

**Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)****Fifth Meeting of the TDAG Working Group
dealing with Private Sector Issues (WGPS)
Geneva, 16-17 April 2007****Document WGPS-07-1/4-E
Date: 1st March 2007
Original: English****The Head of the Regional Office and the
President of the Working Party on Private Sector Issues****REPORT RELATED TO PRIVATE SECTOR ISSUES
ARAB STATES REGION****I. ARAB REGIONAL REPORT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS****1. Overview of Sector Members and Partnerships in Arab Region**

There are a total of 78 ITU-D Sector Members¹. Various partnership activities have been promoted and implemented, and will be continued as below in Arab States Region.

2. Arab Regional Actions through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in 2006-2007

ITU Arab Regional Office implements Arab actions through close partnership with numerous partners including private sector in 2006 and 2007.

Table 1 – Highlight of Arab Regional Actions through PPP (2006-2007)

No	Actions (2006)	Beneficiary	Partners/Sponsors
1	IsAP8439 – Arab Regulatory Network Meeting: <i>18-21/3/2006, Abu Dhabi (UAE)</i>	All sectors in ARB	Telecom Regulatory Authority (UAE) - Exchanged Letters
2	IsAP8471 – IP Strategies and IDN Issues Workshop: <i>16-18/5/2006, Damascus (Syria)</i>	All sectors in ARB	Syrian Telecom (Syria) - Exchanged Letters
3	IsAP8544 – ITU/BDT Regional Seminar on mobile and fixed wireless access for broadband applications for ARB Region: <i>19-22/6/2006, Algiers (Algeria)</i>	All sectors in ARB	Algérie Télécom (Algeria) - Exchanged Letters
4	IsAP8074 – Regional Seminar for training of the trainers on SMS4DC for the Arab States: <i>24-29/6/2006, Khartoum (Sudan)</i>	All sectors in ARB	National Telecom Corporation (Sudan) - Exchanged Letters

¹ Refer to Annex 1.

5	Regional Network Planning Workshop with Tool Case Studies for the Arab Region: 16-27/7/2006, Cairo (Egypt)	All sectors in ARB	National Telecom Institute (Egypt) - Exchanged Letters
6	IsAP8086 – Regional Workshop on “Knowledge Management” for the Arab Region: 18-21/9/2006, Tunis (Tunisia)	All sectors in ARB	Centre d’Etudes et de Recherche des Télécomms. (CERT) (Tunisia) - Exchanged Letters
7	IsAP8464 – <u>Regional Seminar on e-applications</u>: 6-8/11/2006, Cairo (Egypt)	All sectors in ARB	Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) (Egypt) - Exchanged Letters
8	IsAP8467 – <u>Online Training Course on “Regulation of Digital TV”</u>: 6/11-8/12/06	All sectors in ARB	e-Learning Centre
9	IsAP8083 – Regional Workshop on Strategic Management for the Arab Region (Part II): 4-7/12/2006, Amman (Jordan)	All sectors in ARB	Ministry of Information & Communications Technology (Jordan) - Exchanged Letters
10	IsAP8437 – Capacity-Building Workshop on Information Society Measurements: Core Indicators, Statistics and Data Collection: 10-12/12/2006, Amman (Jordan)	All sectors in ARB	Ministry of Information & Communications Technology (Jordan) - Exchanged Letters
11	5th Private Sector Cooperation Meeting: 12-14/12/2006, Amman (Jordan)	All sectors in ARB	Fastlink (Jordan) + MTC Touch (Lebanon) - Exchanged Letters
12	IsAP8084 – 14th Annual Meeting of the Arab Network for HRM/D: 16-18/12/06, Muscat (Oman)	All sectors in ARB	Telecom Regulatory Authority (Oman) - Exchanged Letters

No	Actions (2007)	Beneficiary	Partners/Sponsors
1	DAP9025- Regional Seminar on Internet Protocol: VoIP: 19-20/03/2007, Algiers (Algeria)	All sectors in ARB	Regulatory Authority for Post & Telecommunications ARPT (Algeria)
2	DAP8999 – Regional Workshop on Emergency Telecommunications and Disaster Relief in Arab Region: 14-17/04/2007, Alexandria (Egypt)	All sectors in ARB	LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (LAS) + WHO + UNEP + CEDARE + AAST (Egypt) + MTC Touch of Lebanon, Thuraya
3	Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for the Arab Region: 22-26/04/2007, Abu Dhabi (UAE)	All sectors in ARB	TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY (UAE)
4	DAP8977 – Regional Seminar on Standardization & Development of Next Generation Network - NGN: 29/04-02/05/2007, Manama (Bahrain)	All sectors in ARB	Batelco (Bahrain)

