Ministry of Communications
e@telecom
Iraqi Telecommunication & Post Company

MOC to open Biggest Communications &Post Complex in Iraq

ITPC achieved many important projects of electronic government, FTTH, IN switches and many projects and now ITPC announced that Al Ma`amoun Communications Complex, one of the biggest communications & post complex in the middle east, will be ready for service in the next few days. This project implemented upon a space of 2000 square meter consisting of three buildings one of them will be used as a garage of four floors that can contain more than 250 cars. The other one will be used as a post center while the main building consisting of 9 floors will be used for varied services.
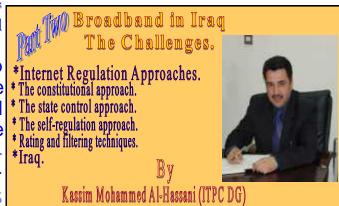
ITPC D.G Attends conference of Capacity Eurasia 2011

Chaired by DG of Iraqi Post &Telecommunications Company Mr .Kassim AL-Hassani, the delegation of the Ministry of Communications participated to conference of capacity Eurasia hold in Istanbul on 14 -15 September 2011 . the most important issues was discussed as opening new routes to provide a better traffic balance of Europe-Asia capacity ,what effects are the new terrestrial routes going to have on the connectivity between Europe ,the Middle East and Asia? as well as discussed the most important major path-ways Asia-Europe in the investment process in telecommunications and information . so as participated Mr. Kassim al-Hassani, as a member of a committee in the Conference and spoke about the role of Iraq's prominent in the transfer of telephone traffic from the Gulf to Europe via Turkey and vice versa which will turn Iraq into a so-called crossing smart transit within two years .

Article

After the Gulf Second war 2003 major changes taken place in Iraq a regulator was established under Order 65 of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). Mobile sector was opened up to private sector with the issuance of three mobile licenses. Mobile penetration reached unprecedented levels during this period. The institutions constituting the sector were reorganized so the influences of a command-and-control economy established prior to 2003 were reduced. Since 2007, Iraqi Ministry of Communications (MoC) has developed a new policy to further modernize the communications sector, strengthen the institutions comprising the communications sector, attract private sector participation, and bring improved applications and services for the citizens of Iraq.

Part Two Broadband in Iraq The Challenges.

* Internet Regulation Approaches.
* The constitutional approach.
* The state control approach.
* The self-regulation approach.
* Rating and filtering techniques.
* Iraq.

By
Kassim Mohammed Al-Hassani (ITPC DG)

Internet Regulation Approaches:-

Fundamentally, there are five basic approaches according to regulation, but these are by no means mutually exclusive and different countries and governments are giving different emphases to different approaches. These approaches are mainly controlled by the government and some are by mean of legislations, market self regulations and educations.

The constitutional approach:-

This approach makes the constitution of the country the prime determinant of what is 'acceptable' on the Internet. Classically this has come to be the USA's approach as efforts to enact relevant legislation have fallen foul of the constitution, in particular the First Amendment on freedom of expression .

The state control approach :-

This approach is adopted by governments which believe that they have a right - and even a responsibility - to intervene directly and place technical controls on the content that can be accessed by their citizens. There are many countries in the middle east using this approach to control and regulate the internet

The statutory approach:-

This approach makes a specific piece of new legislation the prime determinant of what is 'acceptable' on the Internet. Classically this is the approach in Australia where the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999 regulates online content. This Act requires Australian Internet service providers to prohibit access to or remove from their web sites material rated X.

The self-regulation approach :-

This approach rests on voluntary initiatives by the Internet service provider (ISP) industry. Classically this is the approach in Britain where there is no written constitution and government has shown no wish to legislate. Instead in 1996, the ISP industry established the Internet Watch Foundation which operates a 'notice and take down' procedure.

Rating and filtering techniques :-

Finally, as well as or instead of any of the previously-mentioned approaches, Internet users – perhaps most especially parents and teachers – can use filtering software which – alone or in conjunction with the self-rating of sites – can limit access by particular users to particular parts of the Internet.

