

FOSS4G 2018 Letter of Intent for Bangkok, Thailand

“*Sawadi-kap*”. The OSGeo Thailand local chapter is pleased to express their official intent to host the OSGeo foundation's international FOSS4G 2018 conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The experienced local committee, made up of a mixture of former FOSS4G Thailand chairs (2004, 2014), OSGeo community leaders, researchers, local government directors, and private business leaders, have already begun planning for the event; we are thrilled to continue the long history of FOSS4G hosting in Thailand, having brought the GRASS and MapServer communities together in Bangkok back at FOSS4G 2004, which would ignite the passion for FOSS4G that we know and love today. The following is a glimpse of this special 2018 event.

1. Who is your conference chair?

Dr. Nitin Kumar Tripathi, Professor [Asian Institute of Technology](#) Thailand, Editor-in-Chief, [International Journal of Geoinformatics](#)

Dr. Sarawut Ninsawat (Co-Chair), [OSGeo Charter Member](#), Asst. Professor, Asian Institute of Technology. Director, Open Source Geo Asia Centre

2. Who else is on your local organizing committee (LOC)?

Name	Organization	Sector	Title
Dr. Somchet Thinapong	GISTDA	Government	Chairman Executive Board
Dr. Phisan Santitamnont	Chulalongkorn University	Academic	Professor
Dr. Teerayut Horanont	SIIT	Academic	Assistant Professor
Dr. Sittichai Choosumrong	OSGeo Charter Member	Academic	Assistant Professor
Dr. Phaisarn Jeefoo	University of Phayao	Academic	Assistant Professor
Mr. Jeff McKenna	OSGeo President Emeritus	Community	FOSS4G Consultant
Mr. Chingchai Humhong	QGIS Thailand User Group	Community	Community Leader
Dr. Saravanan Rethinum	Mitr Phol R&D Center	Private	Research Director
Dr. Sally Goldin	KMUTT	Academic	Associate Professor
Mr. Saksin Conglane	CCM	Private	CEO
Dr. Panithan Srinuandee	Vsk global	Private	Director

We are presently in discussions with other members to join the local committee: inter-governmental organizations (UN, Worldbank etc.), regional organizations (Great Mekong Commission etc.), national R&D organizations, private businesses, and other local chapter representatives from Asia.

3. What is the experience of your committee members with similar events?

Our committee chairs Dr Nitin and Dr Sarawut recently organized the very successful [FOSS4G Asia 2014](#) in Bangkok, with over 20 countries attending, and with hands-on workshops and code sprints involving many OSGeo foundation projects. Our committee member Dr Phisan was the chair of the ground-breaking FOSS4G 2004 event in Bangkok. Our local committee members are very active in organizing other geospatial events here in Thailand, having been involved in organizing 8 GIS-IDEAS events, 6 Health GIS events, 3 GIT4NDM events, and 1 Map Asia event locally. The QGIS Thai User Group is an active group that regularly holds lectures and hands-on workshops throughout the country.

4. What is your proposed venue? (include access to Internet, room sizes, maximum attendees)

We are proposing to use the [Ambassador City Jomtien Hotel and Conference Centre](#), as it boasts a private beach and a large 40 acre property. It has event rooms of 1000 capacity, 250 capacity and breakout rooms; the Internet is good and we can optionally boost the wi-fi capacity if needed. It is also near the famous tourist destination of Pattaya.

5. What are your provisional dates for the conference?

Second week of September, the 10th to 15th 2018, with the first 2 days for hands-on workshops, 3 days for main conference sessions, and the final day for code sprinting.

6. Early thoughts on prices of conference attendance? (indicative estimates)

Regular - USD 350, Late Registration after 30 June 2018: USD 450

Candidates from Low or Lower-Middle Income Economies**:

Regular - USD 300, Late Registration after 30 June 2018: USD 400

Student - USD 200, Late Registration after 30 June 2018: USD 300

Group discount for students. USD 600 for 4 students.

Workshop Fee:

For early registrants before 30 June 2018 - 1 workshop is free on first-come-first-serve basis, otherwise each workshop will cost USD 50.

**<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

7. What is the price range and general location of your proposed accommodations? (hotels)

The main conference venue (Hotel Ambassador City Jomtien) is a 4-star hotel, USD 30/night standard room with Breakfast, and USD 60 for an Executive/larger room that two people can share, with breakfast.

There are many other 3 Star hotels with breakfast around the venue with cost ranging 20 - 40 USD. Overall hotels are very affordable in Thailand, offering great service with friendly staff that will make you not want to leave.

8. Are you partnering with other local organizations?

We will partner with several local organizations, including the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency ([GISTDA](#)), who our committee members recently teamed up with to organize a conference in the same venue (Hotel Ambassador City Jomtien). We have also already begun discussions with Thailand's National Electronics and Computer Technology Center ([NECTEC](#)), to possibly share resources for this event.

Sponsors: We will draw from our past FOSS4G sponsors, who will be glad to support this prestigious event. Past local sponsors include: GISTDA, ESRI, Khon Kaen Univ., Mahasarakham Univ., Kyoto Univ., Univ of Tokyo, CCM systems, TCS, SDG Group, Map Point Asia, NRSC India, IRD France; we will also leverage past international organizations who supported FOSS4G events.

9. What makes FOSS4G in your proposed location and with your team compelling?

Thailand eagerly awaits the return of FOSS4G, where its genesis started here back in 2004 at Chulalongkorn University, that brought future OSGeo foundation leaders together, and who agreed to then create a global FOSS4G event that would travel all around the world each year. The organizing team is full of FOSS4G organizing experience, and we are currently part of the organizing team of FOSS4G Asia in India in 2017 for this coming January, where we will promote this conference aggressively there to bring a large contingent from India.

The atmosphere in the geospatial private and government sector in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and other neighboring countries to promote Open Source is quite strong. We are already in touch with Taiwanese and Chinese partner organizations and there is strong willingness to participate in very good number. We anticipate that this event will be **the geospatial event of 2018**.

In summary, we have a world-class team, with a world-class affordable venue, an international airport that is well connected, a private beach actually on the venue property, and proven passion for FOSS4G. We are proud to be given the opportunity to host OSGeo's global event. Thank you, we look forward to welcoming you with the famous Thai hospitality. "*Kob Khun Krap*".