



Press Release

COAI Heartily Supports Hon'ble Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal Goals for the Telecom Industry

9th December 2010

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Communications & IT, while inaugurating the India Telecom 2010, articulated his primary goals for the sustainable growth for the telecom sector in the country.

He stated that Government should not view telecom as a source of revenue. Instead of looking only at the financial aspects of telecom, one must calculate the larger societal benefits that accrue from tele-density and broadband penetration. The additional benefits of telecom need to be factored into the calculus of determining the policy governing the industry.

Further he added that policy must address the market place realities and requirements and robust growth should be ensured which would enable the industry to make the big ongoing investment necessary for the growth of the sector.

Communications Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal, also promised a level playing field for all telecom operators, saying he wanted sustained growth in the sector and not politics. "We will ensure a level playing field for all telecom operators".

He further emphasized that access to knowledge is the fundamental right of every citizen and as telecom and broadband are the key enablers of this, these are also to be viewed as the right of every person.

He also highlighted the urgent need to focus on the development of the indigenous manufacture of telecom equipment on a priority basis and give equal importance and priority to the development of quality software for telecom in the country.

COAI fully endorses and supports the vision of the Hon'ble MoC and has always advocated that the Telecom Industry is a powerful engine for the socio-economic development of the country. Therefore it is imperative that the National Telecom Policy should aim to nurture the industry to ensure that the National Development goals are achieved and that the industry is not seen as a cash cow to be milked to raise revenues and close the government budget gaps.

Policy initiatives should be fair and a level playing field should be maintained in all aspects to ensure a high growth trajectory of the telecom sector and enable it to play the role of being the effective engine for sustained economic development of the country.

COAI and its members are committed to work with the Minister and DoT to implement the goals articulated by the Minister, to ensure that the benefits of mobile/ broadband are

able to percolate down to all segments of the society including the rural masses and that these services are used by them not only to increase their income and productivity, but also in fact, enhance their quality of life.

About COAI:

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-profit, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. Prominent private service providers and the infrastructure vendors are members of COAI, and work closely on various Industry issues.

More about COAI at : (<http://www.coai.com/>)