



ITU-NBTC Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable



ATRA
AFGHANISTAN TELECOM
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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- Population 31,6 M
- GDP per Capita 563 USD
- MNOs 5
- ISPs 61
- VAS 88
- TTSPs 22
- WiMAX 2
- OFCN 6936 km - 25 Prov.
- OFCN Operators. 5

1. GSM Active Subscribers. 22,580,183
2. 3G Service Subscribers. 7,285,896
3. 4G Service Subscribers. 213,272
4. Landlines. 133,337
5. Investments in \$. 2,404,291,395
6. Telecom Base Station. 6,917
7. Population Coverage. 90%

- Five MNOs are allowed to provide 4G services in the country. At present 3 of them already started 4G services:.
- AWCC, MTN, and Etisalat has started launching 4G service with the existing spectrum they have.
- ATRA is going to allocate spectrum for 4G through an auction till the end of 2019.

Telecom Law has been enacted in the light of the Constitution of Afghanistan in order to:

- promote and develop telecom services.
- regulate and supervise the telecom market.
- ensure relations between the Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA) and Operators or Service Providers, Users and other relevant agencies .

1. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of Afghanistan (ATRA), was established within the framework of the Ministry of Communications in 2005
2. In March 2017, a presidential decree issued to declare ATRA as an independent regulatory entity.

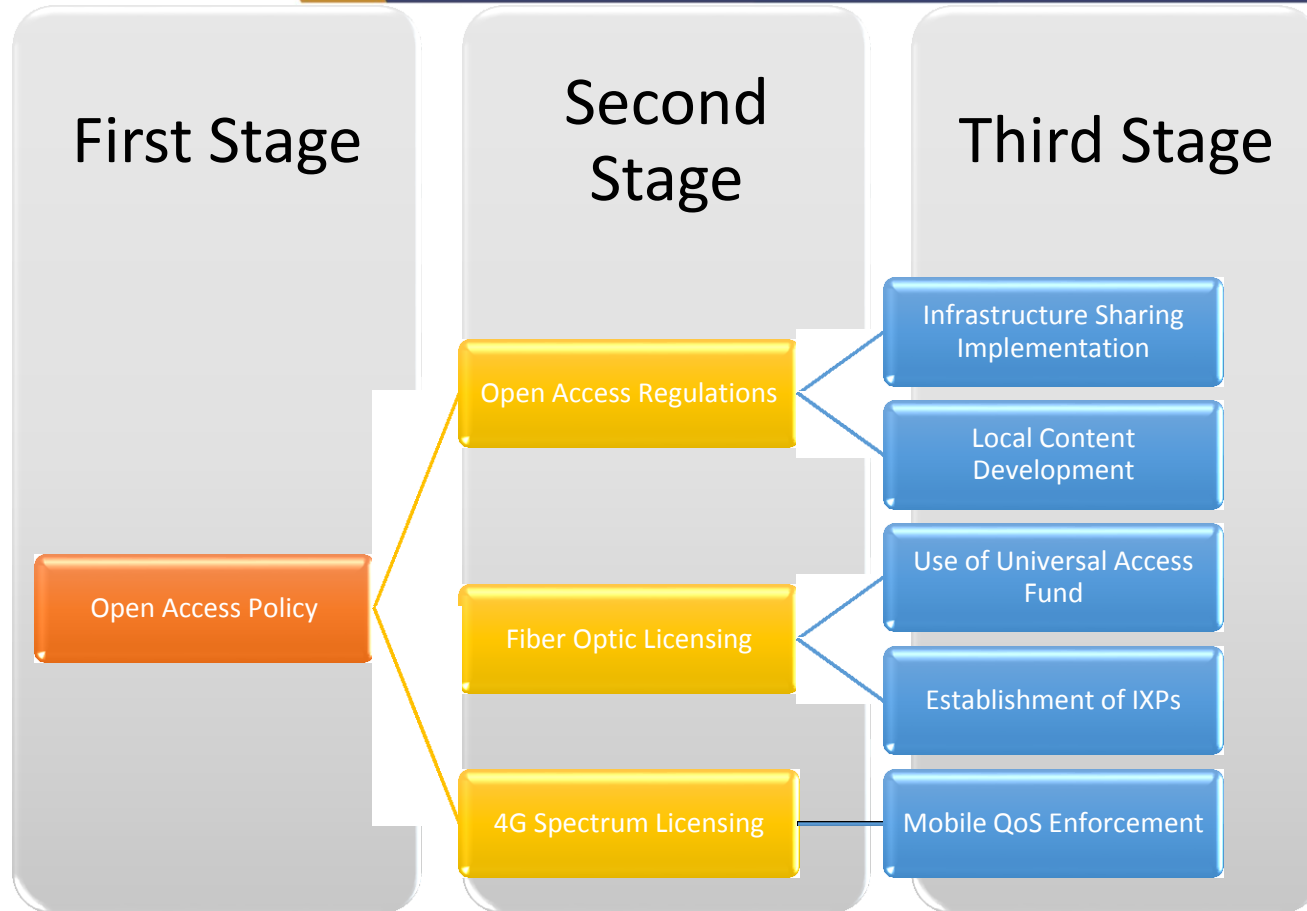
Splitting policy, regulation and operations was a mandated recommendation from ITU, which is eventually done by the amendments and additions of laws articles

