

Minutes of the 3rd Asia Open Source Software Symposium

March 8, 2004

Participants:

Distinguish guests:

H.E. Hoang Van Huay, Vice Minister of Science, Technology and Environment

Dr. Do Van Loc, General Director of IT Office, MOST

Dr. Hoang Le Minh, Deputy General Director, Science and technology Department, Hochiminh City

Dr. Shuichi Tashiro, Project leader, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Mr. Akio Kanaya, Executive Director of Center of the International Cooperation for Computerization.

and

50 representatives from 19 Asian economies and other 230 participants from various Vietnamese government agencies and enterprises.

The symposium began at 8 AM by check-in procedures for distinguish guests and participants.

Dr. Do Van Loc kicked off the symposium by his opening speech introducing distinguish guests and the agenda for the event. The symposium was held in three days from March 8 to 10, 2004 taking place at Melia Hotel, Hanoi Vietnam. The first day and a half of the symposium were designed for public session, where keynotes and welcome speeches were delivered by the distinguish guests, International Collaboration (a case of FSG) and presentations on OSS status in different economies were presented to the participants. The rest of the symposium was designed for closed Roundtable discussion among Asia Roundtable members.

Summary of welcome speeches, keynotes and presentation:

H.E Vice Minister Hoang Van Huay welcomed the distinguish guests and representatives to the symposium by his warm welcome address. In his speech, Vice Minister Huay stressed the needs for OSS development by Asian economies and territories including Vietnam. He also identified the symposium a good opportunity for Vietnam to improve its public awareness of OSS and also to exchange information, ideas as well as stages of OSS development between Vietnam and other Asian economies and territories. To conclude his address, Vice Minister wished the symposium successful.

Following Vice Minister Huay's welcome speech was Mr. Akio Kanaya's welcome address. His remarks briefly mentioned CICC's main roles, functions and activities including training program. CICC's cooperation with other economies and territories in the region were also mentioned in his speech. He hoped CICC's activities, program and

international cooperation will contribute to the growth of IT industry in Asia. In his address, Mr. Kanaya also talked about the first two symposiums of Asia OSS that happened in Phuket, Thailand and Singapore respectively. At the second symposium 18 economies from all over Asia discussed and recognized the importance themes shared by all participating economies. In conclusion, Mr. Kanaya hoped that with three days of the symposium, Asian OSS's aims would be achieved effectively.

After the remarks presented by Mr. Kanaya, Dr. Do Van Loc briefly talked about OSS activities in Vietnam in the time to come. Since 2000, Vietnam has been preparing OSS and Vietnam organized its two national seminars on OSS in 2000 and 2002 respectively. After these two seminars, it was found that the demand for OSS was really high. It was agreed that national seminar on OSS every two years. And the next seminar would be taken place in Ho Chi Minh City in July 2004. At both national internet gates in Hanoi and HCMC, OSS has been used. In addition, some companies and educational institutions have been using OSS and Linux. According to Dr. Loc, Prime Minister passed and signed a Decision issued on March 2, 2004 on OSS project for 2004-2008. This project consists of 9 small projects that will be carried out by various ministers and organizations. Especially there is one project on OSS development managed and undertaken by General Department of Post and Telecommunication. Three projects relate to education, one project involves with OSS training for academic institutions managed and steered by Ministry of Education and Training. One project relates to vocational training steered by Ministry of Labor, War invalid, and Social Affairs. And one project concern with training for public servants managed by Ministry of Public Security. There are also 4 pilot projects on OSS application and development undertaken by Hanoi, HCMC, Ministry of Defend and Ministry of Public Security. Vietnam committed to participate in Asia OSS symposium in 2005. Ministry of Science and Technology is now preparing to sign MOU with IBM, HP and Sam. Vietnam also collaborates with UNDP and Free Software Group on OSS development. In his conclusion, Dr. Loc hoped to Vietnam would receive cooperation and support from international organizations on both international closed and open sources.

Followed by Dr. Loc's presentation was brief introduction of Asia OSS by Dr. Shuichi Tashiro. Asia OSS symposium was a forum, where member can exchange information, discuss, coordinate and stimulate projects and activities that happened and are happening in member economies and territories. He also introduce format of the symposium that included open discussion and Roundtable discussion. Dr. Tashiro also acknowledged membership from participating economies and territories in Asia and recognized support organizations in Asia such as MOST of Vietnam, KIPA of Korea and etc.

After a short coffee break, Mr. Lim Kin Chew delivered a keynote presentation. The presentation was about what we could do for the Asia OSS. According to Mr. Chew, OSS would be come very popular as Linux Operating System and Apache Web Server software are widely used. Currently there are about 60% of the world's web servers using Apache and about 4 million computers using MySQL. However, he identified the language challenge for Asia OSS if it intended to develop a common Asia OSS as it needed to translate the software into 13 languages. Yet he believed that Asia OSS could

start the project from schools by refurbishing used computers then installing with Asia OSS before distributing them to poor and needy students. Mr. Chew also suggested different business models such as developing Asia OSS in different languages, focusing on servicing than production or Asia OSS based e-learning and OSS based electronics divides. Licensing issues in Asia OSS and E-government were also mentioned. To conclude his presentation, Mr. Chew stressed the important role of participating in OSS projects to the free and real benefit of OSS.

