BT TELECOM, in partnership with APNIC and Netnod, launches I-Root server in Bhutan

Brisbane, Australia – Thursday, 14 April 2011

BT TELECOM announced the launch of a new Asia Pacific I–Root Server in Thimphu on Thursday, 14 April 2011. This was launched in partnership with the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and Netnod, which is responsible for the installation of the I-Root server. APNIC supports 26 root servers in the Asia Pacific region, including 10 instances of the I-Root server.

APNIC Services Director Sanjaya said, "This new I-Root server, which is Bhutan's first, will bring significant improvements in both speed and reliability to Internet users in Bhutan and the surrounding region.

In particular, we expect faster domain resolution, increased resilience, and noticeable performance enhancement for users in the surrounding areas," Sanjaya said.

The new I-Root will allow additional resources to handle the increasing traffic in the area, dispersing malicious traffic and further strengthening the Domain Name System (DNS).

"We are very pleased to deploy an I-Root server instance in Bhutan" Kurt Erik Lindqvist, CEO, Netnod said. "This root server will not only benefit the local Internet community, but also Internet communities in the surrounding region. This installation is part of Netnod's effort to increase the I-Root server footprint, thereby increasing the performance and robustness of the root server system worldwide."

APNIC Director General Paul Wilson added, "The deployment of this root server in Bhutan is a positive example of Internet multi-stakeholder coordination. The installation has involved the private sector, not-for-profit organizations, and government bodies working together to improve DNS stability and Internet response times for developing countries in South Asia."

Root servers are a critical part of the Internet's DNS, providing information about authoritative servers for Top Level Domains (TLDs). Computers need this information in order to interpret URLs and email addresses, in addition to the performance of other types of Internet transactions.

About APNIC

As one of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) in the world, the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization charged with ensuring the fair distribution of IP addresses and the related numeric resources in the Asia Pacific region. Responsible management of these resources is vital for the stable and reliable operation of the Internet.

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About Netnod

Netnod is the non-profit organization responsible for i.root-servers.net, the first root server to be installed outside the United States of America. i.root-servers.net has been operational since 1991 and is now anycast from more than 30 locations around the Internet. Netnod also provides DNS anycast services to a variety of Top Level Domains (TLDs).

Press Contact: Kurt Erik Lindqvist, CEO, Netnod, info@netnod.se, www.netnod.se

About BT TELECOM

Bhutan Telecom (BTL) is the largest mobile, fixed, and Internet services provider in Bhutan. Their overall available bandwidth (320 Mbps) for international Internet links places Bhutan among the highest bandwidth levels per capita in the world. In 2008 Bhutan Telecom connected Bhutan on the first ever optical fiber cable for the international access. The commissioning of this international fibre link extending from Bhutqn to London was considered a landmark achievement compared to their first international telecommunication link through a satellite system in the early 1990s.

For two consecutive years, 2009 & 2010, Bhutan Telecom has been awarded double awards – "Growth Engine for Mobile Telephony" and "Growth Engine for Internet" in Bhutan by Voice&Data, the leading magazine in India that traces the business, technology and regulatory aspect of telecom and networking.

General Enquiries: bt@bt.bt

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Notes to Editors

Interview Opportunities

The following APNIC spokespeople are available for interview.

Sanjaya, Service Director, APNIC
(http://www.apnic.net/events/apnic-speakers/sanjaya)

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Srinivas (Sunny) Chendi, Senior Community Engagement Specialist/ Liaison Officer, South Asia
(http://www.apnic.net/events/apnic-speakers/srinivas-chendi)

Press Resources

Several press resources are available at www.apnic.net/press including, background documents, past releases, and statistics on IP address usage in individual economies.

APNIC can also refer you to local organizations and contacts in your economy that can also give additional local commentary.

For more information on APNIC:
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Biographies and high res photos are available on request.