

# KAZAKHSTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

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## PRESS RELEASE

Almaty

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### **KASE is Granted the Status of Member of the World Federation of Exchanges**

On October 29, 2013, the 53rd World Federation of Exchange General Assembly (WFE) in Mexico City (the United Mexican States) approved **full membership** of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) in **WFE**. This is one of the most significant events in the national financial exchange history of during the recent years, which represents recognition of KASE as an integral part of the global exchanges infrastructure and a full member of international financial community.

In 1997, KASE joined WFE as a correspondent member for the first time and in 2008 has been granted the WFE affiliated member (the affiliated market) status.

Gaining by KASE of the WFE full member proves compliance of KASE activities aspects with international standards and world best practices. The regulators, investors associations and large investment companies treat the trades' organizers WFE membership as an essential condition for investment activities on the markets, being served by these trades' organizers. In addition, the WFE full member status will facilitate KASE to enter into closer cooperation with foreign exchanges and investors, and keep up on new international ideas, opinions and approaches to the exchange activities implementation.

During the recent five years KASE persistently studied WFE's criteria on the exchange operation various aspects, including availability of reliable exchange infrastructure and market surveillance system, legal environment that allows execution of transparency and equity principles based exchange trades and an appropriate risk management system. One of KASE key objective during this period was aimed at improvement of own procedures, mechanisms and services to bring them into line with requirements for WFE members. Gaining of the WFE full membership has been specified in KASE Development Strategy for 2011–2013 as one of the main objectives.

KASE activities on achievement of compliance with WFE's criteria have been appreciated at true value by WFE's inspection, held with the purpose of preparation of the conclusion on such compliance. KASE has been visited by the WFE inspecting delegation, including representatives of Istanbul, Shanghai and Korea Exchanges, and CEO of the WFE Huseyin Erkan. As a result, the inspection gave the positive conclusion that served as the basis for making decision on admission of KASE to the WFE full membership.

In November 2013, KASE celebrates its 20th anniversary. The international exchange community recognition is an important appraisal of KASE activities at this milestone that proves its maturity and drive for further development. Along with other advantages the WFE membership will allow KASE continue positioning of its brand among other world exchanges as the leading in Central Asia financial market infrastructural institution. In addition, for KASE the WFE membership is the strong incentive for continuous maintenance of its activities at the WFE determined level.

#### **Reference**

WFE is the leading professional association of the world exchange industry since 1961 and at present joins 63 world exchanges. WFE exchanges are home to about 45,000 listed companies. WFE establishes international cooperation between exchanges and regulator worldwide.

The activities of WFE are aimed at improvement of all aspects of the global securities and other instruments market through its study and analysis, information and know-how exchange in the area of the exchange trading.

KASE is the only in Kazakhstan exchange, servicing the financial market. This is the universal floor, where are being held trades in repo market instruments, foreign currencies, government and corporate securities of Kazakhstan and foreign issuers, bonds of internal financial organizations. During 10 of 2013 the total volume of trades on KASE reached the equivalent of 164.2 billion US dollars, including the shares market – 431 million US dollars. As of November 1, 2013 the KASE shares market capitalization has been estimated at 31.8 million US dollars.