A presentation on OSS in Vietnam by Dr. Hoang Le Minh, Director of OSS Working Group of Vietnam was followed by Dr. Chew's keynote. Together with a high growth rate, Vietnam's IT was developed rapidly. However, as pointed out by Dr. Minh, Vietnam is now facing with piracy problem mainly related to Microsoft products. Speaking of OSS, OSS presented in Vietnam since 1990s through Linux, which first installed in universities' servers then in those of some software developing houses. Linux so far has been installed in more than 100,000 newly-assembled computers and it was projected to be installed in some out of 1 million computers that would be distributed to remote areas. It is also worth mentioning that some application programs for Linux were developed and Linux itself and some of its application programs such as email, office were Vietnameselised to easier and more convenient use. Dr. Minh also identified some challenges in developing OSS such as copyright problem, dependency on Microsoft application, lack of human resource and technical support, and limited awareness on OSS. The objectives for Vietnam in the future were to speed up OSS use and development, establish groups of capable technicians, develop some OSS based products and promote the development of Vietnam software industry. Of main activities in developing OSS in Vietnam, establishing OSS related policies, implementing OSS and developing human resource were highly stressed by Dr. Minh. He also emphasized the importance of international and regional collaboration in OSS use and development. Apart to advantages and disadvantages to develop OSS in Vietnam, Dr. Minh also presented the newly-enacted decision signed by Prime Minister as Dr. Loc mentioned before.

Following Dr. Minh's presentation, Mr. Kanaya raised a question. The question was concerned about the issue of community development based on Dr. Minh's personal idea or government's idea as this issue is an important factor to OSS development. In his answer to Mr. Kanaya, Dr. Minh believed that it needed the whole proposed project of developing OSS and its application to have a full explanation. He believed that this project was not the only one to develop Vietnam's IT but among of many other IT projects. This project also served as a counterbalance factor against the current widespread trend of using Microsoft products in Vietnam. He also stressed that Vietnam need to reduce its dependence on foreign software by having its own products. Although there was not a timeline for this matter yet, Dr. Minh believed that with support from the government Vietnam would soon achieve its goal.

A case of FSG in International Collaboration presented by Mr. Scott McNeil

FSG is a member based, California non-profit corporation who creates standards for the unified base of Linux. It acts as bridge between the needs of the Free and OS

development community and IT industry. It also set the foundation for the next stage of Linux growth. FSG received support from a ray of leading software developing companies as well as computer manufacturers such as AMD, Dell, IBM, Miracle Linux... Its organizational structure was also introduced to the audients. Speaking of products, FSG has two main products: LSB and OpenI18N. LSB is not only a written documentation but also a tool for testing, building environment and implementing. By using LSB, there have been more than 30 LSB compliant applications being certified such as Connectiva Linux Enterprise Edition, MSA. Linux 2002. In terms of technical expansion, versions of LSB have supported variety of applications such as C++, Fortran...making it easier and more friendly framework for software developers. Like LSB, OpenI18N is a written specification and tools for testing, implementation development and desktop usability. It is built on existing standards such as LSB, ICU and Perl 5.6. Features such as front office, input method printing, presentation especially fonts, migration from legacy encoding and clients etc have been added to the OpenI18N product.

Poster presentations by Asian economies (in appears in alphabetical order)

Bangladesh (Mr. Muhammad Sayeedur Rahman):

An overview of ICT and OSS in Bangladesh was presented by Sayeed Rahman, founder of Bangla IT. Mr. Rahman's presentation covered briefly an overview of Bangladesh economy, the background development of ICT and the need of ICT in Bangladesh. He also mentioned the need for OSS in and the current position of OSS in Bangladesh. It is worth mentioning that with low GDP per head (\$360/head) most of people in Bangladesh cannot afford Microsoft Window and Office. Thus, Bangladesh is really in the needs of developing OSS system. OSS is quite popular among software companies and at the time being, there are 5 universities (both public and private) participating in the process of developing OSS system and expanded versions of OSS and other solutions such as Linux, My SQL.

Brunei (Dr Lim Chee Ming):

Dr. Lim Chee Ming presented proposed OSS projects in Brunei, which have been currently at the starting stage of development. These projects are involved with teaching and training OSS and developing OSS LMS. An IT Committee and a Secretariat have been set up playing an important role in developing IT system using OSS.

China (Dr. Gao Lin):

A brief overview of OSS development and deployment in China was presented by Dr. Gao Lin from CSI. CSI is a domestic software development house to protect national security as well as reducing cost on buying software. Chinese Government has started to promote and support the use of Linux since 2002 and is undergoing major technological programs such as: 863 and 973 programs ... In earlier 2002, Beijing Science Committee started "YangFan" and "QiHang" projects, which develop IT infrastructures and OSS. Conferences and seminars on OSS are held every year. Chinese Government is aware of the importance of OSS and is strengthening its international cooperation with Korea and Japan in OSS standardization.

India (Mr. Venkataraman Narayanan):

There are about 0.8 millions software development houses in India and they are certified companies and experienced in using Linux and Unix. India has about 250,000 programming experts and OSS application is very popular in India. India is currently using Samba and Unix that have many similar features to Linux.

Indonesia (Mr. Yohanes Nugroho):

Presented by Mr. Yohanes Nugroho. There has been quite a few of OSS activities after the symposium 2. Indonesian Government has been supporting its IT development, especially OSS and cheap computer project (Komura). New OSS project is related to serving community that uses OSS.

