



Press Release

TRA and Operators Discuss Public Concerns Regarding Radiation from Mobile Base Stations

Wednesday , October 3rd 2007

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) met on Wednesday 26th September 2007 with representatives from Batelco, Zain and Menatelecom to discuss the growing public concerns with regard to possible effects of radiation from mobile base stations on human health. The Meeting was also attended by representatives from the Directorate of Communications at the Ministry of Interior.

During the meeting TRA's Spectrum Advisor, Mr. Karl van Heeswijk, delivered a presentation to explain the radiation levels that the World Health Organisation currently considers provide appropriate protection to the general public. He also explained how these protective levels are calculated, and related this to how mobile base stations function.

The meeting discussed the results of two independent surveys of radiation from mobile base stations in Bahrain. The first was commissioned by the TRA and conducted by German consulting company Rohde and Schwarz at the end of 2005; the most recent was done by the University of Bahrain.

The recent study of the University of Bahrain was examined by Professor Paolo Vecchia, Chairman of the International Commission on Non-Ionized Radiation Protection, and an internationally renowned expert on the effects of radiation. Whilst visiting Bahrain last week, Professor Vecchia also delivered two lectures covering all forms of radiation that the public is exposed to, and advised that best international practice is to adopt the radiation guidelines as accepted by the World Health Organisation.

Each of these studies involved detailed measurement and analysis of the level of radio frequency radiation emitted from base station antennas in Bahrain. The measurement results of both studies fall well below the levels accepted by the World Health Organisation.

The TRA will work with all operators to ensure that members of the public are not exposed to radiation levels in excess of those published in the internationally accepted guidelines.

Commenting on this event, The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority General Director Mr. Alan Horne said: "We would like to thank the operators for their positive participation, which reflects their interest in providing safe telecommunication services to the Kingdom's residents. We noted the recent increased public concern on radiation from mobile base stations, and we are taking these concerns seriously. Although not qualified to advise on public health issues, TRA is able to comment on the technical aspects and international practices relating to this issue. TRA is happy to engage in this capacity with concerned parties, during any future discussions or debate."

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