

PRESS RELEASE

**EMF RADIATIONS AND ALLEGED HEALTH HAZARDS**  
**MYTHS VS FACTS**

**New Delhi, June 17, 2008....COAI is deeply concerned at the misinformation being spread amongst the general public with respect to the EMF radiation and its effects on human health.**

**In this regard, Mr. TV Ramachandran, Director General COAI stated** that COAI has always welcomed healthy discussions based on scientific evidence in the matter. While some experts believe further research is necessary, we maintain that current discussion should be based on holistic review of scientific evidence, and not on selected projects which could paint an alarming, misleading, and inaccurate picture of the situation

**“Extensive RF research has been undertaken by researchers of the highest integrity** at organizations like World Health Organization, British Medical Association, Royal Society of Canada, International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), U.K. Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones, Swedish Radiation Protection Institute, Food And Drug Administration (USA), Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, etc. Further, many expert panels have reviewed the large body of existing scientific literature and have **consistently concluded that compliance with the existing science based ICNIRP standards is sufficient to protect public health.**” Added Mr. Ramachandran.

Furthermore, Mr. Ramachandran stated that it is of paramount important to note that RF radiations emitted by Mobile Communication Systems lie in the **non-ionizing part of the electromagnetic spectrum and thus do not have enough energy to cause any genetic damage.** Also, following facts should be considered while taking any policy level decision relating to the use of Mobile Phones and Base Station siting

- *“.... RF emissions from base stations are some 50,000 times lower than the levels at which the first health effects begin to be established.”*

***Dr Michael Repacholi, Chairman ICNIRP 1995***

- *The output power of mobile phones is less than 1 Watt (typically is in the range of 0.2 to 0.6 watts), which is far lower than the emission levels that emanate from the microwave or even the radio.*

***WHO Fact Sheet June, 2000***

- *“Recent surveys have shown that the RF exposures from base stations range from 0.002% to 2% of the levels of international exposure guidelines, depending on a variety of factors such as the proximity to the antenna and the surrounding environment. This is lower or comparable to RF exposures from radio or television broadcast transmitters.”*

***WHO Fact Sheet May, 2006***

Also, Mr. Ramachandran added that majority of reviews over the last ten years by expert panels and government agencies looking into the health and safety of mobile communications have agreed that the scientific evidence **does not demonstrate any health risks from the use of mobile phones for children.** It is not out of the place to mention that the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in 2005 in it official advice said ICNIRP guidelines are protective for all sections of population, **including children.**

Thus, prohibiting the use of Mobile Phones by Children is contra to the consensus view of International scientific community and is not supported by **WHO, International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), The Health Council of the Netherlands, Food and Drugs Associations, FDA (USA) and many other international bodies.** In fact FDA has stated "*The scientific evidence does not show a danger to users of wireless phones, including children and teenagers*"

With respect to recent media report on banning advertisements showing children and pregnant women using mobile phones Mr. Ramachandran avowed that limits prescribed by ICNIRP, which have also been endorsed by WHO, are protective for all segments of society and **NO country in the world prescribes such restrictions on advertising as there is no conclusive evidence establishing linkage between use of mobile phones** and its adverse impact on human health.

Further, Mr. Ramachandran explained that advisory to avoid use of Mobile Phones by persons, using medical aids such as pace makers, defibrillators, hearing aids, cochlear implants etc and in ICU, Aero planes etc is purely to minimize chances of interference with other electronic equipments and not based any bad affects on health. Also, recent investigations have shown that a total hospital ban is not necessary since; mobile phones are used inside the hospitals for contacting doctors in case of emergency to avert casualties.

**It can clearly be established for various international studies and reviews that this concern on alleged health hazards is a misplaced concern** as extensive research studies done both nationally as well as internationally, have opined that **there is no conclusive evidence of any health hazard due to electromagnetic radiations emitted from mobile base stations or mobile handsets.**

Mr. Ramachandran iterated that this being a sensitive issue any report based on myths and without any scientific evidence can create negative apprehensions in the mind of public. Thus, there is pressing need to establish an effective system of health information and communication, designed by scientists, government, industry and public, to raise the level of general understanding about mobile phone technology and reduce any perceived mistrust and fears. **The information transmitted should be accurate, based on scientific evidence and at the same time be appropriate in its level of discussion as well as understandable to the intended audience"** concluded Mr. Ramachandran.

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