

Promoting OSS in Asia and Its Achievements

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The emerging of OSS in Asia makes a great impact to the software industry and generally to the behavior of software users in the region. Annually the very high rate of software piracy in this region is reported. It is not even possible to reduce the rate in a short term strategy before we came to meet the alternative software that is the Open Source. The effort to form a community for sharing our experience about the implementation and development had been initiated in 2003. The first symposium of Asia Open Source Software (AOSS) started in Phuket. Nine economies of China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam, gathered to observe the approach of each other since then. The series of symposiums were continuously conducted by providing a place for making economy's report, and tutorial. The events were gradually encouraged by the software industry and its users. Number of participants was increased each year resulting in the users' request for practical OSS solutions. In 2008, the AOSS members agreed to make visible the OSS usage in industrial level. The new series of AOSS Conference and Showcase was then started to invite the success cases and solutions from OSS developers to exhibit their cases.

“To cooperate and contribute to the growth of OSS (Open Source Software) in Asia” is our mission in forming up the Alliance of Asia OSS Center (AOSSC) in 2008 meeting. We aim to share our resources through designated “Standard Interface”. In the initial stage, the standard for content (software integration case, product, OSS inventory), service (verification, specification), courseware, expert and vendor list sharing will be designed and shared through the open API protocol.

The future complete image of AOSSC will be a sharing community to enforce our strength in using and developing the alternative software. In the past recent years, many activities prompted up in terms of government funded projects, events of awareness, training courses and certifications, resulting in the growth of OSS market size are our promising approach to establish the OSS society in the region.