Japan (Mr. Kazuo Hiyane):

OSS project received support from Japanese Government. Last year Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry supported many projects, especially those of R&D. A survey of developing an OSS was conducted and useful data and information were received. Currently Linux is widely used among organizations and companies.

Laos (Mr. Inthasone Somsack):

Besides Linux, which is widely used for most of application software in every Laotian university, Laos has developed its own system called Laos Linux. Laos is carrying out training programs for using Linux. Many projects received support from the government as well as companies.

Malaysia (Mr. Imran William Smith):

The main question raised by the Malaysian government is how to use OSS efficiently. It is because usage of Linux has become more popular due to small cost discrepancy between Microsoft and Linux. Thus, in the time to come, usage of Linux in Malaysia will raise strongly. However, localization of OSS is underdeveloped and usage of OSS in Malaysian universities is very limited.

Myanmar (Mr. U Thein Oo):

OSS awareness is very limited. Software development houses are not quite confident in OSS benefits. OSS is not yet introduced to universities. However, 90% of ISP are using OSS. To promote usage of OSS, Malaysia is establishing a center for developing and applying OSS.

Pakistan (Mr. Mohammed Sabzwari):

Ants Consulting Pakistan is a company specializing in developing policies for the Government. The company plans to train about 1,000 administrators for the Government. The company is also planning to write and develop application program for Linux and this program got supported from the government. Pakistan has about 350 Linux servers and all IT universities offer Linux courses.

Philippines (Mr. Reuben Ravago):

Philippines is using Linux Bayanihan ver3 and introducing a project that in the next few years all servers will use Linux as a main operation system. Although there aren't specific policies for developing OSS and the Government doesn't financially support the project, OSS is developing quite strongly and gets supported and cooperation from various IT centers and companies.

Singapore (Mr. Snjeev Gupta):

FSG is strongly supported in Singapore through SIG 5 Program, a standardization program. National University of Singapore is collaborating to develop standards for Linux, especially for the usage in universities. Since last year, Singapore has undertaken some educational outreach (SIG 3) and competitions (SIG7) programs because most of Singaporean are not fully aware of economic benefits of using OSS. In addition, there is lack of Linux localization.

Sri Lanka (Mr. Harsha Wijayawardhana):

Sri Lanka held successfully its first OSS Conference in January in Colombo with over 170 participants. Followed this successful conference couples of seminars were held in February on Open Source Business Models. Sri Lanka also successfully introduced Axis/C++, a SOAP engine developed by LSF engineers.

Linux and Microsoft localization is being taken into consideration. The government of Sri Lanka has placed a greater emphasis on Localization and working with Microsoft as well as with Linux groups for the development of Unicode Sinhala on both platforms. University of Colombo school of Colombo has partnered with six other countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Laos in a project which is known as PAN LOCALIZATION PROJECT which is funded by Canadian IDRC. Although Sri Lankan Deliverables are on MS platform in this project, the Language center of UCSC has decided to have them on Linux as well in developing and expanding Linux localization. The majority of web servers now are OS based in Sri Lanka now are using Linux. Sri Lanka hopes that in the future all its servers will use OSS.

Chinese Taipei (Mr. Kuo-Wei Wu):

Chinese Taipei is now testing Standard Operation Procedure for servers using OSS server solutions including MySQL, Apache, Mail... The economy also is deploying applications (LAMP, J2EE) for 3 local governments. If this program succeed, SOP will be implemented to all 369 local governments in Chinese Taipei with all servers will be using Linux.

Thailand (Mr. Kamthorn Krairaksa):

An overview of OSS activities in Thailand and the history of Linux from the very first version 1.0 were introduced. To support and promote OSS activities in Thailand, many working groups have been established. Members are volunteers and work on localization for software and introduce Thai language into software. Thailand's future plan is to set up a server system using Linux and introduce OSS usage into schools and universities. Linux TLE 5.5 is the latest software solution, which is localized. The common problems in developing and promoting OSS are lacks of supporting and developers who write software for Linux.

After a short coffee break, participants moved to poster session, where representatives of Asian OSS Roundtable members, vendors, R&D organization introduced their local OSS activities more detailed and answered all questions and concerns raised by participants.

The first day of the Symposium adjured at 17:15 PM.

March 9, 2004

Participants:

Dr. Do Van Loc, General Director of IT office, MOST

Dr. Shuichi Tashiro, Project leader, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Mr. Akio Kanaya, Executive Director of Center of the International Cooperation for Computerization.

Prof. Masayuki Ida, Graduate School of International Management, Aoyama Gakuin University

and

Representatives from 17 Asian economies and other 100 participants from various Vietnamese government agencies and enterprises.

The second day of the symposium consisted of two sessions: tutorial and Roundtable session. The tutorial session, chaired by Dr. Loc, proceeded in the morning and the Roundtable was in the afternoon.