- ex-Chairman Dr. Azizi's efforts are worth it in this regard

- To ensure future growth of ICT sector and enhance broadband market, a new policy was developed “private-sector to deploy their own fiber optic networks”.
- The policy also eased access of other market players to the existing OFC backbone operating by the Gov. owned company- AFTEL.
- The policy aims the followings:
 - Open a competitive provisioning market for Fiber Optic and Broadband Sectors
 - attract private investment for deploying major infrastructure
 - promote a robust communications marketplace and free of monopolies
 - provides affordability, ubiquity, and growth in other economic sectors through ICTs.

- Based on the OA policy, ATRA is formulating regulations and procedures to promote the goals and build upon the impressive achievements in telecom sector in regard to **becoming Afghanistan a digital transit hub for the region.**

Open Access Policy Implementation in Afghanistan



Open Access regulations:

After Open access policy formulation. ATRA has introduced 3 types of new OFC licenses:

- 1. National Fiber Optic License**
- 2. Regional Fiber Optic License**
- 3. Metropolitan Fiber Optic License which includes (FTTH)**

ATRA has conduct open tendering for the national level OFC operator and recently will call interested parties both local and international level investors for the award of national level Fiber license other than the existing licensees. In order to seed up the fixed network deployment

Technology neutrality, spectrum /

10 TECHNOLOGY NEUTRALITY

10.1 The License is technology neutral thereby permitting the Licensee to utilize any current and future wireless mobile technology standard(s), including, among others, third and fourth generation mobile telecommunications standards, LTE and other form of next generation network technology standards, in its use of the Frequencies and for the provision of the Mobile Telecommunications Services.

Spectrum:

- Afghanistan Telecommunication Law allows ATRA to assign Spectrum either by its own permits or by conducting open tendering (Auction)

The ATRA may issue a permit for use of a radio frequency in accordance with the national frequency allocation table, provided that it is not subject to bidding process contemplated by

Article 13 of the Law

- ATRA's assigned Task Force has finalized Policy paper for 4G spectrum Auction, in 1800,2100, and 2600 bands, which is conducted end of 2019

Promoting affordable access :

Below Policy formulation is required:

- Price capping policy
- Competition policy
- Digital infrastructure policy (strategy)

New regulations under development (Open Access Policy's implementation regulation)

Rights-of-way

Interconnection Regulation,

Price Cap Rules and procedures

Reference Interconnection Offer

OFC Interconnection and Tariff Procedure.

