



Қазақстан қор биржасы  
Казахстанская фондовая биржа  
Kazakhstan Stock Exchange

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **KASE jointly with IFC held the annual trades opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality and an online event on inclusive leadership**

On March 5, 2021, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (Exchange, KASE) together with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) held the annual trades opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality, including the online event "Inclusive Leadership: New Reality in Business".

The trades opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality is intended to draw the world's attention to issues of gender diversity and the empowerment of women in politics, economics and business.

This year, the Exchange held this ceremony for the 4th time as part of the UN's Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, which KASE joined in 2015. The campaign is traditionally supported around the world by the UN Women, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Women and ETFs and the World Federation of Exchanges. In 2021, the opening ceremony is held by over 90 exchanges around the world.

Holding the trades opening ceremony Ring the Bell for Gender Equality has become a tradition for Kazakhstan's financial community and a platform for the dialogue on the topic of gender diversity in the modern business environment.

This year, the event was held in an online format and was aimed at drawing attention to the role of the corporate sector in promoting gender diversity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event highlighted the main objectives of the global initiative Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP), which KASE joined in 2019.

The speakers at the ceremony were Stephanie von Friedeburg, IFC Senior Vice President for Operations, Cassandra Colbert, Head of the IFC Regional Office for Central Asia, Lazzat Ramazanova, a Deputy, Chairperson of the National Commission on Women Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Maria Khajieva, Deputy Chairperson of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market; Dosym Satpayev, Political Scientist, Director of Risks Assessment Group - Kazakhstan, Andrey Kurilin, Chairman of the Management Board of Citibank Kazakhstan JSC, Jeannette Liendo, Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications of Mastercard, Ramil Mukhoryapov, CEO and co-founder of Chocofamily Holding.

The participants discussed achievements of the Republic of Kazakhstan in strengthening the positions of gender equality, the involvement of women in various sectors of the economy, including in business management, shared their views and research on the representation of women in leadership positions at various levels and in boards of directors, considered international approaches to the concept of inclusive leadership, as well as measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and development institutions aimed at increasing the level of employment of women and their involvement in the management of business entities of various forms. During the event, it was emphasized that today, leading companies are demonstrating strategic, business-oriented practices of sustainable development and gender diversity with a special focus on inclusiveness.

**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 sixth rank 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 institutions, 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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