

## Lebanon's telecom regulator launches US-funded website

BEIRUT: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) launched its new and improved website on Tuesday during a ceremony at the Phoenicia InterContinental Hotel.

The ceremony was attended by Telecommunications Minister Jebran Bassil, TRA President Kamal Shehadi and officials from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which granted the authority \$100,000 to upgrade the website.

The event was also designed to review what the authority called its achievements through the Transparency and Accountability Grant (TAG) project that was funded by USAID and managed by AMIDEAST.

Bassil said the TRA is providing an advanced image of the telecom sector in Lebanon.

He underlined the need for

the speedy establishment of LibanTelecom company and the creation of a legal framework in order to enhance the telecom sector in Lebanon.

"We hope that the process of developing the telecom sector will pass quietly and smoothly," Bassil said, in reference to the Telecommunications Ministry's efforts to increase the capacity of the cellular networks and launch a tender to find two new companies that will operate the 1.35 million mobile lines.

Shehadi said that the main purpose of the new web page ([www.tra.gov.lb](http://www.tra.gov.lb)) is to allow the TRA to interact with all those involved in the field of communication and IT in Lebanon.

The TRA is an independent agency assigned to liberalize, regulate, and develop the telecommunications sector in Lebanon. — *The Daily Star*