“How to join OSS and How to enjoy OSS” by Dr. Virach Sorniertlamvanich

The tutorial session began with Dr. Virach Sorniertlamvanich’s presentation on how to join OSS and how to enjoy OSS. Dr. Sorniertlamvanich is the Director of Thai computational Linguistic Laboratory. He has developed various products for OSS, especially those in linguistics. Two typical works of his projects are the development and implementation of Thai encoding namely Thai electronic dictionary and office TLE-Writer. In his presentation, he identified four freedoms of Free Software. They are freedom to run the software, freedom to study with the source code that is open to everyone, freedom to redistribute, and freedom to improve. Similar to free software, OSS is software that allows users not only to use but to see its code and modify the code to meet their needs. Based on his own experiences, open source is simply not only a technology shift and programmer development but a contributor to fill the gap of digital divide and cost saving in both software purchase and development. It also helps to reduce software piracy rate. To illustrate the reason to join OSS, Dr. Sorniertlamvanich pointed out the benefits of OSS when comparing between proprietary software vs. open source in five areas: development, license, business goal, delivery and ownership. However, he emphasized that participants could not fully enjoy OSS, if they don’t comply with rules when joining OSS. Dr. Sorniertlamvanich also introduce some pictures of his works in his presentation.

“Case Study on Linux Business – MIRACLE LINUX’s Story --” by Mr.Takashi Kodama

Following Dr. Sorniertlamvanich’s presentation, Mr. Takashi Kodama presented a case study on Linux Business. Miracle Linux (ML) was established by Oracle Japan and NEC

in 2000. The reason Oracle Japan decided to establish ML was that there was not many Linux distributions in Japan and Window accounted for around 70 percent of the market. Linux 1.0 was ML's first version and also a pilot one. Then the expanded versions such as 2.0 and 2.1 were developed. Right now ML is developing the latest version 3.0 with the cooperation with Red Flag. Currently, ML's revenue from Linux for the fiscal year of 2003 was over 50% showing that Linux market is growing up in Japan. Based on a survey among Linux customers, Linux for enterprise system was assessed to be a good and fundamental system. Apart from its Linux product, ML also provides with support services, partner support, and consulting services. It provides consulting service to customers, who want to migrate Samba and Window into Linux but don't have skill. Due to customers are becoming more concerned with security issues, ML has been concentrating on developing security business. A good marketing strategy to help users not only to use Linux easily and efficiently but also to choose a product that best fits to their needs was one of the significant contributors to the success of ML. ML believed that in 2007 Linux market share will be 15 %. In terms of development, ML is now working on a project named Asianux in cooperation with Red Flag, China. In this project, it has a joint development center in Beijing. ML is also working with some Korean companies to convince them to join the project. ML will provide technical support for the development center to develop new products. Then each distributor will be in charge of distributing products in their own countries. With these centers in Asia, ML is able to reduce production cost and distribute products in Asia. Through Red Flag, ML is distributing Red Flag DC Server 4.1 and Linux 3.0.

Based on Mr. Kodamo's presentation, few questions were raised. The questions were concerned about the best solutions in terms of cost when Linux is installed in PC using open source. According to Mr. Kodamo, ML now is not focusing on 16 or 32 megabit but on IO performance.

"Open source and lessons for creativity" by Mr. Jeff Bates

The third presentation and also the last one of the open session was Mr. Jeff Bates' presentation on "open source and lessons for creativity". His presentation asserted that an important factor to OSS community is open minds where people come and work together and together create something larger than their own mind. These open minds also create immediate feedback because all the work is done in the open environment. Such environment attracts more people and users for the challenges as well as new skills it provides. According to a recent survey among OSS developers, Mr. Bates revealed that many of OSS developers joined OSS because they wanted to win against Microsoft in terms of market share, and performance..., some do it because they are a labor of love. The Open Source becomes very interesting because it creates new solutions, solves problems and creates passions thereby people believe in it and want to be involved in it and be part of the community. By presenting benefits of OSS, Mr. Bates emphasized that OSS are becoming a lucrative market for entrepreneurs. In terms of operation, when Novel and IBM publicly announced to move to standardizing on Linux platform, Mr. Bates believed that in Linux will strongly grow in over the next 10 years and in the next 10 or 20 years will be an accepted standard. Mr. Bates believed that OSS can win

Microsoft because OSS enables the entire planet to get involved. In addition, creativity, peer leadership and communication between users and developers are a part of success for OSS model. It is also worth noting that ensuring open intellectual property in OSS is an issue for the community. It means the businesses, governments, academic organizations when using OSS, OSS information, would better give than receive, then they will be come a more successful organization.

Mr. Bates was asked with several questions. Questions surrounded the issues of developers from developing countries, localization of source forge.net, and risk for OSS being defeated by Microsoft. For the question regarding developers from developing countries, Mr. Bates predicted based on source forge's statistics data that countries like Vietnam would be the biggest source of open source growth and Asia would be the biggest source for continued open source development growth. Speaking of localization, he admitted that although the source forge was built to registered users, source forge have a lot of volunteers who has been translating all the interfaces into different languages and help documentation into native languages. Consequently, there are 24 languages that are supported. More volunteers are being looked for to do the localization of source forge.net. Though OSS is believed to be prevailing in the market, Mr. Bates foresaw one of the most major problems for OSS has been the adoption of a very strict intellectual properties law by the US and EU.

Dr. Loc closed the open session by conveyed his sincere thanks to all presenters and participants from various government agencies and companies.

Roundtable 1

The first Roundtable began after the lunch. Dr. Loc again thanked METI of Japan and CICC for organizing the symposium. Dr. Loc also asked each economy to introduce him or her to the Roundtable.

Asia OSS Wiki Discussion by Mr. Kazuo Hiyane

To open the Roundtable session, Mr. Kazuo Hiyane presented the summary of Asia OSS Wiki discussion. He briefly covered action items which were set up in Singapore symposium. These action items were classified into eight SIGs. The SIG 6 and 8 had no discussion so only 6 SIGs were presented concerning over organization, Asia Linux distribution and business model, HRD, OSS repository, Standardization and software contest. Throughout those 6 SIG discussions, Mr. Hiyane presented ideas, comments and arguments from participating economies on relevant issues.

Community coordination by Dr. Syuichi Tashiro

The second topic of the Roundtable session was community coordination chaired by Dr. Tashiro. Dr. Tashiro identified education and standardization as two important approaches for community coordination. In the context that the Japanese Government was doing a research to set up some project to support the community on standardization Dr. Tashiro would like to gather opinion from the Roundtable.

Dr. Gao Lin (China): CSI established partnership with LPI (Linux Professional Institute) and helping LPI to promote LPI certification education training for Linux engineers in China. This year around 25 different exam labs were expected to be held running from 40 to 200 people. Consequently 1600 to 8000 engineers would be certified by the end of 2004. In terms of standardization, CSI also worked with FSG in examining LPI certification and its impact on the Chinese Linux standard.

Mr. Inthasone Somsack (Laos): OSS education needs taking into serious consideration. In the case of Laos, we have train people for its own sake not for getting benefit such as adding OSS course in the university.

Mr. Muhammad Sayeedur Rahman (Bangladesh): In order to promote OSS education, a good way was to target in different levels, for example OSS could be used in the secondary level not to teach them about Open Source but encourage them to use Open Source. But in the technical concern, LPI was a good example of what standard an educational level should be. Because we commonly take an educational approach that generates the same level of competency, so when we have skilled manpower resources we can expect the same amount of proficiency as we try to certify them or at least how we progress of learning OSS.

Dr. Gao Lin (China): The reason why CSI supported LPI in the past because they were the only independent vendor providing certification who was available in the market. One thing that LPI did not do very well was they did not accelerated the availability of different examinations. They had only 4 exams now.

Mr. Mohammed Sabzwari (Pakistan): They have been cooperating with LPI in the past and doing exactly the same thing as China was doing. LPI had 2 levels of examinations. Level 1 certification had 2 exams on level 2 certification had 2 exams. The third level of development was still under developed. Exam creations were part of committee's process. He suggested setting up a team who could contribute to LPI community and help to develop exams. He also suggested forming a committee within AOSS to try some exams in Asia. And such committee could get professional support from LPI and each economy could design exams for themselves in their own language. So China and Chinese Taipei could become a good affiliate in this field.

Dr. Virach Sornlertlamvanich (Thailand): LPI was not very successful in Thai because of market size and the needs of certifications. Thus, for business model, it would not be a successful and sustainable thing. In regard to OSS, there were a lot of OSS courses offered from private computer schools or even from national institutions. But very few people registered. In terms of certified courses, some companies were doing very well. However, they were getting into some troubles of continuing to do business. Also, the market was not big enough as people thought why they had to train Linux and use the software when the market needed programmers who knew proprietary software.

Mr. Harsha Wijayawardhana (Sri Lanka): Advocacy need to be set up because people didn't know why they needed to learn OSS, then going with certification.

Mr. Harish Pillay (Singapore): Red Hat had a service provider called Red Hat Academy focusing on training people when they were much younger i.e. 15 years old. So they went through school with a curriculum as a part of the regular schooling. And after one year or two years that they were on then they could choose to be certified if they wanted to. But at least they got trained and the certification could be Red Hat or LPI certification.

Dr. Virach Sornlertlamvanich (Thailand): LPI did not develop courseware. the courseware came from the economy. IBM allowed some courseware on Linux to be distributed within the training community and IBM allowed training centers to use IBM certified training courseware. For localization issue, you needed to apply and get local software courseware. You can have it translated or get one of the ideas merged into one to see which software you have in Thailand to see what you want to do and start using that.

Mr. Alex Banh (China): If you work closely with LPI, and once they recognize your effort, they will work with the locals to translate into your language. And for the courseware, there are two OSS versions of courseware available online from other OSS effort and it's easy to download and translate into your language if you are worried about IBM copyright issue.

Dr. Do Van Loc (Vietnam): We plan to make some e-learning software based on OSS. We also plan to have a training webpage and this page is free of charge. The content is based on OSS. Our company is now focusing on e-learning software and we have sold it to several countries in the world. We plan to do E-learning on OSS in Vietnam.

Dr. Syuichi Tashiro (Japan): He believed education was very important to community cooperation. This is because when one taught others something, he decided what to get. Thus before we decide that thing, we need to cooperate our opinion for education.

The third topic was chaired by Professor Ida. The Roundtable moved to set up steps for next work. Professor Ida circulated the draft roadmap among the Roundtable and read it out loud for the Roundtable to follow. He suggested participants make comments and changes to the draft statement. The Hanoi Statement comprised 3 items: projects, time line and project management. The statement also outlined the rationale and criteria for selecting candidate projects. Professor Ida would also like to add the name of all participating economies to the statement.

Report of SC22 LRG meeting by Prof. Ida

After coffee break, the Roundtable resumed with an introduction of LRG meeting report, which hold in February by Professor Ida. The definition of OSS was included in the document. The policy for Linux standardization recommended that any international standard related to Linux limited to specification where at least one OSS was implemented. LRG noted that internationalization for Linux should be handled by FSG

first. Professor Ida repeated participation in the FSG. Members were invited and encouraged to join FSG's mailing list to participate its projects. The report also mentioned about Linux I18N as presented yesterday by Mr. Hiura. There were some models addressing in the meeting such as printing and embedded system.... An issue of scope of standardization for Linux distribution was also discussed in the meeting.

