



Press Release

TRA Receives Two Students to Discuss Radiation from Telecommunications Base Stations

Wednesday, 23 April 2008

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority's General Director Mr. Alan Horne received two secondary school students. The students visited TRA to clarify concerns about Mobile Phones & Mobile Base Stations Radiations to finalize their school assignment.

Students Mariam Mansouri and Sara Al Rashed, of Muharraq Secondary Girls Schools, accompanied by teacher Mrs. Najah Hassan, met with Dana Chehab Director of Communications and Consumer Affairs, Ghada Ebrahim, Consumer Affairs Manager, and Mohammed Tayeb Mahmood, Licensing Manager.

Mr. Mahmood explained in a presentation to the students, issues related to radiation from a technical point of view, and provided information on radiation levels that the World Health Organisation (WHO) currently considers provide appropriate protection to the general public. He also discussed the results of the independent survey of radiation from mobile base stations in Bahrain that was conducted at the end of 2005, which revealed that the highest radiation level measured from mobile masts in Bahrain in 2005 was 10,000 times lower than the level accepted by WHO.

TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne then received the students and discussed the issue further. Mr. Horne said: "I'm pleased to have received the two students and their teacher, and I thank them for approaching the TRA to seek explanation and information on the radiation issue. TRA wishes to ensure that the telecommunications industry stay well within the internationally accepted safety levels. We also wish to ensure that the public are properly informed of the facts. We are happy to discuss any queries or concerns from the public or any organisation".

When asked what their impression was of the meeting the students said that clearly the concerns of people have been overstated.

It should be noted that telecommunications masts are only one source of radiation. Other sources include TV masts, electricity cables, computer screens, TV screens, as well as the sun. These forms of radiation can have a heating effect on the human body, unlike the more dangerous forms of radiation from such sources as nuclear devices and X-Ray machines.

The Directorate of the environment have overall responsibility for monitoring radiation levels from all sources throughout the Kingdom. It is understood that the TRA and other industries are working together with the Directorate to ensure appropriate standards and measure are in place to maintain safe levels of radiation from no matter what source. As a nation we have to accept that if we want mobile communications. whether that is just to talk, SMS or use the internet whilst on the move, we have to put up with an increased number of masts. We can only ask the operators to try to disguise them and blend them in with our surroundings such as those which look like Palm Trees (see picture). If you are careful you can see an example in Banyan Tree Resort. Let's hope we can see more such examples when the new third mobile operator enters the market and see more of base stations sharing between mobile operators that will not only reduce public concerns, but will also reduces the cost of installing and maintaining the mobile base stations by operators, which may reduce mobile tariffs paid by consumers.



From left to right: Ghada Ebrahim, Alan Horne, Najah Hassan, Mariam Mansouri, Sara Al Rashed, Mohammed Tayeb Mahmood and Dana Chehab.



Normal Mobile Base Station



Palm Tree Base Station

About TRA

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

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