OFC Right of way guideline

OFC quality of service procedure

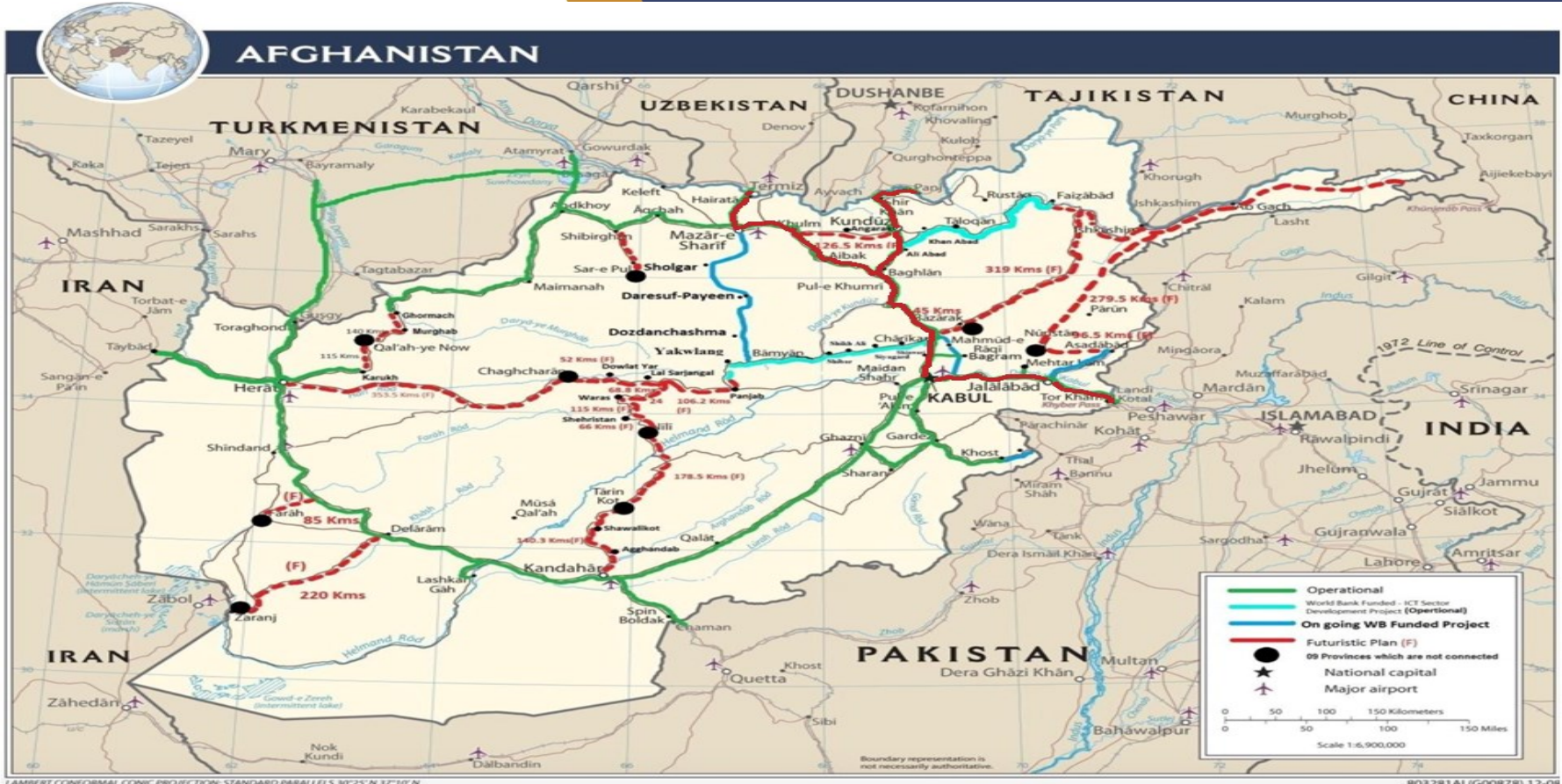
MNP procedure, License ,RFP

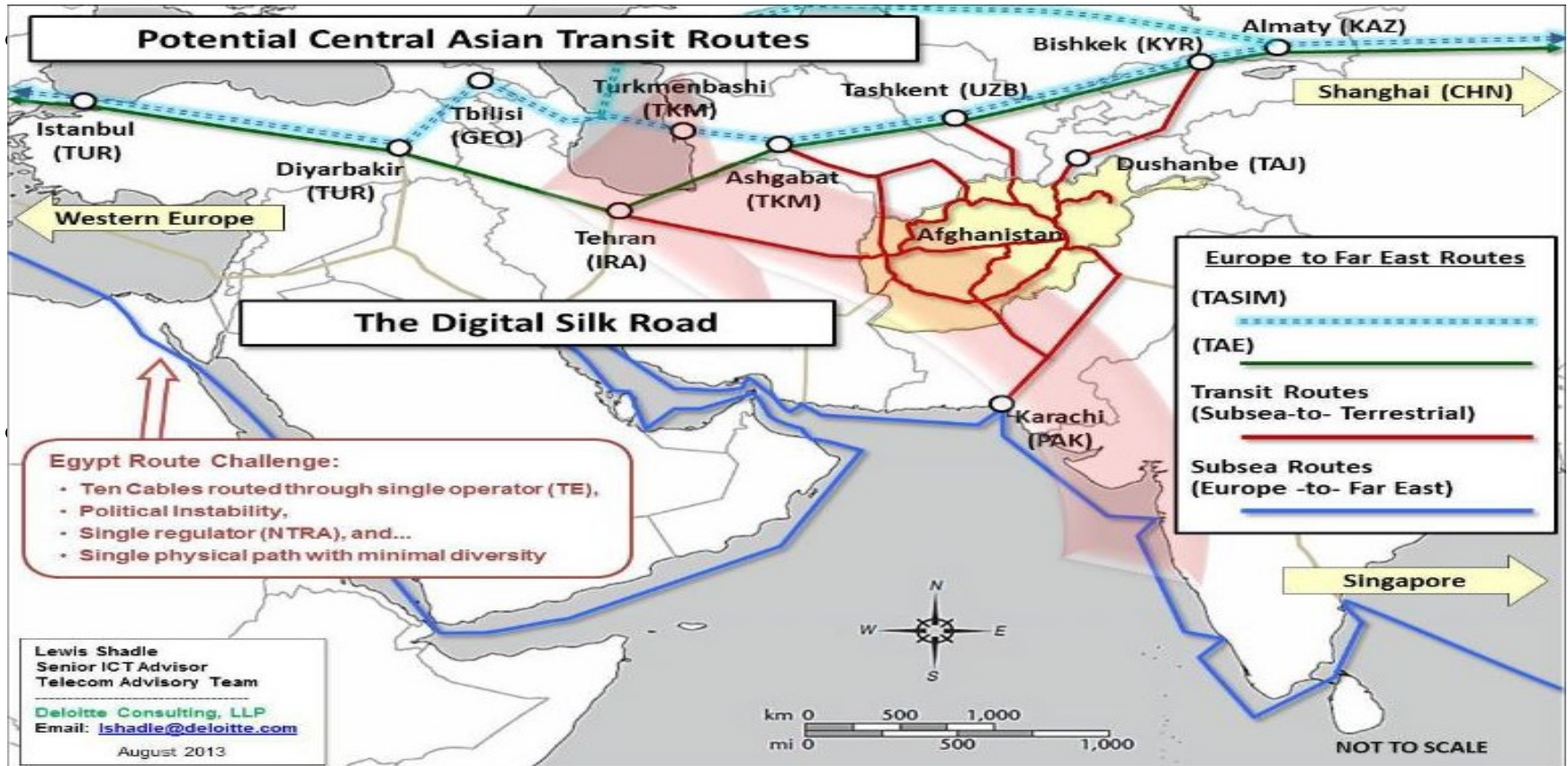
QoS Procedure

4G frequency auction policy documents

- TDF Fund Usage:
 - Projects of BTS and sites constructions in remote villages
 - VCN projects (Directly connected with Satellite)
 - TDF Modernization and TDF new strategy
- World Bank subsidizing connecting the unconnected 9 provinces by fiber optic cable under Digital CASA Project

- In late-2015 the World Bank commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of the Digital CASA project, which would connect Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, with the potential for interconnection and/or future expansion to Iran, Kazakhstan, China, and other neighboring countries.
- International connectivity as of 2016 included two connections to Pakistan; one connection to Tajikistan; one connection to Uzbekistan; two connections to Turkmenistan, and one connection to Iran.

