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BuzzCity reports surprise growth of mobile Internet in Middle East

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INTERNATIONAL. BuzzCity a provider of global wireless communities and consumer services, today revealed the myGamma Global Mobile Advertising Index demonstrating the popularity of its mobile social network. BuzzCity also reports sharp growth for demand of its service in Egypt and Saudi Arabia which will surprise both the global mobile community and digital advertising industries.

It is likely the growth is directly linked with changes in mobile operator business models offering affordable and understandable (fixed price) mobile data packages.

The following statistics show advertising page views for Buzz City in the first quarter of 2008, and percentage growth on first quarter 2007.

1. Indonesia: 654 million (up 13328%)
2. India: 577 million (up 1522%)
3. South Africa: 426 million (up 418%)
4. US: 132 million (up 917%)
5. Kenya: 79 million (up 424%)
6. Romania: 57 million (up 446%)
7. Bangladesh: 53 million (up 305%)
8. China: 37 million (up 6053%)
9. Brunei: 35 million (up 221%)
10. Pakistan: 35 million (up 814%)

BuzzCity's myGamma social network service on mobiles operates on an ad-supported model as a primary source of revenue. Advertisements are served on myGamma and on more than 2,000 publisher sites globally. BuzzCity tracks the growth of the network and by extension, the growth of the mobile Internet in more than 70 countries around the world.

The company recently announced plans for a US office, a market where traffic has grown more than 900%, putting the US in 4th place. BuzzCity expects this to grow to more than 100 million page views per month in the next quarter. In 21st place is Canada, with 5 million page views per month, which has made a phenomenal growth of 11,800% over the last 15 months. This may mark the growth of a new market in North America.

In the first quarter of 2007 the myGamma banner network served a little over 260 million banners over its top ten high traffic countries South Africa, India, Thailand, Kenya, Bangladesh, Brunei, US, Romania, Nigeria and Malaysia. Over the first quarter of 2008, the top ten countries served more than 2 billion ads, a growth of 800%. The top ten also saw some new entrants, with Indonesia, China and Pakistan replacing Thailand, Nigeria and Malaysia, which collectively served about 60% of the 3 billion ads served across the network.

KF Lai, CEO of BuzzCity, commented on the news: "In the first quarter of 2008, we served more than 26 million banner advertisements to Egyptian users. This is a growth of 5,400% against the first quarter of 2007 when we served only 490,000 impressions. During this period, Saudi Arabian traffic grew by nearly 900% to 22 million banners. In both cases, increased mobile penetration and healthy competition among carriers invariably sees more consumer activity on the mobile Internet.

We are only going to see more of this, everywhere."

Advertisers, such as Mozat in Singapore, have been quick to take advantage of the rise of the mobile Internet in the Middle East and have targeted campaigns to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. BuzzCity has expanded its network to deploy new services in Croatia, Iran, Namibia, Nepal, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

See also www.buzzcity.com