



News Release

TRA Participates at the Submarine Networks Conference

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain - Wednesday 21 July 2010

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) participated in the Submarine Networks MENA 2010 conference in Dubai organized by IQPC and attended by TRA's Technical Advisor Mr. Eric Dunand.

The event was dedicated to subjects related to sea cable infrastructure, update on latest industry projects and panel discussion related to industry trends and concerns. Amongst discussion points were the views from the industry on the capability of existing and planned sea cable capacity to support increasing International traffic, and the evolution of international traffic patterns as content currently mainly stored outside of GCC countries should progressively develop within countries and the Region, therefore potentially reducing dependency on international capacity but requiring good regional interconnections.

An update was provided on new cables; EASSY who is serving the East coast of Africa, Gulf Bridge International a new cable that will connect Bahrain by the middle of 2011; the cable extension performed by TATA was also mentioned. As an alternative to sea cable paths, two parallel initiatives JADI (for Jeddah, Amman, Damascus and Istanbul) and RCN (Regional Cable Network) were presented. All those initiatives are good news for the Region and will have an expected positive impact on future consumers' experience.

Mr. Dunand spoke at the conference about the objectives and initiatives of TRA concerning the provisioning of international capacity and the importance of diversity. The impact of two recent cable cuts was presented and discussed with the participants.

Mr. Mohammed Mahmood TRA's Director of Technical and Operations said "It is clear from the positive reaction regarding TRA's approach to granting access to landing facilities during the conference that Bahrain is leading the region in this respect. The open access and transparent decision making processes of TRA are being seen as a model for other countries within the region to follow."

It should be noted that in November 2009 TRA issued a Draft Order requiring Batelco to allow Licensed Operators to use access services including collocation to site equipment in Batelco's premise in order to directly connect to FLAG international capacity.

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

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