



Press Release

**The Telecommunications Consumer Advisory Group meets
for the Third Time during this Year**

**-- The group welcomes TRA's decisions regarding licensing for a third mobile
operators and allowing for number portability --**

Thursday 27 March 2008,

The Telecommunications Consumer Advisory Group met for the third time early this month. The meeting was chaired by Shaikha Haya bint Rashid Al Khalifa.

During the meeting TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne presented in detail the results of the Strategic and Retail Market Review, and the group welcomed the proposed regulatory measures especially the award of third mobile operator and the provision of number portability for fixed and mobile services. The group also intends to submit their detailed response on the results of the Strategic and Retail Market Review.

Shaikha Haya Al Khalifa gave an overview of the group's role in supporting TRA to create more consumer awareness among the public. The Group also formed the subgroup to initiate a plan to develop consumer guidelines, and to develop a comparative table of services and prices currently offered by the operators.

The group's vice chairperson Dr. Hassan Fakhroo said: "It is noticeable that liberalizing the telecommunications market is fruitful and beneficial to consumers in Bahrain, especially the reduction in international calls charges. However local calls from mobile and fixed line are still a concern to consumers and a concern to us as a Consumer Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will work to provide suggestions and feedback to TRA aiming to provide solutions for better prices of local calls and any other issues of concern to consumers".



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 operators effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh