WHY FREE/Libre AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FOSS) FOR GEOINFORMATICS?

Geoinformatics technologies help us to manage, assess and present spatial information on natural resources, environment and habitat. They provide valuable tools for national development planning, resource management and disaster mitigation. Many Geoinformatics techniques are now operational, while others are poised (because of breakthroughs in data availability or other reasons) to provide vital support for sustainable development. Countries that urgently need such abilities are often those that also face severe technical and cost constraints to implementing them. In particular, the total cost of proprietary software is too high for many less wealthy countries. Several nations are therefore unable to build, maintain, and adequately benefit from geoinformatics technologies. Over the last decade, Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FOSS) has grown tremendously in scope and popularity. FOSS has gained the attention of the Geoinformatics community and created new opportunities for developing such capabilities. Attractive licensing terms, free availability, high quality, low management costs, and opportunities for anyone to join cooperative software development teams make FOSS systems highly desirable for capacity building in developing countries, especially regions with growing IT skills and manufacture such as Asia, and also to stimulate academic and commercial spin-offs, as well as international cooperation in developing and adaptation of such software for specific national/local needs.

CALL FOR SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

The conference registration fee has been kept low to encourage widespread participation. This is important in particular for applicants from less well-endowed countries, private individuals and students. Special efforts will be made during the conference to foster technology transfer to developing countries especially in the Southeast Asian region. Sponsors can provide funds to cover general conference expenses or provide much needed travel grants and support waiver of registration fee for deserving applicants. To become a sponsor or exhibitor contact either of the coordinators.

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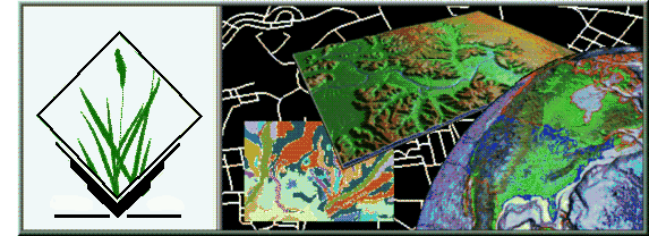Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- April 30, 2004   Abstract Due
- May 31, 2004   Author Notification
- Till June 30, 2004   Early Registration
- July 31, 2004   Camera-Ready Paper Due

FREE/Libre AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FOSS) FOR GEOINFORMATICS
GIS – GRASS USERS CONFERENCE 2004

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2004
BANGKOK, THAILAND

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT
AND
CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

FREE/Lbre AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FOSS) FOR GEOINFORMATICS

GIS-GRASS USERS CONFERENCE 2004

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2004
BANGKOK, THAILAND

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The FOSS for Geoinformatics: GIS - GRASS Users Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 September 2004. An extended successor to a long series of GRASS-GIS Users Conferences (last held in September 2002 in Trento, Italy (http://www.ing.unitn.it /~grass/conferences/GRASS2002), the series will be in Asia for the first time. The conference joins FOSS/GRASS developers and users worldwide to foster closer relations, and to share ideas for improving software and applications. (Unlike at closed-source software users meetings, **anyone** can turn findings of this meeting into **new code** and improved applications.) The Bangkok conference will cover all aspects of FOSS for Geoinformatics, in addition to GRASS itself. Thus the aim of the conference is twofold: (a) exchange of experiences between GRASS users and developers and (b) provide first-hand information on FOSS capabilities for developing national/local spatial data infrastructures, with emphasis on Asian countries. One unique aspect of the conference will be the

INSTALLFEST. *Bring your computer (or buy one in Bangkok), install GRASS and other geoinformatics software, and begin to use it, all at the conference!*

Venue: The conference is being organized with the support from several other institutions and will be held at Chulalongkorn University's main campus in Bangkok. The Organizing Committee includes prominent experts in FOSS for Geoinformatics.

ORGANIZED BY

Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University (TH)
Graduate Schools of Creative Cities, Science and Media Center, Osaka City University (JP)

SUPPORTED BY

Asian Institute of Technology (TH)
Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Expo.'70 (JP)
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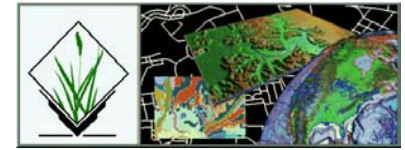United Nations University (JP)
*Planned

PARTICIPATION

This is the first meeting on FOSS for Geoinformatics in Asia. Early registration (at the *much reduced* rate) will help the meeting organizers to anticipate the level of attendance. Final registration and hotel booking will be possible starting from June 2004. Please check the FOSS/GRASS 2004 website or contact the Secretariat for more details about mode of payment.

- Early registration (until June 30, 2004): **US$60** or equivalent in Thai Baht
- Late registration (after June 30, 2004): **US$150** or equivalent in Thai Baht
- Student registration (until Sept. 12, 2004): **US$30** or equivalent in Thai Baht
- Host country participants: **1600 Thai Baht** (regular) **500 Thai Baht** (student)
- *INSTALLFEST*: **US$20** or equivalent in Thai Baht

Authors are encouraged to submit papers on FOSS solutions in Geoinformatics covering

- Software development and applications
- Education, capacity building & technology transfer.
- Policy issues and role of FOSS in NSDI

Papers on other relevant topics are also welcome. The Scientific Committee will review submissions. Author notification will be mailed to the corresponding author by May 31, 2004. The conference proceedings will made available at the conference venue. The proceedings will also be published on the Internet under the GNU Free Document Licence to promote widespread dissemination.

FOSS for Geoinformatics
GIS - GRASS Users Conference 2004
Bangkok, Thailand
September 12-14, 2004

Pre-Registration Form

Name: ....

Organisation: ....

....

Position: ....

Address: ....

....

Code/City: ....

Country: ....

Phone: ....

Fax: ....

Email: ....

Topic of presentation: ....

....

I would like to;

Make Oral presentation	☐ yes	☐ no
Make Poster presentation	☐ yes	☐ no
Exhibit products	☐ yes	☐ no
Participate in *INSTALLFEST*	☐ yes	☐ no

Please register at the conference website or complete the form above and return this pre-registration form by Fax to **Conference Secretariat** (FAX: +66-2-218-6653) so that your name can be included in the conference mailing list for further announcements.