

PRESS RELEASE

city of Almaty

February 17, 2025

KASE awarded best members of the Exchange, listed companies and media of the year 2024

On February 14, 2025, Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC (hereinafter – the Exchange, KASE) held the 23rd award ceremony for members of the Exchange who achieved the best results in the Exchange's markets, listed companies – for their commitment to transparency, as well as representatives of mass media – for active coverage of the stock market based on the results of 2024.

KASE members

Among the members of the Exchange, the joint coordinators and bookrunners during the public offering (IPO) of common shares of Air Astana JSC were awarded in the nomination "Best Underwriter of the Year in the Stock Market": Halyk Finance JSC, SkyBridge Invest JSC, BCC Invest JSC, Jusan Invest JSC.

The IPO of Air Astana JSC took place simultaneously on three platforms: Kazakhstan Stock Exchange, LSE and AIX, during which the company raised 370 mln US dollars, with 58 % raised on the local market. During the IPO of common shares of Air Astana JSC on KASE, 49.2 bn tenge, or 76 % of the total volume of the common shares offering were raised.

The winners in the nomination "Best Underwriter of the Year in the Corporate Bond Market" were Halyk Finance JSC and Jusan Invest JSC, which are leaders with regard to the number of successful placements of securities on KASE and the volume of raised financing.

In the nomination "Best Underwriter of the Year in the Bond Market of International Financial Organizations", the winners were Jusan Invest JSC and Tengri Partners Investment Banking (Kazakhstan) JSC. During 2024, bonds of international financial organizations in the amount of 219.3 bn tenge were placed in this sector.

In the nomination "Market Leader" awards are presented to members of the Exchange who have demonstrated the highest trading activity. The evaluation takes into account key indicators, including the total volume and number of completed transactions, as well as the number of active trading sub-accounts and omnibus accounts.

In the nomination "Leader of the Stock Market", awards were given to members of the Exchange who demonstrated the highest trading activity coefficients on the stock market. The winners were Freedom Finance JSC, Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, Halyk Finance JSC and Jusan Invest JSC.

In the nomination "Leader of the Corporate Bond Market" awards were presented to Freedom Finance JSC, Freedom Finance Global PLC and Jusan Invest JSC. This nomination recognizes participants with the largest volumes and number of transactions in the corporate debt capital market.

Freedom Finance Global PLC, Freedom Finance JSC and ForteBank JSC were awarded in the nomination "Leader of the Government Securities Market" for demonstrating outstanding results in operations with government securities.

In the nomination "Foreign Currency Market Leader" the winners were Citibank Kazakhstan JSC, Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, Bank CenterCredit JSC. Awards in this nomination are presented for active trading in the foreign exchange market.

In the nomination "Best Market Maker of the Year" awards are presented to members of the Exchange who have demonstrated the best performance of market maker duties and made a significant contribution to increasing the liquidity of the exchange market.

In the nomination "Best Market Maker of the Year in the Stock Market" the winners were Freedom Finance JSC, Halyk Finance JSC, BCC Invest JSC.

In the nomination "Best Market Maker of the Year in the Corporate Bond Market" awards were presented to BCC Invest JSC, Freedom Finance JSC and Halyk Finance JSC.

In the nomination "Best Market Maker of the Year in the Government Securities Market" the following companies were awarded: Freedom Finance JSC, Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC and Bank CenterCredit JSC.

The winner in the nomination "Best Market Maker of the Year in the KASE Global Sector" was Freedom Finance JSC.

The winners of the "Best Financial Consultant" nomination were Teniz Capital Investment Banking JSC, Halyk Finance JSC and Freedom Finance JSC. They demonstrated a high level of professionalism and expertise in supporting listing procedures for issuers, which contributed to the successful placement of securities.

The award "For Contribution to the Development of the Chinese Yuan Exchange Market" was received by Subsidiary Bank "Bank of China in Kazakhstan" JSC. This award is presented to market participants who have made a significant contribution to the development and popularization of exchange trading in the Chinese Yuan.

In the nomination "For the contribution of brokerage organizations to the development of the foreign exchange market", the winners were Tansar Capital JSC, Teniz Capital Investment Banking JSC and Investment Company Standard JSC. These brokerage organizations have made a significant contribution to the development of the foreign exchange market. Today, 15 brokerage organizations participating in foreign currency trading are members of the Exchange in the "currency" category.

Awards "For Contribution to Attracting Investors" were awarded to Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, Jusan Invest JSC and Bank CenterCredit JSC. These members of the Exchange have made a significant contribution to the development of retail investment, expanding the opportunities for private investors and increasing their involvement in the stock market of Kazakhstan.

In the nomination "For contribution to the development of exchange initiatives" the winners were: NGDEM Finance and SQIF Capital JSC, which demonstrated initiative in the development of the derivatives market and also contributed to the modernization of the stock market infrastructure.

In the nomination "For the organization of the first issue of bonds with settlements in digital tenge" the prize was won by SkyBridge Invest JSC, which provided consulting services to the issuer on the issue and listing of the first bonds with settlements in digital tenge.

In the nomination "For the greatest contribution to improving the financial literacy of the population", the winners were Investment Company Standard JSC, which took an active part in KASE Fest, educational webinars and round tables held by the Exchange in 2024, and Kazpost JSC, which actively participated in attracting retail clients to the KASE Retail Investor Competition.

KASE-listed companies

The award "For 20 years of successful partnership" was presented to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan in recognition of its key role in the development of the government securities market and ensuring effective financing of government programs.