5	DAP8985 – ARB Workshop on Interconnection for Next Generation Network: <i>2-3/05/2007, Manama (Bahrain)</i>	All sectors in ARB	Batelco (Bahrain)
6	DAP8869 – Regional Workshop on Competencies for Competitiveness for the Arab Region: <i>May or June 2007, Cairo (Egypt)</i>	All sectors in ARB	TELECOM EGYPT (EGYPT)

3. Arab Regional Initiatives through Public/Private Sector Partnership (PPP)

Most of Arab Regional Initiatives are to be implemented on the basis of partnership with various parties from UN agencies, Administrations, funding agencies to private sector, most of which have expressed interests, agreed, or signed the MoU.

Table 2 – Arab Regional Initiatives through PPP (2007-2010)

ARB Regional Initiatives		Potential Partners + Contributors
1.	Develop an Arab guideline for telecom and information technology (ICT)	World Bank/InfoDev, EU
2.	Connect the Arab Internet Networks (National Access nodes)	Telecom Regulatory authorities and private sector
3.	Arab Center for Digital Documentation (Memory of the Arab World)	League of Arab States and ILSESCO
3.	Arabization of ICT terminology	Syrian Internet Society, LAS and ILSESCO
4.	Information Society Indicators and Capacity-Building for its Measurements	UNESCWA, Arab Statistics Research and Training Institute, CEDARE

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Updated list of Sector Members in Arab Region (as of March 2007)

No	Company	No	Company
1.	Algérie Télécom SPA	41.	Société Mauritanienne des télécommunications (MAURITEL S.A.)
2.	Orascom Telecom Algérie	42.	Itissalat Al Maghrib (IAM)
3.	Wataniya Telecom Algérie s.p.a.	43.	Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel)
4.	Autorité de Régulation de la Poste et Télécommunications (ARPT)	44.	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) - Oman
5.	Consortium algérien des Télécommunications (CAT) - Algeria	45.	Oman Mobile Telecommunications Company LLC
6.	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) - Bahrain	46.	Nawras - Oman
7.	Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco)	47.	OHI TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Oman
8.	MTC Vodafone Bahrain	48.	Qatar Telecom (Q-TEL)
9.	Telecom Egypt	49.	Saudi Telecom
10.	System	50.	Saudi Logistics & Electronics Company (SALEC)

11.	Telecon Consultant	51.	Zajoul for Advanced Communication Technology
12.	Nilesat	52.	Advanced Telecom Co.
13.	Mobinil	53.	Mobily (Etihad Etisalat)
14.	LINKdotNET	54.	Bayanat Aloula for Network Services
15.	Egyptian German Telecommunication Industries (EGTI)	55.	Telcom Somalia
16.	Egyptian Company for Networks (Egynet)	56.	Sudan Telecom Co. (Sudatel)
17.	Vodafone Egypt	57.	Bashair Telecom Co. Ltd.
18.	National Telecommunication Institute (NTI)	58.	The Sudanese Mobile Telephone Company "MobiTel"
19.	Arab Academy for Science & Technology & Maritime Transport	59.	Canar Telecommunications Corporation Limited (Kanartel)
20.	Telecom Egypt Data (TE Data)	60.	SPACETEL Syria
21.	Alkan Telecom	61.	Agence Tunisienne d'Internet (ATI)
22.	Sakhr Software Co.	62.	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche des Télécommunications (CERT)
23.	Atheer Telecom Iraq	63.	Tunisie Télécom
24.	Jordan Telecom (JT)	64.	Instance Nationale des Télécommunications de Tunisie
25.	Middle East Communications Corporation (MEC)	65.	Orascom Telecom Tunisie (Tunisian)
26.	Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMETS/Fastlink)	66.	CYNAPSYS
27.	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International (TAGI)	67.	Emirates Telecommunication Corporation – Etisalat
28.	Arab Advisors Group	68.	Thuraya Telecommunications Satellite Company
29.	MobileCom	69.	Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC
30.	Xpress – Jordan	70.	Yemen Telecom (PTC)
31.	The Arabian Business Franchise (AFB) – Kuwait	71.	Yemen Mobile Phone Company (SabaFon-GSM)
32.	Investcom LLC – Lebanon	72.	League of Arab States (LAS), Economic Affairs Sector, C.I.T. Dept.
33.	Pre-Paid International System	73.	Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU)
34.	Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group	74.	Telecommunications Bureau for the Gulf Cooperation Council
35.	Telecom Information Technology (TIT)	75.	Arab Business Forum for Information and Communication Technology (ABFICT)
36.	MTC Touch – Lebanon	76.	Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
37.	Mobile Interim Company 1 (Alfa) – Lebanon	77.	Arab Regulators Network (AREGNET)
38.	General Post and Telecommunication Company (G.P.T.C.) – Libya	78.	SAMENA Telecommunication Council