Iraq:-

the Iraqi MOC (Ministry of Communications) and CMC should start working researching and developing an internet regulation. MoC or SCIS (State Company for Internet Services) as the main and the only government ISP service provider in Iraq they need to works out an internet policy. The question resolves to the following: "What are the important actions to take now and what are the important policies to put into place now, so that what is built in the future based upon them will produce the desired long run effect?"

The Iraqi regulatory body NCMC (National Communication and Media Commission) needs to deregulate existing telecommunication monopolies, especially the land-lines and emphasis need to be on private sector growth, opening up market to competition and attracting foreign investment. Also laws and policies have to be approved by the governments like e-commerce, e-signature and e-purchase or e-payments laws. All these are part of national government regulations and all use the internet as their medium.

The legality or illegality of specific content depends very much on national, cultural and religious views. Some content, such as child pornography, is illegal in almost all countries, while other content that may be viewed as offensive may or may not be legislated as illegal. Indeed, some content may be legal if distributed in certain ways, and the same content may be considered illegal if distributed in other ways. With regard to content filtering, it should be noted that the Internet tends to work around such barriers, and that such content control is only possible at the enforcement stage rather than at the distribution stage. Therefore, if national policy bans specific content, it would be wise to consider the issue of enforcing laws based upon this policy.

With all the MoC/CMC should recognizes the importance of offering broadband to consumers and agree National Policy. In order to realize the full benefit of broadband networks it is important that consumers maintain the right to use broadband services in a network that is open and neutral to consumers and content providers.

Mr. Kassim Al-Hassani: ITPC has New Opportunities of Investments

Director General,Mr. Kassim Al-Hassani, of ITPC pointed out that the ITPC is in the path of installing a third marine cable with Tata company and in the near Future ITPC will create new opportunities for investing of submarine cable capacities. Mr. Al-Hassani said "Our services reached varied organizations in the government including Parliament of Iraq,Ministries and embassies and now we are planning seriously to provide advance services for the region as Iraq has the financial sources and strategic location". Mr. Al-Hassani added "there are over 25 important contracts, some of it have been signed off and others on its way for signing off which will contribute in backing up the infrastructure of communications in Iraq and boost Iraq to be as one of the smart hub in the region".

ITPC achieved IN projects

ITPCintend to provide modern services for its customers, for this purpose ITPC technical teams achieved the project of intelligent networks in many provinces of Iraq such as Al-najaf, Baghdad, Mesaan , Babil , Dayala, Anbar and other provinces. In addition to the IN services, ITPC aims to provide new advanced services for its customers since there are many projects are completed and improved the communications infrastructure of Iraq.

ITPC to issue Telephone and Wireless Directory

ITPC will issue a Telephone and Wireless Directory, this Directory will identify all ministries and companies as well as its services and contact details. Also this Directory will contain commercial advertisements for companies who are willing to promote their products against prices determined by ITPC. This Directory will have an important role to ease the contact among governmental facilities and private sector.

ITPC held second Eid Festival

ITPC hold a Festival for the Families of communications. This Festival included entertainment programs in addition to many surprises and gifts. This festival was attended by more than 500 persons, the attendees enjoyed the programs of the Festival and asked the decision makers of ITPC to held such Festivals and celebrations since this kind of events boost the social relations of employees in addition to develop the production of employees.

Iraqi government wants operators to cough up licence fees

Iraqi mobile network operators now have to pay their entire license fee within a month, instead of having payments staggered over a five-year term as originally intended, Reuters reported. The Iraqi Parliament voted in the new rule although confusion still remains as to whether this law is binding order for the regulator, or just a recommendation by the Parliament to the government. If implemented, the country's three mobile license holders will need to find USD 2.85 billion in license fees and outstanding regulatory fines within 30 days. The nominally independent regulator said the vote was not binding but an affiliate of the Ministry of Communications said that it would be. The mobile networks have come under criticism from the regulator, which has imposed fines on them for poor coverage and quality of service. The operators cite attacks on their infrastructure by terrorists as the reason for their unreliable service. The country currently has three mobile networks, namely Zain, Qatar Telecom's Asiacell, and Korek Telecom, which is minority owned by France Telecom, but the country is planning a tender for a fourth mobile license. The government is hoping to raise USD 2 billion from the auction.

