

JSC "KAZAKHSTAN STOCK EXCHANGE"

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KASE has completed an educational project for students of five Kazakhstan universities

As was reported earlier, in spring 2010 Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) and its subsidiaries – LLP "Information Agency of Financial Markets IRBIS" and LLP "eTrade.kz" – launched a project providing a series of demonstrational and educational games for students of Kazakhstan universities and involving the use of the Exchange's trading system.

The project has been implemented for the purpose of presenting basics of KASE trading system's operation to future economists from the country's leading universities, providing to students a guidance to Kazakhstan's real stock market, as well as introducing to them the culture of investing on securities markets. According to the project organizers, its implementation will improve Kazakhstan youth's financial literacy, attract more small investors on the market, as well as give a boost to Internet-trading in Kazakhstan.

The demonstrational and educational games were organized using "Stock Exchange Smulator" software and "STrade", KASE trading system's new terminal. Participation in the games stipulated a team competition in conditions as close to real KASE trading in financial instruments as possible.

During the games, students had a chance to make deals in the most liquid KASE-traded shares, as well as watch and analyze as their portfolios' values fluctuated under the influence of real market conditions.

The project was implemented in two stages.

At its first stage, in April 2010, three series of team games took place in KASE trading floor, whereas the "Stock Exchange Simulator", special software designed by the Exchange group for such trainings, was deployed. Students from Kazakh-British Technical University and Kazakhstan Institute for Management, Economics and Prognosis took part in the mentioned games. Each participant started off with KZT1.5 million credited to his virtual account. The students were then making efforts to increase their portfolios' value as much as possible trading in the most liquid KASE-listed shares. The team of Kazakh-British Technical University won the first stage of the games with their portfolio reaching KZT12.6 m. Individual gamers from both teams, who took the first three places, were rewarded, too. They were awarded with honor certificates, and KASE provided them with two-week training at the stock exchange.

The second stage was held in November 2010, featuring "STrade", KASE trading system's new terminal, designed for Internet-based trading on KASE. Participating universities were selected based on applications submitted after the end of the first stage to the project coordinator – Information Agency of Financial Markets "IRBIS". Eventually, five universities had the chance to take part in the autumn games: Kazakh-British Technical University, International Academy of Business, Joint MBA Program of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan and T. Ryskulov Kazakh Economic University, University of International Business, Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research. There were 25 students in each team.

At the second stage, each games participant was provided with KZT5.0 m of virtual money credited to his account. Like in the spring, the primary goal was to raise investment portfolios' value as much as possible through trading in the most liquid KASE-listed shares, whose price was changing in accord with the real stock market.

First, selection games were held inside each team. Their outcome helped to detect the best 5 gamers in each university team, who then fought for their alma mater's honor in final inter-university competitions. The second stage's winner was the team from Joint MBA Program of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan and T. Ryskulov Kazakh Economic University.

Throughout 2010, a total of 200 students from the above-mentioned universities took part in demonstration and educational games on KASE. A poll has shown, 95 % of participants considered the project as being important und useful not only for development of investment culture in the country, but also for themselves personally. Around 98 % of students would like to take part in similar games in future, and 63 % of participants said they were ready to invest in securities of Kazakhstan-based issuers.