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ERG supports female leadership in tech by hosting the first Forum for women in IT: CEO Shukhrat Ibragimov

IT is one of those professions where women are largely underrepresented, and this is on the systemic level and across the majority of countries and regions. Indeed, according to the most recent World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report, published in 2024, in Kazakhstan, the country of ERG's origins, only 30% of graduates in information and comms technologies (ICTs) are women. In European countries, such as Luxembourg, where ERG is headquartered, UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Ukraine, this number is even lower, at 18-20%. Paradoxically, in some African countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Angola, where the related data is available and which are overall ranked low in the Gender Gap Report, women are more actively entering the tech field with their share in graduates in ICTs at the level of 36-38%. E&Y also assessed that women globally make up just 29% of all STEM workers.

Eurasian Resources Group ("ERG" or "the Group"), a leading diversified natural resources group, held a special Forum for women working in information and comms technologies – IT Аруы ("Miss IT"). A groundbreaking event, another successful project of Business & Technology Services LLP (BTS), a company owned by ERG, was arranged in Astana on the occasion of the International Women's Day and added to global discourse about the gender disparity in the sphere of digitalization.

The Forum featured successful business cases from metals and mining, construction and other sectors. It also showcased the related experience of government agencies in improving the work with communities and the efficiency of contact centers, such as the development of an electronic signature system, the ongoing implementation of AI assistants that help citizens understand legal and administrative issues and the introduction of drones for monitoring construction.

Mr Shukhrat Ibragimov, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Eurasian Resources Group, said: "At ERG, we give special focus to additional business opportunities offered by female leadership in digital and AI. The share of women among top managers of global technology majors like Apple, Google and Amazon has already reached 25% to 30%, and it's not a coincidence but a key indicator. In Kazakhstan, both the business community and the country's government pay close attention to digital transformation. Still, the IT Аруы Forum for women, held by our company to mark the International Women's Day, is the first such event. As the participants said, the Forum had shown that women not only perfectly integrate into the IT industry – they give a lead, provide inspiration and enhance processes and cooperation between employees, which, of course, is crucial."

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About Eurasian Resources Group:

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) is a leading diversified natural resources group headquartered in Luxembourg, with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics, and marketing operations. The Group has around 67,000 employees and sells products in more than 40 countries. The Group's main shareholder (40% stake) is the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

ERG is one of the world's largest producers of cobalt and ferrochrome and is a large international supplier of copper and iron ore. In Eurasia, it is a leading supplier of alumina and is the only producer of high-grade aluminium in Kazakhstan.

Overall, in Kazakhstan, the Group operates many of the country's leading production entities, including Kazchrome, Sokolov-Sarbai Iron Ore Mining Production Association (SSGPO), Kazakhstan Aluminium Smelter, Aluminium of Kazakhstan, Eurasian Energy Corporation, and others. The Group is a key power supplier and a large railway operator in Central Asia.

ERG Africa also forms a core part of the Group's international asset portfolio. In the DRC, Frontier is the cornerstone of the Group's copper business and Metalkol is a major tailings reprocessing operation, which has become one of the world's largest producers of cobalt and a major producer of copper. The Group also has its own supply chain on the continent through its logistics company SABOT.

In Brazil, ERG is developing BAMIN, an integrated mining and logistics project in the State of Bahia, which comprises the Pedra de Ferro high-grade iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated stretch of the new FIOLE broad-gauge railway.

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