tokyo Citigroup Center in March 2006. Up to two members of the winning team will be flown to New York for a study tour at Citigroup's expense, while the second through eighth-place teams will win a cash prize.

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For more information about this press release:  
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For more information about the "Knowledge Nationals" and MESE:  
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## **Citigroup's Support for Financial Education**

Citigroup is committed to supporting financial education, based on the philosophy that providing financial education can give anyone the opportunity to realize his or her dreams. In April 2004, Citigroup announced that it would provide US \$200 million for financial education worldwide over the next 10 years.

In Japan, rather than simply giving children a knowledge of the role of money, and economics and finance, Citigroup supports efforts that give children the power to live; to think about and choose their future careers and design their own lives. Based on this philosophy, Citigroup supports financial education in partnership with Junior Achievement and other educational organizations.

In addition to MESE, Citigroup's support for Junior Achievement includes Student City, which has been incorporated into the curriculum of public elementary schools in Tokyo's Shinagawa Ward since 2003. In this hands-on program, a virtual "city" is created; after students have studied in the classroom, they take turns playing the roles of people working in the city and of consumers. Through this, they learn about how society works and their own relationships with it, get first-hand experience of what money and working signify. Citigroup provides the funding to build the city, opens a Citibank branch in the city, and also sends volunteer employees to help.

### **About MESE (Management and Economic Simulation Exercise)**

MESE is a computer-simulated program that develops decision-making skills. Each team is set up as a company, and determines its company's performance by virtually deciding product pricing, the amount to produce, the marketing budget, capital investment, and R&D spending using a PC. The teams can improve their companies' performance by correctly analyzing market trends and other teams' strategies, and making correct decisions. The team with the highest score wins.

### **About Junior Achievement**

Junior Achievement (JA) is an international, private non-profit economic educational organization founded in the United States in 1919. Junior Achievement Japan was established in 1995, and a growing number of schools nationwide are adopting its educational materials. JA provides support to develop the basic qualities in children (the skills to adapt to society voluntarily) to enable them to correctly understand the framework of society and how the economy works, and choose their own path in life and design their own futures based on their own correct thinking, no matter how society changes.