

SAMENA to support TRA Bahrain's "Achieving Ubiquitous Broadband Networks" Conference

Event to explore and learn from the experiences of those countries current at the forefront of deploying ubiquitous, affordable high speed broadband networks

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – Sunday 7 February 2010

Under the patronage of H.E. Sh. Ahmed bin Ateyatalla Al Khalifa, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, minister responsible for the telecommunications sector the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) with the support of SAMENA Telecommunications Council will be hosting 2 days Broadband Conference. This conference will be held on behalf of the Arab Regulatory Network (ARGNET) and in conjunction with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

This two-day conference which will be held on 22-23 February 2010 at Diplomat Radisson Blue Residence & Spa Hotel in Bahrain, aims at facilitating a better understanding of both the policy decisions that have been taken as well as the various broadband access solutions currently available and being deployed in countries such as Singapore, Australia, UK, USA, France and Germany. The conference is supported by national policy makers, regulatory authorities, network operators and equipment vendors.

Announcing the conference partnership, Dr. Mohammed Al Amer TRA Chairman and Acting Director General said "The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has through its Economic Vision 2030 and the National Strategic plan identified ubiquitous, affordable high speed broadband connectivity as a corner stone for future economic development. This conference will bring together from all corners of the industry a unique level of expertise and experience to discuss the issues that we all face when considering how best to achieve a more diversified economic base and sustainable growth . Recent experiences in many countries have shown that numerous solutions have been deployed all with the similar common objective to achieve ubiquitous, affordable high speed broadband connectivity."

Highlighting the importance of this regional broadband conference and the objective behind it, **Bocar A. BA, President of SAMENA Telecommunications Council** said, “The global broadband industry has witnessed a number of technological advancements in the past few years, with a number of broadband access solutions being employed by various industry players. Although the economic and social demand for ubiquitous broadband networks has grown tremendously, the best possible solution that offers the most competitive, ubiquitously available and affordable high speed broadband access is still uncertain.”

The “**Achieving Ubiquitous Broadband Networks**” conference will feature policy makers who will address the key drivers for developing a successful broadband network and services followed by country-specific case studies by regulators and operators. A panel discussion will ensue to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the different solutions.

Speakers at this event will include a number of high profile industry experts such as Dr. Hamadoun Toure, Secretary General of ITU, Eng. Saud Al Daweesh, Chairman, SAMENA and Group CEO of Saudi Telecommunication Company (STC), Dr. Abdulrahman Al Jafary, President, AREGNET and Governor of CITC (Saudi) and Dr. Mohammed Al Amer, Chairman and Acting Director General of TRA, Bahrain among others.

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

About SAMENA

SAMENA Telecommunications Council is a tri-regional, non-profit telecommunications association that embodies a community of South Asian, Middle Eastern, and North African telecoms operators, manufacturers, regulatory authorities, and academia. SAMENA aims to be the ultimate promoter of collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the SAMENA region that spans over 25 countries, including

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The Council is driven by telecoms issues that operators in South Asia, the Middle East, and in North Africa face, and is determined in providing its advocacy expertise to help aid the incubation of novel approaches and ideas that would provide better means for the expansion and utilization of telecommunications in the region.

Headquartered in Dubai, SAMENA is chaired by Eng. Saud Al Daweesh, Group CEO of STC – Saudi Arabia, and is directed by Mr. Thomas W. Wilson.

For further information please contact:

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