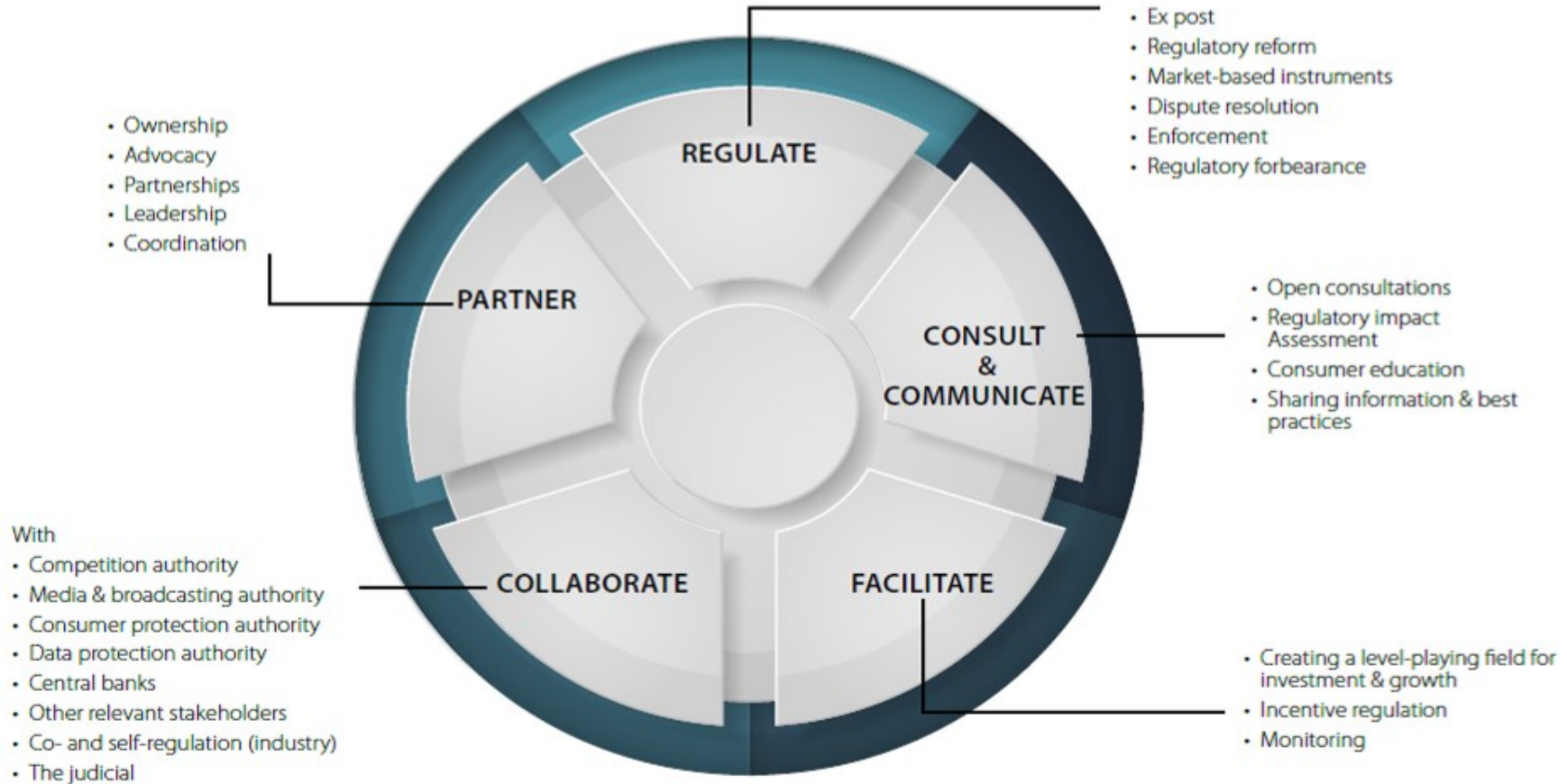




- TDF Modernization – New Programs:

<p>Universal access to Broadband - Program</p>	<p>ICT Development Program</p>	<p>Innovation Support Program</p>
<p>Infrastructure Development and Universal Access to Broadband</p>	<p>Institutional ICT Development</p>	<p>Research & Innovation, Dissemination & Support to Operational Programs</p>
<p>Broadband Infrastructure Investment</p>	<p>Expansion of BB services penetration</p>	<p>Partner implemented R&D to support BB & ICT programs</p>
<p>Program implementation Mobile Broadband expansion Expansion of new access technologies for Broadband</p>	<p>Program implementation Liaison & comm w. Gov Inst</p>	<p>Research/explore new access technologies Support BB and ICT Program implementation Identify/adapt relevant apps and local content Research M&E applications</p>

Fifth Regulatory Generation (G5) Collaborative ICT Regulation



THANKS