Kerry Technology Park, Ireland, August 24th 2011:

Asiacell Extends Mobile Connectivity Services to Remote Areas across Iraq in Collaboration with Alto bridge

Asiacell – the first and largest private Iraqi telecommunications company and the first mobile telecom company to provide coverage for all of Iraq – today announced rolling out mobile voice, broadband and SMS services across remote communities in Iraq using the Altobridge lite-site™ solution. A satellite-backhauled, solar-powered, 2G/3G solution, the Altobridge lite-site™ enables mobile network operators to bring mobile connectivity to remote communities. Currently, the solution is being deployed in previously unconnected communities in Sulaimaniya in Northern Iraq. For over a decade, Asiacell has been pioneering the provision of products and services that enhance the quality of life and business for Iraqis.

Telecommunications is the backbone of any progressive economy and is a key driver of socioeconomic growth, which is why we have made it our mission to ensure that telecom services are available to all Iraqis regardless of their location. Asiacell is the first telecom company to provide coverage for all 18 provinces, and to supply mobile voice, broadband and SMS services to remote communities that are not traditionally associated with revenue generating potential," said Dr. Diar Ahmed, Asiacell CEO.Dr. Ahmed went on to explain that the Altobridge lite-site™ is a cost-effective, energy-efficient solution that optimizes capital budgets while minimizing backhaul, making it an ideal choice for Asiacell's plans towards efficiently expanding its nationwide coverage. "We are confident that by partnering with Altobridge, who are international mobile network solution leaders, we will enhance our ability to service the Iraqi community," he said. In turn, Mike Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer at Altobridge, said, "Mobile Network Operators are coming under increasing pressure to maximize their use of limited capital budgets.

The Altobridge lite-site™ reduces capital expenditure and minimizes operational costs while providing superior coverage to targeted subscriber groups. Our solution is optimized for solar power, thereby removing the high cost barriers of diesel generators. Coupling this with industry leading transmission efficiency, Altobridge underwrites a return on investment from non-urban base station deployments. We are privileged to have been selected as a supplier to Asiacell and look forward to working together to drive prosperity throughout Iraq."

GBI switches on 100G undersea cable sections

Gulf Bridge International (GBI) has begun offering 100Gbps connectivity on parts of the Qatar-based operator's wholly owned submarine cable network. Samih Kawar, GBI's CTO, claimed an industry first for the operator, announcing:

'The company has embraced 40G and is looking toward the future by going live with 100G. As the first subsea cable operator to go live with 100G on its network, GBI is setting the pace for undersea cable network deployments in the telecoms market.'

GBI International connectivity map

Communications Club

gains Great Achievements This Year

ITPC communication Club of boxing, Chess, and fencing teams scored important achievements this year .The teams of chess , fencing and boxing won advanced places during the local and regional competitions. These achievements proved the intent of decision makers in Iraqi ministry of communications to improve the sport activities beside the communications services as there are a lot of fans in Iraq who support the communication club . The chairman of communication club Mr. Al-Hassani said " wehave contract with professional in Iraq to get best results in sport competitions and we are doing well until now " . Mr. Al-Hassani added " we still have some problems in the football team and we are working seriously to solve all the problems soon, and build a stadium for the football team " . Mr. Al-Hassani pointed out that Communications companies can support and sponsor the communication club in Iraq as long as this club represent all the Communication companies working in Iraq and not only the ministry of communications or ITPC . "In spite of our good results for the time being , but we hope to achieve better results in the near future " Mr. Al-Hassani concluded his statement to e@telecom

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ITPC DG
Chairman of the Board

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