



The Inauguration of the NTRA's Fourth Annual Conference Press Release

Sharm El-Sheikh (21/4/2010)

Under the auspices of Dr. Tarek Kamel, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Amr Badawi, the Executive President of the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), inaugurated the NTRA's Fourth Annual Conference under the title "Regulation for Development". The NTRA's Executive President inaugurated the Conference with the participation of Ambassador Gamal Bayoumi, director of EU-Egyptian Partnership Program at Ministry of International Cooperation, and a representative of the EU Commission Delegation in Egypt which has been held on 21 – 22 April 2010 in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Many experts from Europe, USA, Asia and the Middle East have participated in the Conference, representing many regulatory bodies, operators, private and public entities, service providers as well as independent experts and the academia.

The first day of the Conference tackled a lot of topics and issues related to telecom regulation and its impact on the innovation of new services that could be provided in order to benefit many service sectors as that of health, education and transportation. Moreover, the Conference sessions discussed new innovations appearing in the field, how to foster them and mould them to contribute to the development of ICT sector in addition to the regulatory challenges they posed to the regulatory bodies and policymakers to encompass and implement these innovations. The impact of these innovations on competition in ICT market along with the new market opportunities they bring along were also discussed in the Conference sessions.

Moreover, the Conference sessions discussed issues related to Digital Broadcasting, its various benefits, the great discrepancy between the Analogue and Digital Broadcasting, and the

opportunities and challenges that would face the transition from analog to digital broadcasting in different countries.

The Conference sessions dealt with the issues related to the Digital Dividend (resulting from the transition from analog to digital broadcasting as the digital broadcasting makes use of less frequencies than the analog broadcasting) and how to maximize the benefit of this Digital Dividend in new services provision.

Moreover, new radio and mobile services were also discussed in addition to the development of mobile stations to the Fourth Generation (4G) and TD-LTE technologies.

Dr. Amr Badawi underscored, in the Conference sessions, the NTRA's role as the regulator of competitiveness in Egypt that guarantees the availability of catalysts of innovations (that are considered the added value provided to the consumer as a service). In addition, the NTRA's Executive President highlighted the necessity of benefiting from the available resources in different fields (environment, health, safety and education), and the augmentation of the incentives provided to the operators to encourage them to foster innovations.

On the periphery of the Conference, Dr. Amr Badawi stated that the NTRA would stop any of the mobile Operators' promotional offers that might have negative impact on the quality of services provided to the consumers. In fact, the NTRA has been encouraging free competition for many years, but provided that this competition does not breach the consumer's right to obtain the appropriate service quality.

On the other hand, the NTRA's Executive President made it clear that the number of unidentified mobile lines which the mobile Operators disconnected amounted to million and six hundred thousand lines. As for the number of mobile equipment that did not conform to technical and health specifications and were disconnected, it amounted to one hundred thousand mobile equipment. Dr. Amr Badawi stated that the NTRA received two bids from two consortia (of Egyptian and international companies) to be awarded the license of Access Networks in Closed Compounds.

It is worth-mentioning, in this respect, that the NTRA's First Annual Conference, which was held in March 2007, discussed the regulatory affairs in Convergence Ea. The Conference was a hit for the Egyptian and regional telecom industry and gained the attention of media experts. The Conference was attended by an elite spectrum of international ICT and media experts.

The NTRA's Second Conference was held in March 2008 and discussed the emerging issues on convergence applications. The Conference approved of a prominent regulatory policy. The NTRA experts held several bilateral meetings with a number of representatives of companies and organizations in order to exchange viewpoints on the challenges posed by convergence and available opportunities.

The NTRA's Third Annual Conference was held in April 2009. It discussed the issues and future of the Internet, the world of information and data that has been facing various challenges, some of which related to the booms and advancements that took place in network technologies and others related to the social security, children and privacy protection.