

FINAL

Press Release

AiTi REGULATORY & LICENSING DIALOGUE ON PUBLIC (COMMERCIAL) RESELLING OF VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VoIP) SERVICES

27th December 2006, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam - The telecommunications regulatory and ICT industry promoting authority for Brunei Darussalam, the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) today held a dialogue with members of the public and the industry at the Orchid Garden Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan. The half day dialogue aimed to achieve the following two objectives: i) To further socialise AiTi's regulatory and licensing framework for operating telecommunication services in Brunei Darussalam to members of the public and industry; and ii) To help the public and industry understand and comply to the regulatory and licensing requirements with respect to the public (commercial) reselling of 'Voice over Internet protocol' (VoIP) services.

"The Internet and other Internet Protocol (IP) - based networks present new opportunities of delivering innovative multimedia applications and telecommunication services to end users. However, over the last couple of years, public or commercial provision of VoIP services has become a major challenge to both telecommunication regulators and public telecommunication service providers all over the world. Telecom regulators came together during last year's International Telecommunication Union Global Symposium for Regulators (ITU GSR) in Geneva to mainly address the regulatory issues concerning VoIP. VoIP again became a main agenda in this year's ITU GSR held in Tunisia earlier this year." This was stated by chairperson of the regulatory dialogue, Awg. Abdul Mutalib Pehin Dato Yusof, Acting CEO, AiTi. He further stated that like most other counterpart telecom regulatory authorities in other countries, AiTi is concerned with the increasing number of call-centers and public resellers of telecommunication long-distance call services mainly through VoIP. Such activities are currently making its way in the country. "Mindful of one of AiTi's key thrust areas to help make the local telecommunications and ICT industry more vibrant and competitive for the overall benefits of the consumers, we seriously intend to consult and advise members of the public, the industry and in particular those concerned parties who are currently providing such services on the appropriate regulatory and licensing requirements. We hope today's dialogue will help AiTi in striking up the right balance between meeting the regulatory challenges brought by IP telephony and at the same time help promote the telecommunication and ICT industry in the country."

Among some of the highlights of the dialogue was a briefing on the background of AiTi by Dyg. Rosnani Haji Mohd Yussof, Manager, AiTi, followed by a presentation by Awg. Hairul Haji Abdul Karim, Senior Manager, AiTi on AiTi's regulatory and licensing framework. The presentation also focused on the telecommunication related laws, regulations and enforcement, an overview of the Infrastructure Provider for the Telecommunication Industry (InTi) License and the Service Provider for the Telecommunications Industry (SeTi) License, and regulatory concerns of VoIP among others. The dialogue was concluded with a question and answer session.

The half-day dialogue was well attended by nearly 80 representatives of the public and private sector and was primarily a follow-up session to the first AiTi dialogue and workshop to introduce its 'Regulatory and Licensing Operational Framework' to members of the public and the industry some time in April this year. At the same time AiTi is also conducting smaller group and individual regulatory dialogues to socialise its regulatory and licensing framework to the local industry from time to time.

Following international regulatory best practises, AiTi is also floating a public consultation paper on VoIP downloadable at www.aiti.gov.bn/voip. Members of the public and the industry are encouraged to submit their feedback on the paper and for further queries please do not hesitate to contact AiTi at (673)2-323232 ext. 1286/1119 or email at ipgroup@aiti.gov.bn.

END