

National roaming fee scrapped



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National roaming charges will be scrapped for 1.36 billion Chinese phone users from September, one month ahead of the original plan, China's three biggest telecommunication carriers said yesterday.

China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom all said yesterday that they will stop charging national roaming fees from September. However, the international roaming charges remain.

The roaming fee, almost double the local call cost on average, has been an irritant for consumers who wanted it scrapped for a long time. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology asked carriers to "gradually stop charging" the fee since 2016.

In Shanghai, carriers have already launched packages that do not include the roaming fee since 2015.