



**Another initiative that's first of its kind
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to provide Braille and
Large Print copies of its documents**

Manama 25 September 2004- The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority announced that as of today it will be making available in Braille and in large print all its documents, such as consultations, reports etc, for visually impaired members of the society such as the blind or those who need larger print documents. This will be particularly important as the TRA starts producing consumer guides and information that will affect every user of telephony. This follows on from the steps already taken in alerting the public of consultations, and giving them the opportunity to comment on the work of the TRA as well as keeping everyone informed by ensuring that all publications can be easily downloaded from the Authority's website in both Arabic and English. Hard copies are also available at the office of the Authority. In addition consultations are mailed, as appropriate, to the telecoms industry, ministries and relevant organizations within the Kingdom.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti, General Director, said "TRA is committed to being in contact with everyone in Bahrain and in having a dialogue with every member of our society. Excluding anyone because of his or her disability is not acceptable – more so in telecommunications that has helped people with disabilities communicate with others and breach the gap that has stopped them from reaching their full potential in some cases. We have taken this step to ensure that those who are visually impaired are not excluded from our work and have the same opportunity as everyone in the Kingdom to express their views but also to have access to information to be provided from time to time. This initiative has the support of the Bahraini Saudi Institute for the Blind who has kindly agreed to assist us in this task as a step that will further enhance the integration of the blind members of the society with the society as a whole. "

The TRA will be providing Braille and large print copies of its documents for people who face difficulty reading the normal print upon request. The copies will be made available to those who request them for free.

Requests for documents in Braille or large print can be obtained by calling the TRA on number 17540120, during normal office hours, alternatively the requests can be made via fax 17532125, email

contact@tra.org.bh or in person. The TRA will endeavor its best to deliver the copies to the requestors or alternatively to the society/institute they are registered with.

Notes to the Editors:

Braille: a writing system for visually impaired or blind people, consisting of patterns of raised dots that are read by touch

About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The 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 the TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh