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FOSS4G-Asia 2018 Letter of Interest for University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Dear FOSS4G-Asia selection committee,

The University of Moratuwa is pleased to submit this proposal to host FOSS4G-Asia 2018 conference. The University of Moratuwa is one of the pioneering institutes in geo-spatial sciences in Sri Lanka. We have been actively involved in and part of FOSS4G community since 2014 (http://osgeolab.sliit.lk). We have established a FOSS4G lab at the Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa. There is a growing interest among researchers, academics, University students, state national urban planning authorities and non- governmental organization to use open source GIS technology. Further, FOSS GIS tools are being used to analyse and solve real issues in Sri Lanka (flooding and draughts, etc.). In this backdrop, FOSS4G is a timely event to popularize and consolidate FOSS4G technology and provide opportunity for local researchers and practitioners to share and be exposed to international researches' experiences on this field.

Organizers: The main organizer is the University of Moratuwa Sri Lanka. The event is organized in collaboration with OSGeo Lab of SLIT, Urban Development Authority, National Building Research Organization and International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

Key partners in the FOSS4G organization Committee

Prof. P.K.S. Mahanama- University of Moratuwa, Department of Town and Country Planning
Dr. Rangajeewa Ratnayake- Head, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa
Nimalk Fernando- Senior Lecturer, SLIT University
Soumya Balasubramanya- Consultant, IWMI
Prof. Massimiliano Canata- SUSPI University, Switzerland

We have organized similar international conferences (Asian Planning Schools Association Conference (APSA 2007). Therefore, we believe that we have the capacity to organize this conference.

Venue

The proposed venue for FOSS4G-Asia 2018 is University of Moratuwa. The University of Moratuwa is the only technological University in Sri Lanka and ranked as the most sorts after University in Engineering. The University of 10 minutes away from the Moratuwa city and one hour away from the capital city of Sri Lanka, Colombo. The University has several auditoriums with seating capacities of 400, 300, 200, 100 and 50.
The University also has a library, gym, cafeteria and a play ground. University is located close to the coast and a variety of hotel located close proximity (within 3-5km) to the University. They offer different room types and pricing options. https://www.booking.com/city/lk/mount-lavinia.html

Dates: We are planning host FOSS4G-Asia 2018 from 27th -29th January. The main conference will be held on 27-28th and a one-day field tour to Sigiriya, one of the most historical monuments of Sri Lanka, (https://sigiriyatourism.com/) will be organized on 29th. Even though we proposed to have these days above, we are flexible to accommodate FOSS4G community needs.