



COAI Press Release

ACT moves for better coordination on Telecom Towers /Emission issues

New Delhi, February 21, 2014

The Apex Advisory Council for Telecom in India (ACT) has been taking steps to enhance coordination of Central and State Governments, Law Enforcement Agencies and the industry in resolving telecom tower issues relating to EMF, subscriber verification and security and telecom towers location and safety guidelines.

At a recent meeting held in Goa, on 06th and 7th February, 2014, elaborate deliberations on the need for aligning of the State Government policies for mobile tower installation with that of Department of Telecom (DoT) guidelines were underscored. Mr. S S Sirohi, Sr. DDG (Security - TERM), DoT, Ministry of Communications & IT, emphasized on the urgent need for enhancing cooperation between Telecom Enforcement, Resource, Monitoring (TERM) cells of DoT, State Government Agencies/local authorities and the Telecom Service Providers for developing better understanding of issues related to EMF radiation/exposure and mobile tower installation procedures/guidelines. ACT includes Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) was a special invitee to the meeting.

Mr. Sirohi said while formulating their policies/guidelines, it is important for the State Government agencies to hold consultations with all stakeholders particularly Department of Telecom, in matters of wide public importance relating to Telecommunications so as to serve the interests of consumers/citizens, the Government and the Indian economy in an effective manner. Stressing the need for better coordination, Mr. Sirohi further added that TERM cells, if needed may reach out to State Governments with a view to increase the awareness about TERM cells which have the necessary telecom related expertise and wide experience that can go on a long way in assisting the State Government agencies in understanding EMF radiation/exposure related complex issues and streamlining mobile tower related guidelines /policies. He also said that in this outreach, it should be clarified to state agencies that all issues related to EMF are to be addressed by the TERM cells, which are the extended arm of the DoT and further requested all state agencies to contact their respective TERM cells for any issue related to EMF all state agencies to contact their respective TERM cells for any issue related to EMF. Operational issues related to subscriber verification and security were

also discussed and deliberated on in the two-day joint workshop for the Western Region organized by ACT.

Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General, COAI shared, *“We appreciate the DoT’s gesture in taking this initiative in TERM cells reaching out to the state government agencies. This is a much required step as it will result in better understanding of the issues, especially related to EMF and will also clarify the domains on which the agencies are to operate. We thank the DoT and especially Shri. S.S. Sirohi in playing a vital role in organizing the Workshops.”*

Mr. Ashok Sud, Secretary General, AUSPI commented, *“These workshops enhance the understanding between the stakeholders and serve as a platform for interactive discussions between all the attendees from the government and industry. This initiative will go a long way in building mutual understanding and resolving a lot of issues.”*

Mr. T R Dua, Senior Director, TAIPA shared, *“We appreciate this effort which will help the State bodies enable sanctioning of permission to install towers in their respective jurisdictions. We have also requested the DoT to send an official communication to the Secretaries of the respective States regarding the need for alignment of State mobile tower policies with the DoT guidelines.”*

The discussions were held in a conducive atmosphere and all the participants agreed on the role of telecom in empowering common man, enriching the lives of the people and contributing to the economy of the nation. At the same time, it was also acknowledged that in order to achieve the targets set forth by the NTP 2012, considerable efforts need to be put in by all the stakeholders of the industry.

About AUSPI:

Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI), constituted in the year 1997 is the representative industry body of Unified Access Service Licensees providing CDMA & GSM Mobile Services, Fixed Line Services as well as Value Added Services throughout the length and breadth of the country. (www.auspi.in)

About COAI

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI’s vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national teledensity of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

For more information please visit www.coai.in

About TAIPA:

As a critical member of the wireless telecom ecosystem, the key players for Telecom Infrastructure providers have come together to form a representative industry body, Towers and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA). All leading independent telecom infrastructure providers like Bharti Infratel, Viom Networks, Indus Towers, Reliance Infratel, ATC India Tower Corp., GTL Infrastructures, India Telecom Infra and Tower Vision are the founding members of the Society which visualizes itself to be the official voice for the Telecom Infrastructure industry. The Association intends to interact, discuss and deliberate with the Ministries, Policy Makers, Regulators, Financial institutions and Technical bodies for collection and dissemination of knowledge and information for promotion of healthy growth in telecom services. (<http://www.taipa.in/>)