



TRA Bahrain hosts the fourth annual meeting of the Arab Regulators' Network on 23 - 24 May 2007

Al Sakheer (Banyan Tree Resorts), 23 May 2007- The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain (TRA) is hosting the fourth annual meeting of the Arab Regulators' Network (ARNET) for a period of two days during which it will be taking over the presidency of the ARNET. The ARNET was established in April 2003 and it comprises Regulators from 20 Arab countries.

Among the main objectives of the ARNET are the exchange of experiences, the coordination in view of accomplishing the homogeneity of the practices of regulation in the Arab countries and working out policies and models of regulations, equitable and transparent procedures so as to encourage development and modernization of telecommunications networks and services, as well as information technologies in the Arab world.

The meeting was attended by key personages of the telecommunications sector in the Kingdom, TRA's Board of Directors, delegations from 15 Arab countries .

The meeting TRA addressed means of increasing the effectiveness of the ARNET sought feedback on how to increase the productivity of the group. There were also presentations from different countries on regulatory issues that they have faced recently.

On the second day of the meeting delegations will discuss a number of projects of concern to Arab regulators and will collectively agree on the top three priorities among these projects. Working groups will be formed in order to focus on the selected projects and accomplish them during the year.

During its presidency year, TRA Bahrain aims to exchange experiences in the field of telecommunications regulation, establish a competitive environment that guarantees the best quality of services at affordable prices, and develop sustainable telecommunications interaction among Arab countries.

The General Director of TRA, Mr. Alan Horne, commented as follows on the ARNET meeting: "We are pleased to be the forth president of the Arab Regulators' Network. We are looking forward to benefit from others' experience and enable others to benefit from our own experience in Bahrain. The annual meetings of the Arab Regulators' Network are always a valuable opportunity to discuss the creation of further innovative options and

solutions for the benefit of both consumers and operators in the telecommunications and IT sectors".

Notes to Editors:

About TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include, among other things, protecting the interests of subscribers and users and promoting effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

About ARNET

The Arab Regulators' Network was established in April 2003 and comprises Regulators from 20 Arab countries. The presidency of the ARNET is yearly and rotates alphabetically among the member countries. Each presidency spans the period from one annual ordinary meeting to the next. The Arab Regulators' Network has chosen the Algerian Authority for Post and Transportation to be the permanent secretary.

More information regarding the Arab Regulators' Network can be viewed at www.aregnet.net