BOF report by Mr. Yutaka Niibe and Mr. Alex Banh

Mr. Yutaka Niibe briefly reported his BOF from the night before. He reported 10 participants had come to at his presentation and discussed Hanoi protocols. Mr. Niibe with assistant from other two participants demonstrated 3 tower protocols. After Mr. Niibe's demonstration, Mr. Alex Banh reported the results from his BOF. His BOF was about business models tackled from both macro and micro views. The section also talked about related issues, different priorities for different entities, HR development and type of corporations. General speaking, the participants to his section were very pleased.

Mr. Hideki Hiura (FSG): In regard to the resolution statement, he believed there were some politics behind it and it would be a potential of problems regarding standards. ISO standard has a lot of politics behind it too. He supposed that what was really read out from the resolution that ISO would not really involve with Linux standardization, but they delegated all the standardization work to FSG. And FSG hadn't passed the submission to extreme fast track to make Linux standardization to be ISO standard. So older in posits are related to ISO standards would not intervene the Linux standardization. So he recommended making these standards in the speed of the community not the speed of ISO. Another message that he found was to join the committee, join FSG and make the standard as a part of FSG. FSG recommended the national committee to join FSG and make the influence to FSG on what FSG would do.

Then the Roundtable was backed to discuss on the draft roadmap. Some questions were raised regarding the wording of the statement and the timeline. Professor again confirmed that the content would be approved by the entire Roundtable. In terms of timeline, he asserted that in two year AOSS would achieve something not to wait for two years.

Dr. Loc gave more explanation about the Decision No. 235 signed by the Prime Minister. He focused on the main parts of the decision such as the objectives of the master OSS plan, implementation through 9 subprojects (please see the report for day 1 for project information). In terms of budget, Dr. Loc explained that the budget would be based on study of feasibility only but the budget for the entire master plan was available.

Professor Ida threw two questions regarding the date coming to effect and funding for general OSS application and development. In answer to Professor Ida's questions, Dr. Loc confirmed that the Decision came to effect exactly on March 2 and also revealed that more than \$1 millions were allocated to MOST for study of feasibility and training as a starting activity.

Professor Ida proceeded with informing of tomorrow's activities. Following was brief summary of OSS training in Bangkok taking place from February 9-13. This training program was organized by CICC in cooperation with NECTEC. The speakers were from both Japan (5) and Thailand (7) and trainees were from 20-25 economies with 5 from each economy. The 3-day training program covered localization, embedded system, digital divide, legal issue such as license on OSS, educational network, server, and practical solutions. The program also included a study tour. The participants were brought to Egas East, an electricity company, whose most of servers were installed with Linux. In the last day of training, participants discussed some issues such as development, resource management, language problem, E-learning, guideline for software migration, document exchange standards, and showcase of domain specific system etc...

Being asked about the most desired personal project, Dr. Sorniertlamvanich revealed that he was trying to set up an e-school project with a contribution from schools nation wide, a software center, that was a collection of government owned software, and NECTEC conducted a lot of software contests. There were 50 OSS projects were submitted for the contest this year.

The Roundtable use the rest of the day to work on draft statement. Mr. Smith volunteered to collect and type up all the changes and comments from all participants.

Sri Lanka's representative raised a question that if there was any OSS implemented in government and how a software was chosen and how it could be tested. To answer that question, Chinese Taipei's representative gave some information based on the case of Chinese Taipei. OSS was under the official policy and the OSS certification was issued by Taiwan Computer Association, the biggest organization. The government gave some money to run a pilot project on 3 chosen companies and implemented SOP. In addition, academic sector tried to educate public, engineer about legal issue, especially OSS. He also suggested some methods that make the meeting more efficient such as emphasizing on some really good output.

The Roundtable session adjourned at 5:00PM. The Roundtable would resume tomorrow at 9:00 AM.

March 10, 2004

Participants:

Dr. Do Van Loc, General Director of IT office, MOST
Prof. Masayuki Ida, Graduate School of International Management, Aoyama Gakuin University

And representatives from 17 Asian member economies

The third working day of the symposium started at 9 AM. The first Roundtable of the day was chaired by Mr. Yutaka Niibe. He informed the members and participants of changes in working agenda and handed over the explanation to Professor Ida. The Roundtable would be closed at 2:30. The change also related to decision of the next meeting place and member recognition for Mongolia.

In discussion of revenue for the next symposium revenue nominees, all participants were in common consent to have the 4th meeting symposium in Taipei in October. In regarding to this issue, the Roundtable also nominated candidates for places holding the symposiums in March 2005, Fall 2005 and March 2006. The nominees were Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Pakistan, India, China and Malaysia. China expressed its strong desire to have conference in March 2005. The final decision would be made from now to Fall 2004.

After having decided the next meeting place, Professor Ida introduced new member from Mongolia. He also recognized the economy's membership and welcomed the economy representative to have a brief introduction to the Roundtable.

