



## **TRA Bahrain Concludes Bahrain Campaign for online Safety**

### **9 Internet Service Providers sign MOU committing to start the protection of online users**

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – Saturday 8 May 2010

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has concluded last week its two days conference titled “Bahrain Campaign for Online Safety (Surf Safe)” that was hosted under the patronage of H.E. Sh. Ahmed bin Ateyatalla Al Khalifa, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Minister Responsible for the Telecommunications sector.

Over 200 Policy makers, telecoms professionals and consultants from more than 10 countries attended the two days conference that was hosted in association with Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI).

Reflecting on the success of the conference and in particular the extremely high caliber of the recognized world experts presenting at the conference, TRA’s Chairman Dr Mohammed Al Amer stated that “The conference has provided a significant resource of information that will assist the Kingdom of Bahrain to formulate more informed decisions that will ultimately lead to the achievement of safe internet for all users.”

At the closing of the conference 9 internet service providers and TRA jointly signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) committing to facilitate the implementation of the conferences recommendations and foster a new era in ICT and Internet safety in Bahrain.

Dr. Mohammed Al Amer also said “we are pleased to see industry and TRA coming together to agree to put into practice collective efforts to ensure that internet users and in particular children are protected. As far as we are aware, this is a world first, all of one country’s ISPs coming together publically in unity for one common cause”

Through the signed MOU parties committed to:

1. communicate with each other, with TRA and with all relevant government bodies when a party to this MOU detects a website or internet practice that poses a potential risk to internet users
2. liaise and assist all relevant government bodies in the lawful investigation and prosecution of persons who commit crimes against children through use of the internet;

3. provide educational material of any relevant protection and control mechanisms for each subscriber (or end-user) on a regular basis to subscribers regarding child safety and the internet;
4. endeavor to suggest technical means to subscribers to enhance security on their access to their services, including but not limited to information about the tools available to them to control access and how to implement protective measures and with the best support possible;
5. coordinate with TRA (Consumer Affairs and ICT Operations) on internet risk found in the future;
6. work with TRA to develop and implement appropriate international best practices for online child safety;
7. to meet twice a year to discuss ongoing initiatives and shared best practices.

The objectives of the conference were to raise awareness of the real and perceived dangers of online activities, to empower the Kingdom's ICT providers, regulator, leaders and legislators with the tools and information required to create a National Consensus for Online Safety, and to share the lessons and experiences of key decision makers in the same sectors globally with those in the Kingdom.



Dr. Al Amer signs the MOU



The ISPs after signing the MOU

### **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](http://www.tra.org.bh)

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