The first auction of three-month government treasury bills (GTB) of the Ministry of Finance took place on April 4, 1994. In 1994, the sales volume of GTB amounted to 367 mln tenge, and in 2024 the volume of the initial placement of government treasury bills by the Ministry of Finance reached 5.6 trillion tenge.

For 20 years, the Ministry of Finance has successfully implemented a strategy of attracting resources through exchange mechanisms, serving as a benchmark for the formation of a transparent, liquid and competitive environment for investors.

The winners in the nomination "For Issuance Activity" were Kazakhstan Sustainability Fund JSC, National Management Holding "Baiterek" JSC, Intergas Central Asia JSC, MFO "Mogo Kazakhstan" LLP, Lombard "GoldFinMarket" and MFO "OnlineKazFinance" JSC (Solva). This nomination recognizes listed companies that have demonstrated high issuance activity and listed the largest number of issues of their bonds during 2024. These companies demonstrate an example of active participation in the stock market and contribute to its growth and development.

In the nomination "Leader of the ESG Bond Market", the winners were National Management Holding "Baiterek" JSC, Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, Otbas Bank JSC, A-cars LLP and Development Bank of Kazakhstan JSC. This nomination rewards listed companies that issued ESG bonds in 2024 that were successfully placed. In 2024, a record number of ESG bonds were included on KASE – 10 issues worth 549 bn tenge, which contributes to the financing of green, social and sustainable development projects.

The winner of the nomination "For support in ESG bond verification" became Green Investment Group. ESG bond verification plays a key role in creating a transparent and trustworthy investment climate, allowing investors to confidently direct funds to projects that comply with the principles of environmental, social and corporate responsibility.

In the nomination "First issuer of bonds with settlements in digital tenge" the award was presented to the National Company "Qazaqstan Temir Zholy", which became the pioneer in the use of new technologies and financing formats.

In the nomination "For the pursuit of transparency" among the companies of the financial sector of the economy, awards were won by Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC and Development Bank of Kazakhstan JSC, and among the companies of the non-financial sector of the economy – by KazTransOil JSC, National Company "KazMunayGas" JSC, Kcell JSC and KEGOC JSC. The award in this nomination is presented for openness and initiative in disclosing information about oneself and one's activities.

When assessing this nomination, the disclosure of information is taken into account, besides the additional information required in accordance with the legislation and the rules of the Exchange in the form of press releases and various notifications, taking into account the absence of violations in the reporting period. An important criterion is, among other things, the informativeness of the annual report, and whether the listed company held events such as "Issuer Day", which give shareholders and investors the opportunity to be updated about activities of the listed company.

Annual Report Competition

As part of the Annual Report Competition, the Exchange has separately developed a procedure for assessing annual reports, taking into account the assessment of quantitative and qualitative characteristics, which together make up about 150 different criteria. According to the terms, an expert committee evaluates the information contained in the applicant's annual report and sustainable development report and assigns points. The expert committee includes experts in corporate governance and ESG disclosure.

26 organizations took part in this competition, including financial and non-financial organizations, as well as companies whose securities are not included in the Exchange's official list.

In the nomination "Best Annual Report for 2023 in the Financial Sector", awards were presented to:

- as a laureate – Development Bank of Kazakhstan JSC;
- the winners were "Otbasy bank" house construction savings bank JSC and Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC.

In the category "Best Annual Report for 2023 in the Non-Financial Sector", the awards were presented to:

- as a laureate – Samruk Energy JSC;
- the winners were KazTransOil JSC and National Company "KazMunayGas" JSC.

The following organizations were awarded in the category "Best Sustainability Report 2023 in the Financial Sector":

- as a laureate – Bank CenterCredit JSC;
- the winners were Halyk Bank of Kazakhstan JSC and "Damu" Entrepreneurship Development Fund JSC.

In the category "Best Sustainability Report 2023 in the Non-Financial Sector", awards were presented to:

- as a laureate – National Company "KazMunayGas" JSC
- the winners were Karachaganak Petroleum Operating B.V. and SWF Samruk-Kazyna JSC.

In the nomination "Best annual report for 2023 among companies in the real sector" the following companies were awarded:

- as a laureate – Kazakhmys Copper JSC;
- as the prize winner – Central Asian Electric Power Corporation JSC

in the nomination "Best Annual Report for 2023 of a Non-Listed Company":

- as a laureate – Kazpost JSC;
- the winners were NMC "Tau-Ken Samruk" JSC and Samruk-Kazyna Construction JSC.

Media representatives

Kazakhstan's media were awarded diplomas for active coverage of Kazakhstan's stock market and KASE activities in 2024 and high professionalism in presenting materials in a comprehensible and interesting format. Among the media, Kaztag.kz was the best in the nomination "For Improving the Financial Literacy of the Population".

The Prodengi.kz media was awarded a diploma in the nomination "For the most creative approach to covering the stock market".

In the nomination "For the most relevant material on the stock market" the winners were FINANCEkaz and Bes.media.

In the nomination "For the most professional coverage of the stock market" diplomas were awarded to Forbes.kz, Kursiv.kz and Kapital.kz.

Egemen.qazaqstan and Baq.kz were the winners in the nomination "For coverage of the stock market in the state language".

The winners in the nominations were recognized in accordance with the internal documents of KASE "Rules for the annual incentives for members of Kazakhstan Stock Exchange JSC", "Rules for the annual incentives for listed companies", "Rules for the annual incentives for representatives of the media" and "Terms of the annual report competition", which are published on KASE website in the KASE Rules section.