Mongolia's introduction by Mr. GANBOLD Ravjin:

The economy's representative briefly introduced the Mongolia fledging IT industry. He addressed that this symposium was very important to his Mongolia's IT industry, especially OSS development. He revealed that Mongolia now lacks of IT policy makers, especially for OSS development. Thus a professional institute who takes care of OSS development was needed. Consequently after this symposium, Mongolia would plan to establish such institution. There were some activities related to OSS in Mongolia such as importing around 600 used computers from Japan for secondary schools. All these 600 computers, due to operation system difficulty, were installed with Linux and all teachers were trained to use Linux and open office. It was assessed that there was no difference between Linux and Window so it was supposed that in the future Linux would be a good operating system in education sector. He also believed that there was a good business model in OSS development in business sector. In his conclusion, he expressed his sincere thanks to CICC for the opportunity to participate the symposium.

After Mongolia's introduction, Mr. Niibe informed the morning session, which included three presentations and discussions.

CICC's activities by Mr. Mitsuyuki Nagatani

CICC was established in June 1983 as a non-profit organization with 43 members from computer related organizations such as Toshiba, Hitachi, Fujitsu, NEC etc. Its purposes is to introduce and assist developing countries in the introduction of computers and IT, and to promote the computernization thereby for their socio-economic development. CICC also collaborates with other organizations such as METI, NEDO, JICA etc. CICC has two offices in Singapore and Beijing. It carries out many activities and programs such as training program, cooperation on IT transfer, international joint R&D.... Out of these activities and program, training is the most important. So far it has trained almost 2,000 invitational trainee and more than 2,700 on-site trainees from 33 economies. CICC's training program includes various courses from multimedia system development course, OSS course (month course) to consulting course. These courses are both offered in Japan and other Asian economies. In addition, CICC organized IT caravan activities and the 2003 caravan took place in Myanmar with more than 2,000 participants. CICC started its International Joint R&D since 1987. At the time being, CICC is cooperating with China on I-MITT 21 project that consists of 6 sub projects. It also works closely with Mitsubishi Research Institute on FLOSS project to develop surveys among Japanese developers.

Human Resource Development on OSS by Mr. Chew Kin Chew

He asserted that with rapid development of OSS, HRD on OSS needs to take into consideration. From his point of view, HRD on OSS was to improve skills of those who are going to use or have been using OSS users. His idea on HRD was also to retrain people who were used to using proprietary software. He supposed that training was not only to give away free software but spread spirit and philosophy of OSS as well and encourage people to convince others to use OSS. The targeted groups of trainees were not limited to existing IT professors but expanded to every one from students, teachers... to hobbyists. Mr. Chew also addressed the needs of HRD as he believed that OSS couldn't grow unless many OSS trained professionals were available. Although realizing this issue seemed like "chicken and egg" issue, Mr. Chew asserted that if we started somewhere we could contribute to the growth of OSS in Asia. Bearing that philosophy in mind, Mr. Chew proposed some ways to start HRD to the Roundtable. They were: launch some training program, set up a task force in AOSS and work out a long term plan on HRD, depend on government to government programs. Mr. Chew also pointed out that among AOSS there had been some existing models for HRD such as Red Hat certification training program and Linux Professional Institution's certification program. In his personal comment, he criticized that AOSS focused too much on operating system and he also argued that OSS was more than operating system. If AOSS wanted to have more OSS users, it needed more interesting training programs covering variety of fields in OSS. He suggested that training be targeted to many people with simple programs but they are fun, exciting and more commonly used. He also suggested forming a task force with members from several interest economies to work out different programs to meet different needs. Followed the 2 year guideline suggested by Professor Ida, Mr. Chew proposed a 2 year plan of planning and implementing starting from March 2004 to March 2006. By then a pilot program could be carried out. He also emphasized the importance of establishing an AOSS certification for training programs. In discussing HRD

approaches, Mr. Chew stressed that targeting to a few experts only or to masses was an important issue that needed taking into consideration by AOSS.

In respond to Mr. Chew's presentation, Dr. Loc raised a question of whether we should develop OSS industry first or train OSS professionals first. Answers and comments from some economies and Mr. Chew himself were given out showing the same opinion that training should be done now (not first or later). Mr. Chew argued that AOSS should start now from what AOSS can achieve to break the circle. Chinese Taipei admitted this issue also existed in Chinese Taipei. From Chinese Taipei's experience, there would be a job market for OSS trained professionals. This is because for OSS, when the government make policies they can enforce the public sector to go first to use OSS. In the case of Vietnam, he suggested Vietnam should start with public sector first as the government can't enforce the private sector.

In regard to the 2 year guideline, Professor Ida threw a question of Task Force's goals for discussion. Mr. Chew believed that after 2 years AOSS could have few established training programs that the target companies could sustain as well as some e-learning training program that would benefit people in rural areas. He also believed that some interesting training programs targeting to massive OSS users were within AOSS' reach. In terms of measurements to evaluate the achievement, Mr. Chew supposed to use numbers of people using OSS by counting numbers of old computers installed Linux giving away, numbers of computer labs set up in rural areas. Philippines representative also added a measurement of evaluation: numbers of people actually using OSS based on the second measurement which is the skill level (i.e. whether they were users or developers). In terms of 2 year plan, Pakistan's representative suggested forming LPI at this symposium and having it effective in Taipei symposium.

OSS repository by Mr. Imran William Smith.

