



News Release

TRA holds its annual retrospective meeting with the telecoms industry

Seef District, Kingdom of Bahrain - Sunday 29 January 2012

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) hosted its annual review meeting with representatives of licensed telecommunications operators on Thursday 19 January 2012. The review looked at the highlights of 2011 and discussed TRA's strategic work plan for the coming 12 months to develop further competition, protect the interests of consumers and address the technological changes.

Commenting on the meeting, TRA's Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Al Amer, said: "The global ICT sector is facing rapid changes that mandate regulators to put more effort into addressing these changes. We are pleased of what has been achieved since the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector in 2002. Today we have a highly developed and balanced regulatory environment that ensures continuous development of competition within the Kingdom's telecommunications sector."

Dr. Al Amer went on to say: "TRA should collectively work with all key stakeholders to support continued growth and prosperity of the sector. Last year, the telecommunications sector realised important objectives which include the provisioning of new and quality telecommunications services to consumers and businesses that support the development of the social and commercial fabrics of the Kingdom. Once again TRA has also been recognised as a leading regulator in the region for its approach in encouraging competition and sustainability in the telecommunications sector".

TRA's General Director, Mr. Mohamed Bubashait, commented: "This annual meeting is an important opportunity to exchange information and debate the developments in the sector. The telecommunications sector has faced major changes since liberalisation, and more choices are available to consumers for the best international quality and prices." Mr. Bubashait pointed out that "the telecommunications sector contributes 4% of GDP of the Kingdom and directly provides more than 2600 jobs. Bahrain has realised the objectives of liberalising and opening up the telecommunications sector."

Mr. Bubshait also said: "Since its inception, TRA has implemented most of its mandates under the Telecommunications Law, and has overseen the development of competition in the market in a fair and transparent manner. TRA has removed all barriers to entry and provided profitable opportunities for existing and new investors to do business in the telecommunications market.

"TRA is working to provide more flexibility to the regulatory framework, aiming to meet the technological changes and challenges and to provide ultra-high speed broadband services in Bahrain. We certainly look forward to continue fulfilling the aspirations of industry stakeholders in the coming

year, and are fully aware of the importance of ensuring that the telecommunications industry successfully supports the growth of all other industries in Bahrain” Mr. Bubashait noted.

In TRA’s presentation to the industry, TRA’s management team highlighted how the telecommunications sector has developed over the past 12 months, what has been achieved and what is planned for the coming year. The team also highlighted key projects and priorities to support further competition and promote the interests of consumers.

It is worth mentioning that TRA was recognized in December 2011 by the South Asia Middle East and North Africa (SAMENA) Telecommunications Council as the Most Progressive Regulator of the Year 2011.





About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain into the region's most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh