

JAFCO Group to Launch “&JAFCO Meet up Series”

**Serving as a bridge between major and start-up companies
to accelerate open innovation with more impact.**

JAFCO Group Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Shinichi Fuki) has announced the launch of the “& JAFCO Meet up Series” seminar. The aim of this seminar is to connect major companies with startup companies and promote open innovation with more impact by addressing management issues facing people involved in corporate planning or new business creation, and offering information that could provide a clue to their next actions.



& JAFCO Meet up Series Outline

In “& JAFCO Meet up Series,” we will offer information on the latest trends required for new business creation, the trajectory of people embarking on new business ventures, etc. on a topic basis for corporate personnel looking to take on new challenge or who are already developing new businesses.

The topic of the first session is “Innovators.” We will invite Mr. Tomoki Akutsu, President of TOUCH TO GO Co., Ltd., who is promoting an unmanned convenience store business that he launched while working for JR East Start UP (CVC). He will talk about his experience in new business creation from various viewpoints, including the time he launched a new business in a large company, part-time job experience before joining JR East Start UP, business turning points/ factors to be experienced, and current issues.

For the second session, we will invite Mr. Takumi Yamaguchi, President of PR TIMES Inc., who volunteered to manage a new press release distribution business of Vector Group, a largest PR company in Japan, and brought the business to IPO.

<Seminar Topics>

● **Innovators:**

We will invite entrepreneurs who belong to companies and embarking on new projects to unravel their driving force, turning points, and how they continue to challenge themselves

● **Next Trend Seminar:**

To realize the “New Industrial Structure Vision (Society 5.0)” issued by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, we will offer easy-to-understand information on cutting-edge technologies (present and future) for people in various industries. We will ask companies embarking on new challenges in various fields and delve deeply into their actual activities, future prospects and real issues.

< Innovators#1 Session Outline>

Date: March 17, 2021 (Wed.) 18:00-19:00 (opens at 17:50)

Venue: To be held online

Admission: Free

Speaker: Tomoki Akutsu, President of TOUCH TO GO Co., Ltd. and Manager of JR East Start UP Co, Ltd.

Topic :

- Speaker introduction and his pre-job experience as a convenience store manager
- Business background from demonstration experiment to commercialization
- Who will be the president of the new company?
- Business outlook after the launch
- Q&A

To participate, click on the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebCs1y86DvQb7Tsc2IYzpN8TRmNT9po_CMW_xK5VC2SzvtbA/v
iewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebCs1y86DvQb7Tsc2IYzpN8TRmNT9po_CMW_xK5VC2SzvtbA/viewform)

Seminar special site : <https://www.jafco-seminar.info/innovators-1>

※ Please see the seminar special site for the speaker’s profile and rules during seminar.

< Innovators#2 Session Outline>

Date: April 26, 2021 (Mon.) 18:00-19:00 (opens at 17:50)

Venue : to be held online

Admission: Free

Speaker: Takumi Yamaguchi, President of PR TIMES Inc.

Details of the Innovators#2 and the Next Trend Seminar sessions will be posted on JAFCO Group’s website (<https://www.jafco.co.jp/>) as soon as information becomes available.

For more information, please contact
pr@jafco.co.jp, JAFCO Group Co., Ltd.

Background and Purpose of the & JAFCO Meet up Series

With the aim of being a partner providing support for people continuing to challenge themselves, JAFCO Group started holding web seminars in 2020 to connect people involved in corporate planning or new business creation with entrepreneurs. In realizing the “New Industrial Structure Vision (Society 5.0)” issued by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, open innovation has been actively implemented, and, as we support growth and development of a number of businesses, difficulty in creating a business with impact has also become apparent. In order for us to reproduce successful business alliances, it is necessary to understand, from the point of view of big companies, issues facing corporate employees who seek to take, or have already taken, on new challenge, and propose and realize the best matching solution with a startup company as an option to solve these issues. Over the years, JAFCO Group has served as a bridge between big businesses and startup companies. Our expertise in business expansion on both sides and connections with various companies will be used to create contents for the “&JAFCO Meet up Series,” through which we aim to contribute to solving issues associated with “new business creation” and realize business alliances with impact.

Under our vision of shaping a better world with better tomorrow by looking into the future and expanding our partnership base for joint projects, we will continue to work closely with entrepreneurs and people who continue to challenge themselves at the business forefront.

About JAFCO Group Co., Ltd.

Since its founding in 1973, JAFCO Group has always worked with leading entrepreneurs. The total commitments of its investment funds in Japan and overseas exceed ¥1 trillion and the cumulative number of portfolio IPOs to date reached over 1,000. In addition to venture investment, we also carry out buyout investment and commit to the creation of innovative technologies and services worldwide. As entrepreneurs’ closest partner in bringing their visions to life, we provide support in areas of HR, marketing/ sales, and back-office operations, in addition to providing financing.

Company name: JAFCO Group Co., Ltd.

President & CEO: Shinichi Fuki

Location: 24F Toranomom Hills Mori Tower, 1-23-1 Toranomom, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Established: April 5, 1973

Stock exchange: TSE First Section

No. of employees: 133 (consolidated; as of December 30, 2020)