



**With the support of the Ministry of Transportation and the
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority**

**BAHRAIN HOSTS THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UNION REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Manama 31 May 2005 – The Kingdom of Bahrain hosted the Regional Workshop on Dispute Resolution on 31/5-1/6/2005. This workshop is organized by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and is targeted at members of the telecommunications industry. The focus of the workshop is how to resolve disputes arising between operators and the role of regulatory authorities in resolving these. This issue is of particular interest to all operators but in particular to those in our region as all regional telecommunications markets are in various stages of developing competition. The workshop follows on from an online study course that the participants went through for a few months. The ITU have invited various speakers from the region and Europe to address the workshop, and share their experiences on this issue. The workshop was attended by members of the telecoms industry of Bahrain as well as participants from regional operators and regulatory authorities.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transportation Sh. Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, made a statement on the occasion of the ITU workshop saying: “It is with pleasure that we welcome the distinguished speakers and participants of the workshop to Bahrain. Together with the ITU and the TRA we have undertaken to bring together the delegates and the speakers to share their experiences on Dispute Resolution in Bahrain. This emphasizes the Kingdom’s commitment to furthering the strong ties of cooperation with the ITU and our support to the important role of the ITU..”

The General Director of the TRA, Mr. A.Andreas Avgousti also commented: “We are pleased to host this important workshop in the Kingdom of Bahrain together with the Ministry of Transportation and the ITU. This workshop is of particular importance as Bahrain is the first country in the region to have fully liberalized its telecoms industry, and with new operators entering the market these kinds of workshops will help existing and new operators to resolve issues arising between them. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the speakers for taking the time to share their experiences with the participants and the ITU for choosing Bahrain for this course. We hope that everyone will benefit from it.”

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.

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