KazNARU works to support startups on ecology and sustainable development within the framework of "Demo Day"

♦ On February 20, 2025, the KazNARU Hult Prize Demo Day was held at the Kazakh National Agrarian Research University (KazNARU, KazNARU). The Demo Day was held to engage students and raise awareness, the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ESG promotion of startups. The meeting was attended by 5 universities - students and masters of economics and other specialties from different universities of Almaty (KBTU, KazNU, KAU, UIB, Turan, etc.), who presented 6 startups.

≪ Rafis Abazov, MBA/EMBA Program Coordinator, Vice-Rector for International Relations of KazNARU, noted that such events provide an opportunity not only to discuss the problem and publicly defend their startup goals on SDGs and ESGs, but also contribute to the acquisition of new friends and like-minded people at the international level and in the regions.

Ø For the presentation of the opening of this event were invited: Regional Coordinator for Central and South Asia Hult Prize - Ms. Supriya Jangre (online), Coordinator for Kazakhstan Hult Prize - Nelson Izah, Efes Kazakhstan - Ms. Zhanna Abzaltynova, Director of the Center for Commercialization of Turan University and founder of the Association of Business Incubators and Accelerators in the Republic of Kazakhstan - Erbolat Orazbekuly, Director of Business Incubator at KBTU - Vladimir Popov, Head of "United logistics services" LLP - Zkail Semembaev, entrepreneur, co-founder of Pieper brand - Beksultan Urazbekov and mentor, KBTU employee - Ekaterina Novoselova, coordinator of Women Entrepreneurship Club program at KBTU - Balzhan Shayakhmetova and others.

♦ Speaker Nelson Izah shared the main points of the event, welcomed the guys and noted the importance of organization and participation in this event. He mentioned 3 important areas:

- 1) What is Hult Prise, why it is important to participate;
- 2) How important it is to create your first startup;
- 3) What are the benefits and opportunities in the future.

The main point of attraction to this program was that any idea can be implemented into a real business in the future, it is important not to give up and keep

working. She also shared the opportunities of this program and advised not to miss such meetings.

♦ As part of the competition, students presented their startups: Comfortable Ride, Alsort, Soile AI, OrtaTap, Bottle Sorting, Stoneware. 6 startups made it through the first qualifying competition, they will then go on to the subsequent Demo days. At the end of the pitches, the winners were selected who scored the maximum points from the jury.

The local competition within the Hult Prize program is an opportunity where in the future independent experts will evaluate the projects that participated in the Demo Days during the year and at the end the winner will be determined, who will receive a cash prize and a trip to any country in the world.

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