



Қазақстан қор биржасы
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Kazakhstan Stock Exchange

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PRESS RELEASE

Almaty

March 04, 2020

KASE conducted a conference in honor of gender equality and the opening bell ceremony of securities trades

On 4 March 2020 Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (KASE) in partnership with Young Presidents' Organization Kazakhstan (YPO Kazakhstan) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) held the conference "Sustainable Development of the Organization: Gender Equality" and the opening bell ceremony titled "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality". KASE joined the UN Initiative on 24 September 2015.

The event celebrates the International Women's Day and seeks to highlight criticality of promoting gender equality, economic empowerment of women and enhancing their role in society. The conference was attended by prominent Kazakhstani women, who contribute to the country's social and political, financial and economic spheres.

The conference became an expert platform for dialogue on gender equality in a modern business environment. During the conference, speakers raised a number of issues related to legislative and economic incentives for gender equality, as well as various programs to expand the role and opportunities of women entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan.

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality opening ceremony was held for the 3rd time within the framework of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE Initiative), which KASE joined in 2015. Support for this action around the world is traditionally provided by organizations such as UN Women, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Women and Stock Exchange Funds and the World Federation of Exchanges. One of the activities of the UN Initiative is to ensure the full and effective participation of women in business and public life and to provide them with equal opportunities to provide leadership at all levels of decision-making in the political, economic and public spheres.

Today KASE is one of the 50 stock exchanges in the world supporting this UN Initiative.

Thus, KASE as an infrastructure organization who is demonstrating to the financial market participants the latest trends in sustainable development and serves as an example of corporate governance. One of the initiatives of KASE is methodology for the provision of non-financial reporting by listed companies on the criteria of environmental friendliness, social responsibility and corporate governance - Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), which KASE is actively promoting among issuers. This document was developed by KASE in 2016.

Due to this methodology, KASE recommends to issuers to provide information on all significant aspects of activities, including the establishment of corporate goals and objectives in the field of gender equality. In 2019 KASE has joined the global initiative "Empowerment of Women - Business means Equality" (Women's Empowerment Principles, hereinafter - WEP). Now WEP initiatives are supported by more than 2,200 companies around the world including 5 companies from the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The WEP Global Initiative based on seven principles that enable companies to integrate practices into daily business processes and incorporate aspects of gender equality. The practical experience of the WEP principles should become an effective example for other companies in terms of their stable and sustainable development.

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 repo market instruments, foreign currencies, government and corporate securities, bonds of international financial institutions 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 Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative.

YPO (Young Presidents Organization) – is the most representative network of businessmen, which includes owners and first company leaders around the world. Today, YPO has over 28,000 members from more than 130 countries around the world and about 450 branches. YPO Kazakhstan brings together a number of well-known businessmen aimed to expand their activities, training and continuous growth. The goals of YPO Kazakhstan are to provide communication and expansion of business relations both at home and abroad, training through access to programs of the world's leading business schools, exchange of ideas and experience, promotion and support of social projects.

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