

Jack Ma: Chinese Billionaire a University Prof in Tokyo

June 18, 2023

June 17, 2023: Hangzhou, China: Jack Ma attended the final of the **Alibaba Global Mathematics Competition**, run by Alibaba's Internal Research Division. (Jack Ma had started the Global Competition in 2018.) In 2023, the Competition attracted 250,000 contestants with a top award of US\$ 8,418.00



17 June 2023: Jack Ma discusses “Understanding of Mathematics” with 685 Finalists of the Mathematics Competition from 20 countries over video

Ma said on Saturday that next year's competition will continue to “innovate and bring more fun to people who love mathematics”

Jack Ma had earlier visited Hangzhou, Headquarter of Alibaba, on 27th March 2023 to discuss issues of AI in education at **Yungu School**, a private school covering kindergarten to high school, funded jointly by the Alibaba Partnership Committee, chaired by Jack Ma.

Jack Ma, the richest Chinese till 2020, used to be an eloquent speaker at international gatherings of businessmen. In October 2020, in a speech in Shanghai Mr. Ma publicly castigated financial regulators for being obsessed with minimizing risk and accused China's banks of behaving like “pawnshops” by lending only to those who could put up collateral. The Chinese regulators opened up anti-trust investigations into Alibaba and disallowed the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the Ant Group (the FinTech giant, created as a holding company of Alibaba group companies). The IPO would have been by far the largest such offering by any

Chinese company. Soon the crackdown widened to all the giant tech companies of China.

During Covid 19, when new jobs were scarce, it was easy for the Chinese Government and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to turn the ordinary people of China against its billionaires (China has more billionaires than USA and India combined.) in an environment wherein 600 million Chinese earn \$150 a month. During 2020, consumption of essential goods fell by 5%, consumption of luxury goods grew by 50%. It was easy for CCP to ignite hatred towards billionaires in the Chinese social media.

Jack Ma had not been seen in public for some time. Last week, in Paris, when, at the Seventh VivaTech conference (June 14-17, 2023), Europe's biggest startup and tech event, Maurice Levy, chairman of French advertising group Publicis asked Michael Evans, the President of Alibaba, about Jack Ma, Alibaba President Evans said, " Well, first of all, Jack is alive. He's well, he's happy. He's creative. He's thinking." Evans added, " He's teaching at a university in Tokyo, [while also] spending more time in China."

After becoming free from all executive responsibilities of Alibaba, Jack Ma started devoting more time to study the operations and technology of farming and fishing. Earlier this year, he was seen in Thailand as part of his study of farming and fishery, following a three-month stay in Japan, where he looked into the operations and technology of fish farms.

On June 12, he conducted his first class at the **University of Tokyo** as part of the **visiting professorship** he was granted this year. Ma, 58, served as the featured speaker at a special "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" seminar, which was jointly organised by Tokyo College and the University of Tokyo's Global Leadership Programme (GLP). The two-hour seminar was focused on management philosophy and how the younger generation can achieve success in the future, a theme based on Ma's "rich experience and pioneering knowledge of entrepreneurship and innovation", a statement from University of Tokyo said.

Ma has also assumed professorships in at least three other schools outside mainland China. One of those is a three-year term as **honorary professor at the University of Hong Kong**. Ma is also a visiting professor at the **African Leadership University** in **Rwanda** and **Tel Aviv University** in **Israel**.