



News Release

TRA Publishes Its Fourth Report on the Level of Radio Signals from Telecommunications Masts in Bahrain

Telecommunications Signal Levels are significantly below International Guidelines

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain - Wednesday 10 February 2010

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has recently issued its fourth report on the level of radio signals in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the report is available on TRA web site www.tra.org.bh. The report is consistent with the three previous reports in its conclusion that, public exposure to radio signals emitted from telecommunications masts are significantly below the international guidelines: Typical levels being 1,000 times lower than the international guidelines.

Telecommunications services are a key element in the realisation of the Kingdom's social and economic development as articulated in the 2030 Vision. Telecommunications masts supporting radio transmitters are essential to the provision of telecommunications services. However, in order to deliver modern broadband radio based telecommunications services with sufficient capacity to meet public demand, it is necessary to install masts and antennas close to residential and commercial areas where the users of the services are located. This, in turn, has given rise to understandable concerns from the public regarding possible exposure to radio signals.

The scientific community has responded by investigating the possible health effects of radio frequency signals and following more than US\$300million spent on research, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has published guidelines which limit the permissible levels of public exposure to radio signals and so ensure the safety of the public.

An international meeting recently held in Muscat, Oman from 30 – 31 January 2010, attended by representatives of key organisations including the WHO, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as well as over 400 delegates from organisations such as environmental and health ministries, regulators, operators and universities, including representatives from Bahrain, concluded that there is no scientific evidence to date establishing any health or environmental effects from radio signals at levels below the current international guidelines. This is despite the efforts of the scientific community to establish a link between non-ionising radiation and health effects.

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, the international guidelines have been adopted by the Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife in Ministerial Order No. 4 of 2009. All

organisations which transmit radio frequency signals are required by this Order to comply with the international guidelines.

TRA has an ongoing programme to monitor compliance of the telecommunications sector with Ministerial Order No. 4 of 2009. Dr. Mohammed Al Amer, TRA Chairman and Acting Director General said “TRA would continue its monitoring programme to ensure ongoing compliance of the telecommunications sector with Ministerial Order No. 4 and that the results will shortly be available via a graphical user interface which will enable the public to click on locations on a map of the Kingdom to display radio signal levels measured at that location.”

About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain into the region’s most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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