Korean Language Chapter Report

The OSGeo Korean Language Chapter was formed as an unofficial chapter in February, 2008 and changed its status to an official OSGeo Local Chapter in March, 2009. The OSGeo Korean Language Chapter had 194 members at the end of 2011.
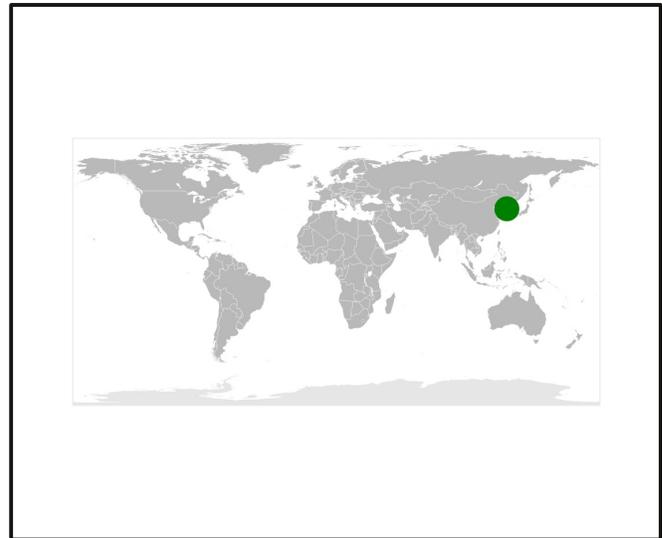
Events

On October 28, 2011 the chapter held the first annual OSGeo Korean Language Chapter Conference at KINTEX in Goyang City, Korea. Keynote speakers included Arnulf Christl, Toru Mori, Daisuke Yoshida, Byungnam Choi, and Sanghee Shin. The event was highly successful with between 60 to 80 participants, 5 keynote talks and 8 additional presentations.

The chapter held two (2) regular chapter meetings in February and August of 2011. Both meetings were held in Seoul, Korea. At the meetings chapter members shared knowledge & experiences around open source GIS. They also discussed the future activities of OSGeo Korean Language Chapter.

Key Accomplishments

The chapter carried out several localization & translation efforts. These efforts included translation of QGIS menus & messages. Efforts to translate QGIS, PostGIS, GeoServer, and OpenLayers materials were also started.

The chapter has been involved in several open source projects. These included the following:

1) KOPSS(Korea Planning Support System) Open API Project funded by KRIHS(Korean Research Institute of Human Settlement.)

2) The "Strategies on Building the Platform for Geospatial Information Technology Development : Based on Open Source Thinking" funded by KRIHS(Korean Research Institute of Human Settlement).

3) Development of open source GIS

education program funded by NECGIS(National Education Center for GIS).

The chapter conducted several outreach activities including lecture, seminar and exchange programs. Outreach lectures were provided to LH Corp, KRIHS, KCSC(Korea Cadastral Survey Corp) and other organizations. As part of the exchange program two (2) delegates were dispatched to Tokyo, Japan to give keynote speech at FOSS4G 2011 Tokyo/Osaka.

An Official OSGeo Korean Language Chapter web page was created to share our activities. It can be found at http://www.osgeo.kr.

Areas for Improvement

There is too much dependency on a few key members. The chapter wants to increase the number of active members. The Korean chapter is still not a legal entity, and this imposes several limitations on possible chapter activities.

The chapter would like to expand activities to an international scale. The chapter has very talented members, but their activities are somewhat isolated to Korea.

The chapter also needs to seek stable revenue sources to run our chapter. Currently the chapter finances are highly dependent on limited donation sources.

Opportunities to Help

The chapter is seeking speakers for FOSS4G Korea 2012 and is looking for opportunities to host more open source GIS related events in Korea or in Asia region.

Outlook for 2012

The chapter predicts a very prosperous year in 2012. As awareness of open source GIS increase in Korea rapidly, many organizations will want to cooperate with the chapter. In 2012, the chapter hopes to attract more members and to embark on efforts to run the chapter in more systematic way.

The chapter will explore the possibility of hosting FOSS4G 2015 in Korea with another GIS related society like KSIS(Korean Spatial Information Society).