



WHY OPEN SOURCE FREE SOFTWARE 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 and disaster management. Many Geoinformatics techniques are now operational, while others are poised (because of breakthroughs in data availability or other reason) 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 commercial 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 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 OSFS 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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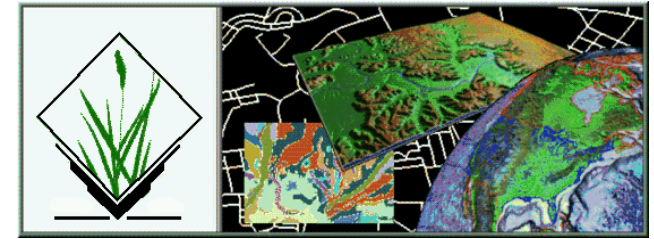
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FREE & OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR GEOINFORMATICS

GIS - GRASS USERS CONFERENCE 2004

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2004
BANGKOK, THAILAND

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PARTICIPATION





FREE & OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR GEOINFORMATICS

GIS-GRASS USERS CONFERENCE 2004

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2004

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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 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 OSFS 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 OSFS 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 by the Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, with support from several other institutions. The Organizing Committee includes prominent experts in FOSS for Geoinformatics.

ORGANIZED BY

Chulalongkorn University (TH)

SUPPORTED BY

Asian Institute of Technology (TH)
Commemorative Organization for the Japan World Expo '70 (JP*)
Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University (JP*)
Geo-Informatics & Space Technology Development Agency (TH)
Japan Society of Geoinformatics (JP)
Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium (VN/JP)
National Electronics & Computer Technology Center (TH)
Osaka City University (JP)
National Institute of Informatics (JP*)

*Planned

PARTICIPATION

This is the first meeting on FOSS for Geoinformatics in Asia. Pre-registration will begin on the conference web site in Nov.'03. Pre-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 January the 1st, 2004.

- Early registration (until 30 June 2004): **\$60 USD** or equivalent in Thai Baht
- Late registration (after 30 June 2004): **\$180 USD** or equivalent in Thai Baht

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

- development;
- applications;
- education and capacity building;
- technology transfer.

Papers on other relevant topics are also welcome. A Scientific Committee will review submissions. Notice of acceptance will be mailed to the corresponding author by 30 June 2004. The conference proceedings will be published on CD-ROM and 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

Attend Workshop ☐ 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 e-mail to raghavan@media.osaka-cu.ac.jp so that your name can be included in the conference mailing list for further announcements.