

Message

Open Source software has come to be a proven environment for building stronger software through open global collaboration. The Open Source Geospatial Foundation, or OSGeo, has been created support and build the highest-quality geospatial software. The foundation's goal is to encourage the use and collaborative development of community-led projects.

Establishment of the Japan OSGeo in this early summer was another milestone in promoting distributed innovation in Open Source geospatial solutions particularly in the Asia region. I sincerely hope that the Thai OSGeo will soon be formed and play a significant role in promoting distributed innovation in Open Source geospatial solution in the region.

Ever since Open Source geospatial software tools were introduced into Japan, they have been widely accepted and adopted by government, public sectors, academic institutions and corporate market. Additionally Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and other ministries are strongly supporting and promoting Open Source Software. Thus Open Source Geospatial tools in general have become essential in doing spatial analysis and creating spatial applications in Japan.

Japan OSGeo enriches and enhances Open Source geospatial initiatives by offering tasks such as;

- * Promote OSGeo and Open Source Geospatial Software tools
- * Support activities of Open Source Geospatial Software communities in region
- * Software Internationalization and Localization
- * Development of prototype applications to demonstrate Open Source geospatial capabilities to local and regional audiences
- * Software Packaging and Customization for local and regional needs
- * Training, Support and Development of e-Learning Contents in local languages
- * Support Open standards and Open access to geospatial data in region

The above activities will complement and strengthen the efforts of OSGeo in increasing awareness about available Open Source Geospatial solutions and stimulating adoption in education, industry, government and non-profit organizations in Japan and Asian region.

On this momentous occasion, it is our great privilege to offer this message of felicitation to “MapAsia 2006”. We wish “MapAsia 2006” a great success and look forward to pleasure of working together to nurture and promote Open Source geospatial solutions with establishing Thai OSGeo chapter.

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