Sri Lanka Bid－FOSS4G-Asia 2018

Questions and Answers

1. About how much is the expected cost for the venue (rental cost, eventually additional expenses like insurance, security, etc.)?

    Department of Town and Country Planning (TCP) has its own separate 6 story building. The conference will be held in our department auditorium on the ground floor which has 200 seating capacity. Also we have our own mini-auditorium (50-60 seating capacity). Apart from this, we have 6 studios that be used for parallel sessions. There is virtually no cost for the venue (Please Refer the Annex 1 for photos).

2. Very often the number of local attendants is a lot higher than international visitors. How many attendants from your country do you expect (worst case and optimistic estimation)?

    We expect 150 attendants

3. How much would be the maximum number of attendants you could manage? Is there a minimum number of attendants, when the event would cause financial problems?

    Maximum number of attendants that we can manage – 200
    Minimum number of attendants - 50

4. Do you have a rough proposal for conference admission (ie. Ticket types and costs, handling of free tickets, cost for gala dinner, etc.)? If costs are unknown yet (which is probably the case), what costs do you aim for?

    The total cost - US$20,000
    Other costs

SAARC PARTICIPANTS	EARLY REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
Students	$ 50 USD	$ 75 USD
Delegates	$ 100 USD	$ 200 USD

OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS	EARLY REGISTRATION /	REGISTRATION
Students	$ 100 USD	$ 150 USD
Delegates	$ 200 USD	$ 300 USD

WORKSHOPS	EARLY REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
Half day	$ 20 USD (Free?)	$ 40 USD
Full day	$ 40 USD (Free?)	$ 75 USD

    GALA DINNER
    $ 25 USD or a dinner at Mount Lavinia on the beach (see annex 1 for photos)

5. Do you see difficulties with receiving Visa documents for foreign visitors?

    No (can obtain online visa)

6. Does your venue and workshop facilities provide good access to internet, especially for foreigners that cannot use mobile internet?

    Yes, University premises has WiFi facility

7. Your proposal has 2 "core" days for presentations. FOSS4G Europe for example usually has 3 presentation days. For an international conference, where international visitors usually spend significant time traveling, a longer event with a larger presentation program may be more attractive. It will also allow to accept more talk submissions and thus more participation. Have you considered an additional day for presentations? Would it be possible?

   Yes.

Linked with the conference there is the idea of organizing an event of one day, (included in the conference or as a side event) dedicated to Open Source and monitoring systems with presentations and workshops for building Open Weather Stations.

In addition, a parallel 3rd day of regular FOSS4G presentations could be envisioned depending on the number of received contributions.

8. How many delegates from your local community participated in the last FOSS4G-Asia 2017 event?

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9. Have you already contacted some local chapters in Asia to garner their support for the event

Yes, Sri Lanka local chapter and SL OSGeo Lab is directly involved through their representative (Nimalika Fernando, Sanjaya Niroshan e.g.). In addition, the following local organizations will provide their support for the event:

   OSGeo Lab of Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT)
   Urban Development Authority (UDA)
   National Building Research Organization (NBRO)
   International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

10. Are you planning a special price for students and participants for low-income countries?

   Yes, we are hoping to issue a special low registration fee for students and participants from low-income countries. It will a subsidized price around USD 75 for early bird registration and USD 100 for normal registration per such participant for 3 days including the conference dinner.

11. In your proposal the main conference days are only weekdays. Do you think this will affect participation of local community members that cannot get their employer's permission to attend the conference?

   Not Applicable

12. Your conference dates are just two days on a weekend (Sat./Sun.). Are the university facilities only available on the weekend?

   University facilities are available in weekdays too. We thought local participants find easy to attend this event as they do not have to get leave.

Do you plan to organize another day with workshops?

Yes, we can organize a workshop day before the event.

The event days as follows:
day1: workshops, day2: event, day3: event, day 4: 4onse event of half a day)

Weekend events can have an influence on participants sent by their employer. Do you see an issue with local business visitors to attend a weekend event?

In Sri Lanka, most private sector people do not work on weekends and few work ½ day basis on Saturdays. Therefore, we do not think it is an issue.

13. The main conference is proposed to be held on a weekend (Sat = 8th Dec/Sun = 9th Dec) with the social event on a Monday. What is the rational for having the conference over the weekend? Availability of conference room?

Yes, one reason is availability of rooms and required studio items (multi media/ chairs/tables). The other reason is department staff can involve in as there won't be lectures or university related administration work for them.

14. Obviously one big concern with your bid (compared to the Korean or Japanese bid) is the quality of the available facilities for this event. You will have to convince us that the quality of your facilities is sufficient to host this event successfully. What is the current availability and speed of WiFi at the proposed location?

Speed of WiFi – The current speed of the WiFi is 200Mbps. I have contacted the internet service provider of the university. They agreed to upgrade the speed of the existing connection up to 1Gbps during the conference period.

Are there sufficient power outlets for attendees to use their laptops?

Yes, we can provide 100 power outlets.

How frequent are electric black-outs? Electric black-outs- Generator?
The university has some generators to use during electric black-outs.

What is the quality of the conference rooms? Could you include a few pictures of the rooms we would likely be in?

Please refer the Annex 1 for photos

How about the air conditioning in the rooms. It is my understanding that temperature around 30 degrees or sometimes even higher can be expected.

Yes, high temperature would be an issue for some participants. However, main conference room and mini conference room have AC. Further, two more studios are being air conditioned and we hope this work will be finished within this month (Refer Annex 1 for photos of installation of AC machines). Beside that all room have fans.

15. Why is your document named: "(Seoul)FOSS4G_Asia_2019_Proposal.pdf"? Putting brackets into a file name is bad practice and makes me wonder whether that means we

can also expect other poor choices during the conference (tiny names on badges, errors in the printed conference program, lack of power outlets, complicated WiFi registration process).

Not Applicable

16. Why is your document named: "FOSS4G_ASIA2017_LoI_Tsukuba.pdf"? Why 2017? You propose to host a conference in 2018. This miss-naming of the "Letter of Intent" makes me wonder whether that means we can also expect other poor choices during the conference (tiny names on badges, errors in the printed conference program, lack of power outlets, complicated WiFi registration process).

Not Applicable

TCP 6 story building

Auditorium (180-200 seating capacity)

Computer Laboratory I (75 seating capacity)

Computer Laboratory II (60 seating capacity)

A studio

Mount lavinia Beach Hotel

Swimming pool and beach view

Hotel Beach side

Beach front of Hotel