

Dated: August 06, 2007

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Indian GSM operators serving 300% More Subscribers per MHz than China**

**New Delhi, August 6, 2007.....Mr. TV Ramachandran, Director General, COAI strongly refuted the incorrect and misleading allegations that were being made by vested interests that China was serving 1.5 times more subscribers per MHz than India.**

Mr. Ramachandran stated that the contentions made by vested interests had **suppressed the extremely vital and important factor that China had introduced mobile services 7 years before India.**

He pointed out that **on a like to like basis, Indian GSM operators were actually serving 300% More Subscribers per MHz than China.**

Elaborating on this aspect, Mr. Ramachandran explained that **for the same benchmark period of 12 years of Service**, i.e. December 1999 for China and December 2006 for India, **the Indian GSM operators were serving 3.36 million subscribers per MHz** (125 million GSM mobile subscribers with 37.2MHz of spectrum) **whilst China's GSM operators were serving only 0.85 million subscribers per MHz** (38 million GSM mobile subscribers with 45 MHz of spectrum).

**Mr. Ramachandran reiterated that subscribers per MHz is a criterion that was reflective of the growth of a network and hence comparisons using this parameter must take into account similar network maturity and other demographic variants.**

He stated that if one were to **consider China's own growth figures**, it must be first be appreciated that **China commenced mobile services in 1988** and it could be seen that China had 0.85 million subscribers per MHz in 1999 and 4.2 million subscribers per MHz in 2002 and **it was only after almost 20 years of service that China achieved 8.5 million subscribers per MHz in 2007.**

**Mr. Ramachandran deplored the attempts by vested interests to mislead the public with invalid comparisons and flagrantly incorrect information and suppression of key facts – which in this case was that China had started mobile services 7 years before India** and that if the **mobile networks** in the two countries were **compared at an equivalent stage of maturity**, then in fact that **the Indian GSM operators were serving almost 4 times as many subscribers per MHz than China.**

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