



## **TRA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PANEL TO MEET WITH INTERESTED PARTIES AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY**

**MANAMA – 18 January 2006-** The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) announced today that the Panel members will be arriving in Bahrain at the beginning of February to begin their fact-finding visit in preparation for the public hearing due to take place on 5 February 2006. The Panel consists of three members appointed by the TRA to review its progress and make recommendations on areas requiring improvement.

The Panel members will be meeting with interested parties and members of the industry for two days on 1 and 2 February 2006. Interested parties can contact the TRA to request for a meeting to be arranged by fax (17523125) or email (panel06@tra.org.bh).

These meetings are part of the Panel's review of the telecommunications industry in Bahrain. The TRA will not be present at the meetings, so as to ensure that members of the industry are able to express their views freely on the progress of the TRA and raise issues of concern. In addition to meeting the members of the industry, the Panel aims to meet with interested parties who have a contribution to make to the telecommunications industry.

After the meetings, the Panel members will present their findings and recommendations to the TRA at the public hearing scheduled for 5 February 2006.

Interested parties should contact the TRA to schedule meetings with the Panel before 25 January 2006. The TRA will try to accommodate as many meetings as possible, given the two-day meeting timeframe.

### About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include protecting the interests of subscribers and users, and promoting effective and fair competition among established and new licensed operators. More information regarding the TRA can be viewed at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)

## About the TRA Development Review Panel

The TRA has always sought to carry out its duties in line with best international practices and to meet the highest standards of regulation for the benefit of the telecommunications industry and consumers alike.

With this in mind, the TRA has established, on an annual basis, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Development Review Panel. This is an independent panel, consisting of three members with experience in the area of telecommunications. The members of this year's Panel are Prof. Martin Cave -Director of the Centre for Management under Regulation, Warwick Business School, United Kingdom, Mr. Ian Martin- Senior Telecommunications analyst at ABN AMRO, Australia and Mr. Robert Bruce- Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Digital Strategies at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, United States of America.

The Panel has been asked to carry out a review of the developments in the market and the work of the TRA, as well as listen to the views of the industry. Based on these, the Panel will advise the TRA in a public hearing about areas for improvement. The TRA will take the Panel's advice into account in planning its work and strategy for the next twelve months.