His presentation was about what really meant by repository and some proposals and recommendation for repository. Repository was simply a mirror where people could download software. It would make download faster if there was a local repository. However bandwidth was an issue in each economy due to software couldn't be downloaded via dial-up. Repository was a source code for applications and human information. Thus, Mr. Smith suggested AOSS having its own repository, especially AOSS members when standardizing OSS in their economy should have a repository for their own. Mr. Smith proposed whether AOSS could have a master mirror that mirrors many projects so these economies just needed to mirror the master mirror. He also pointed out that having source forge in every economy was dangerous as people just looked at the one in their own economy but did not look out, did not collaborate with other people. Political aspect of repository shouldn't be ignored. The issue of storing all applicants written by AOSS in a mirror running by a US private company would cause a lot of attention and discussion. The lesson from having an information repository was to start with structures, gather enough information to make repository useful, continuously monitor to make it more popular and check for any abuse and keep adding information.

Professor Ida asked Mr. Smith for comment of AOSS' webpage and if AOSS could use it as a starting point to have an Asian repository. In accordance with Mr. Smith's comment, AOSS website was good as it wasn't seen as from one economy only. He also criticized that Wiki was the only most information on the website and the mailing list was a closed system. It was suggested that the AOSS should be more active so every economies in the community could get involved. Mr. Niibe gave some explanation for the weakness of the AOSS website, including security. Therefore he proposed to set up a helping team to help with the security issue. Dr. Tashiro also admitted the weakness of the maintaining website due to the lack of human resource and international accessibility was also a contributor to the weakness. Dr. Loc also commented that in order to build an Asia repository, AOSS should build it from a good start that understand the local needs and also have recommendation for users. In regard to bandwidth, Dr. Loc questioned whether or not a form such as CD Rom could be used so companies or users can access to in stead of repository. In respond to Dr. Loc's comments and questions, Dr. Tashiro suggested having more repository java so more economies can access and distributing CD Rom that contain information about Asia repository. However, Mr. Smith argued that the content and information of the repository was far more important than the technical aspect. Mr. Smith also emphasized that the reason to have an Asia repository was to encourage collaboration between economies.

Philippine's representative Mr. Reuben Ravago volunteered for Task Force of repository for human resource concerns. He also advised that economies looking to use OSS for socio-economic development needed to identify what software would be commonly used. Sri Lanka's representative also volunteered for Asia repository project and also strongly expressed his desire to hold AOSS symposium in Sri Lanka in 2006. Chinese Taipei also expressed that they were willing to provide both human resource and technical support.

After the coffee break Chinese Taipei's representative presented his proposed activity plan for next symposium. The 4th symposium in Taipei was proposed to be a dialogue between OSS community and vendors. The possible agenda included company visit, reception, tutorial, workshops, speeches and discussion panel. Chinese Taipei's representative suggested time for symposium be late October due weather condition but left the final decision to the Roundtable.

Chinese Taipei's presentation was the last presentation in the morning session, the Roundtable moved to discuss the content of Hanoi statement in order to make sure that it would reflect accurately the results and agreement obtained after 3 days of meeting.

The Roundtable worked for the entire afternoon session on Hanoi statement and reached the final consent from all participants. The final version of Hanoi statement was read out loud before being uploaded to website.

The Roundtable session finished at 2:20 PM. Dr. Loc had a brief conclusion and closes the Roundtable. He again express his sincere thank to CICC, Prof. Ida and all participating economies for organizing this symposium and contributing to the success of the symposium. He also asserted that OSS symposium was a good opportunity for

Vietnam to learn more about OSS situation outside Vietnam and importance of international cooperation from OSS community. To close the Roundtable, Dr. Loc again confirmed with all participants that the 4th AOSS symposium would be held in Taipei.

General speaking, three days of meeting occurred successfully.

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Attachment :

Press list

1. VTV1 (Central Television, First Channel)
2. VTV2 (Central Television, Second Channel)
3. VTV3, Future Choice, specialized program on IT
4. Lao Dong Daily Newspaper
5. Nhan Dan Newspaper
6. Vietnam Economic Times
7. Science Activities Magazines
8. Vietnam Investment Review
9. Vietnam Post Newspaper
10. Vietnam News
11. I-Today magazines _ VASC
12. Computer and Life Magazine
13. Youth of HCM City Newspaper
14. Vietnam Radio
15. New Hanoi Newspaper
16. E-Chips Magazine
17. Tien Phong Newspaper
18. PC World Magazine
19. Sai Gon Giai Phong Newspaper
20. Vn Express Newspaper
21. Journalist and Press Newspaper
22. Science and Development Magazine
23. Vietnam Economics Times

Article about Asia OSS Symposium (all in Vietnamese)

<http://www.laodong.com.vn/new/khoahoc/index.html>

<http://www.tintucvietnam.com/vitinh/2004/3/38744.ttvn>

[http://www.i-today.com.vn/pls/itoday/Cate\\$.htnoidung\(2000,69645\)](http://www.i-today.com.vn/pls/itoday/Cate$.htnoidung(2000,69645))

<http://www.thanhvien.com.vn/Tintuc/CNTT/2004/3/8/10228>

[http://www.i-today.com.vn/pls/itoday/Cate\\$.htnoidung\(2000,69188\)](http://www.i-today.com.vn/pls/itoday/Cate$.htnoidung(2000,69188))

<http://www.thanhvien.com.vn/TinTuc/CNTT/2004/3/9/10334>

<http://www.tuoiitre.com.vn/Tianyon/Index.aspx?ArticleID=23180&ChannelIID=16>

<http://www.tintucvietnam.com/vitinh/2004/3/38744.ttvn>

<http://www.vnanet.vn>