



Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to Publish Panel Final Report

Manama- 1st February 2005 – After holding its first annual Development Review Panel, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has announced that it will be publishing the findings and recommendations made by the Panel to the TRA together with its response to the points that it will raise including specific actions by the TRA.

The Panel event held on 31st January 2005, was attended by HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Undersecretary Ministry of Transportation, HE Dr. Mohammed J.K Alghatam Chairman of the Board of TRA, HE Mr. Robin Lamb the British Ambassador to the Kingdom, TRA Board members and other senior officials, in addition to 150 members of the telecom industry, consumer representatives, regional regulators and other organizations.

The TRA will also be releasing its draft forward plan for 2005 based on the Panel recommendations for public comments. The TRA's forward plan for 2005 will be published by the TRA soon after the Panel submits their final report so that it can take its findings into account. This plan will include the TRA priority tasks and projects for 2005, and will be discussed with all interested parties before its finalized. This is to ensure that the plan meets the needs of the consumers and the industry of the Kingdom.

The General Director of the TRA Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti said: “We are very pleased with the proceedings of the first TRA Development Review Panel held last Sunday. We are particularly delighted that the delegates engaged with the Panel members and speakers in an interesting questions and answers session that gave the opportunity for a two way discussion among the delegates and the Panel. The public debate on the issues was extremely beneficial as it gives us a better idea on the concerns and future plans of the industry whilst allowing the other players to comment and debate issues.

We learn from these events and respond to issues that need our action. The concerns raised by Dr. Wafa Al Mansoori of the Consumer Protection Society on behalf of consumers for example in terms of educating the consumers of their rights in this new environment will lead to the TRA in making this one of our priorities for 2005. The TRA would like to thank the Panel members, speakers as well as all the participants for their input and for making this event a success. “

Notes to Editors :

The TRA will be announcing the availability of the Panel final report through the local media, in addition interested parties may register to receive email notifications of the latest developments through the TRA website www.tra.org.bh.

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