



PRESS RELEASE

city of Almaty

March 6, 2023

KASE together with IFC held annual trading opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality and discussion "DigitALL: Women in FinTech"

On March 6, 2023, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (hereinafter – the Exchange, KASE) together with the International Finance Corporation (hereinafter – the IFC) held the annual trading opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality which featured a discussion on the subject "DigitALL: Women in Fintech".

The trading opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality is designed to draw the attention of the global community to prospects for the development of gender inclusiveness and support for gender equality in the context of sustainable development policies and ESG principles.

The discussion on the subject "DigitALL: Women in FinTech" was held with the participation of leading experts in the field of digital technologies and fintech who discussed topics related to supporting gender inclusiveness in the context of development of digitalization and IT technologies.

KASE is holding this ceremony for the 6th time as part of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, which KASE joined in 2015. This action is traditionally supported around the world by UN Women, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Women and Exchange Traded Funds and the World Federation of Exchanges. Each year, more than 100 exchanges around the world host the Gender Equality Opening Ceremony under the UN SSE Initiative.

Holding the trading opening ceremony has become a good tradition for Kazakhstan's financial community and a platform for dialogue on the topic of gender diversity in today's business environment.

It is important to note that one of activities of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative is to draw attention to the key role that organizations can play in advancing gender equality to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, raising awareness of the empowerment of women in the private sector and access to funding.

An event with a general agenda on gender inclusiveness was held on the eve of International Women's Day.

Welcome speeches at the annual trading opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality were held by Alina Aldambergen, Chairperson of the Management Board of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange, Madina Abylkassymova, Chairperson of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market, Elena Bakhmutova, Chairperson of the Board of the Association of Financiers of Kazakhstan (AFC), IFC Regional Manager for Central Asia, Cassandra Colbert, and Representative of the UN-Women in Kazakhstan Maria Dotsenko.

Discussion "DigitALL: Women in FinTech" at the international event featured the following speakers: Deputy Chairperson of the Management Board of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange Natalya Khoroshevskaya, CEO of Kazpost Digital and Advisor to the Minister of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan Assem Nurgalieva, Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Otbasny Bank JSC Elmira Raspekova, Chief Financial Officer and Member of the Board of Kazakhtelecom JSC Lyudmila Atamuratova, IT Managing Director of Halyk Finance JSC Assel Marchenko, Product Development Director of Beeline Kazakhstan Saltanat Januzakova, Team Lead for Automation of Business Processes of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange Yulia Yakupova.

Umut Shayakhmetova, Chairperson of the Management Board of Halyk Bank JSC, and Maria Dotsenko, Representative of UN Women in Kazakhstan, opened the trading with a blow to the gong.

Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange Zhainar Sarzhakov spoke about the technique of conducting trades on KASE and traded instruments.

At the event, participants discussed the importance of improving gender equality in corporate governance, supporting gender inclusiveness in the context of IT development, as well as the value of successful projects implemented by women and lending programs for them.

Particular attention at the event was paid to the topics of attracting and retaining more and more women in leadership positions in fintech companies, maintaining their expertise and continuous learning, the challenges faced by women in the Fintech industry, and IT trends in the financial market.

For reference

Kazakhstan Stock Exchange (KASE) is a leading stock exchange in the Central Asian region. KASE occupies the second place among the CIS exchanges in terms of securities trading volume, and the fifth place in terms of the equity market capitalization among the FEAS exchanges.

It is a universal trading platform for corporate and government securities, bonds of international financial organizations, foreign currencies, transactions of the money market – repo and swap, as well as derivatives. KASE is a member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) and other international and local professional associations, as well as a participant of the UN's "Sustainable Stock Exchanges" initiative.

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