39.	La Mauritano-Tunisienne de Télécommunications (Mattel)		
40.	Agence de Promotion de l'Accès Universel aux Services (APAUS)		

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II. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE ARWP& COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ITU ARAB REGIONAL OFFICE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR & SECTOR MEMBERS DURING 2006

- The 5th Arab Regional Annual Meeting for private Sector was held in Amman – Jordan, during the period from 12 to 14 December 2006, at the kind sponsorship of MTC Touch Lebanon and in coordination with Fastlink Jordan.
- As a matter of fact this meeting was early planned to be in Lebanon during September 2005, but due to the different security circumstances and the war in Lebanon, it had been rescheduled to be in Jordan during the said period.
- The meeting was launched from Grand Hayatt Hotel in Amman, on Tuesday morning, 12/12/2006, with the participation of about 80 persons representing the delegations of 9 Arab Countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Somalia) and 10 sector members from ITU/D and ARWP and delegates from the ITU Arab regional Office, BDT –Geneva, GSM Association & the Islamic Bank for Development (IBD). The opening was attended by H.E. Mr. Basem Rousan, Minister of Information & Communications Technology, Jordan and keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Sami Al-Basheer, new BDT Director-Elected.

MAIN OUTCOMES

- During the meeting Mr. Mohamed Shabib, Chairman & General Manager of MTC Touch in Lebanon, had been elected as the chairman of the ARWP for the next period (2007-2010).
- Mr. Mohamed Al-Wohaibi, CEO Omantel, was nominated for the vice chairman position; he expressed his readiness and approval on the condition to consult also with rest of ARWP members who were not available during this meeting.
- Updating the organizational chart of the Arab Regional Working Party (ARWP) in order to express the real needs of the group was discussed and suggested. The new suggested organization was circulated end of December among the sector members to get nominations & candidates for the positions and to receive the comments of the group; the new structure is expected to be finalized by mid February.
- To start the new Arab Regional working Party (ARWP) functioning, it is planned to have the 1st internal ARWP meeting in Alexandria during mid of April on the side of the Regional Joint Conference on "Disaster: Relief and Management – International Cooperation & Role of ICT", Alex. 14-17/4/2007.

ACTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED UP DURING 2007

1. To put the Arab Regional Office Private Sector website in service (Q1: ARO – ARWP).
2. To provide information about the available International experts and insert it on both the ARO and BDT Private Sector websites.
3. To improve communication between ARO & the Private Sector, as well as improve facilities available to the ARO (ITU – ARO).
4. To prioritize the LDC projects (should also be highlighted on ITU/ARO website).
5. To arrange for an informal advisory group to ARO, composed of the ARWP & the Arab administrations on the same format of TDAG to the BDT, the draft terms of reference & objectives of that informal group will be circulated for comments & approval to the ARWP members and ARO during Q1/07 meeting.
6. Create Methods & Mechanisms for Financing Projects.
7. Islamic Development Bank expressed its readiness to participate in financing new ICT projects, based on experience gained in Yemen, Syria & Sudan, ARO/PPM to organize partnership meeting with them to start with the following projects:
 1. ICT indicators and capacity building for measuring them.
 2. Development of Arab regulatory framework/guidelines for ICT.
8. To communicate to the Arab Regulations to consider environment friendly markets, and issues related to the disposal of obsolete equipments.
9. ARO to coordinate with ARNET in order to evaluate current cooperation between them and the private sector and to provide mechanism for score card for each regulator to be published similar to the Europeans Union regulation network.
10. Improve on communications within the ARWP. (ARO – ARWP).

Improve awareness of the private sector in the region on available tools, information, projects & potential partnerships with the ITU (ARO).