FOSS4G-Asia 2019 Full Proposal for Seoul, South Korea

Dear FOSS4G-Asia selection committee,

Korea Spatial Information Society(KSIS), KAOS-G(Korea Alliance of Open Source Geospatial), and OSGeo Korean Chapter are pleased to submit this full proposal to host FOSS4G-Asia 2019 conference at the Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea.

Conference Dates

We are delighted to host FOSS4G-Asia 2019 from 16th ~19st January, 2019 in the beautiful city of Seoul. A detailed conference schedule follows below and the LOC has received the confirmation that auditorium and session rooms are available at the venue during the event.

- 16th January, 2019: Technical Workshops
- 17th~18th January 2019: Main Conference
- 19st January 2019: Code Sprint

If any unforeseen major events are expected at the same venue on the same dates after being selected as a host city, we may postpone the event 1~2 weeks or so with consultation with OSGeo Asia leaders.

Venue

The proposed venue for FOSS4G-Asia 2018 is Ewha Campus Complex(ECC) at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. Ewha Womans University was Korea's first high-level educational institute for women and has been thriving for more than 130 years. The venue is just 5~10 minutes away from exits # 2 & 3 of Ewha Womans University Station (Subway Line 2) by walk. The recently completed ECC (Ewha Campus Complex; Basement level 6 – 1st Floor) is Korea's largest underground campus. The lower levels contain a library, bookstore, gym, movie theater, cafes, and other cultural facilities, while on the first level visitors can find lecture rooms and an eco-park.

<Picture of Venue - Ewha Campus Complex>

<Hotels near the venue>

Hotels

Ewha Womans University is located at the Shinchon area, one of hot place to tourist in Seoul. So, there are many hotels from the budget hotel to luxury tourist hotels in Shinchon area and near the venue. The usual price of the budget hotel starts from USD50.

- Hotel rates range between USD50~100
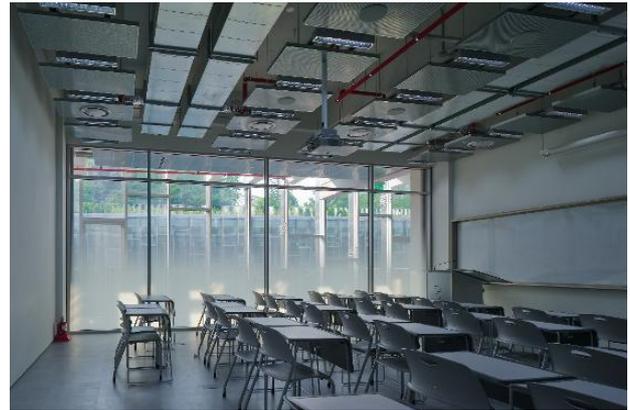- More than 50 hotels are there around the venue

We'll also provide the KTO(Korea Tourism Organization)'s certified accommodation information(http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/ACM/ACM_MAIN.jsp) through conference webpage.

Infrastructures

ECC is the ideal place to host a mid-sized conference since it has auditorium, seminar room, lecture room, restaurants, cafes and other cultural facilities at one place. Also ECC provides free wireless internet covering the whole venue. All these wonderful settings can make FOSS4G-Asia 2019 Seoul as a hassle free event.

- 28 small and mid-sized seminar rooms
- More than 30 small and mid-sized lecture rooms
- 4 auditoriums for 250 people

ECC doesn't have computer rooms inside the facility. So, Seoul team propose the 'Bring-your-own-laptop' style technical workshop at the FOSS4G-Asia 2019.

<Mid-sized lecture room in ECC>

Main Organizers

Korea Spatial Information Society(KSIS): KSIS is one of the biggest and the most prominent academic societies in Korea in the field of geospatial with membersip of professors, researchers, professionals, government officials, and students. KSIS publishes its own top notch journal, *Spatial Information Research*, and hosts conferences regularly. KSIS was a co-organizer of the very successful international FOSS4G Seoul 2015 event.

KAOS-G(Korea Alliance of Open Source Geospatial): KAOS-G is a commercial cooperative association aiming at driving market adoption of open source GIS in Korea. KAOS-G now has 14 member companies from the diverse geospatial field. As a commercial cooperative association, KAOS-G is trying to capture open source business chances in a more commercial way by providing professional open source GIS solutions and technologies. KAOS-G was established in 2017 as a legal entity.

OSGeo Korean Chapter: OSGeo Korean Chapter was established in 2008 to promote open source GIS solutions and open geo data for Korean speaking people. The OSGeo Korean Chapter has hosted a local FOSS4G Korea event each year since 2011, and co-hosted the international FOSS4G Seoul 2015 event, where over 500 attendees came as far away as Canada. OSGeo Korean Chapter has played a pivotal role in wide spread of open source GIS in and around Korea since its formation.

Supporting Organizations

KRIHS(Korea Research Institute of Human Settlement): Founded in 1978, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) has played a pivotal role in national territorial policy development with researches in balanced national development, housing stability, infrastructure development and geospatial information system. The policies KRIHS developed and suggested also has contributed to the development of geospatial technologies in Korea.

It's not officially confirmed that KRIHS would support FOSS4G-Asia 2019 at the institutional level. However, one of the LOC members, Dr. Haekyoung Kang who works for the KRIHS expressed her strong intention to support FOSS4G-Asia in Seoul as a leader of 'National Open Source GIS R&D Group'

Other Organizations: Seoul Metro Government that supported and sponsored 2nd Technical Workshop of UN(United Nations) Open GIS Initiative in November, 2016 also expressed its willingness to support FOSS4G-Asia 2019 event. Seoul Metro Government was one of golden level sponsors of International FOSS4G Seoul 2015 event. And LH Corp that signed MoU with OSGeo also showed their intention to support FOSS4G-Asia 2019 event in various ways. Some member companies in KAOS-G also have much interest in supporting and sponsoring FOSS4G-Asia 2019.

Transportation and Access to Venue

Ewha Womans University(red dot in the picture below) is located at just next to Seoul central city area. Ewha Womans University station is 3 metro stops away from Seoul City Hall station and 2 stops from Hongik University station which connects to AREX(Airport Express) line. Easiest and quickest way to get to the venue from Seoul is to take the metro line No. 2. The venue is at 5~10 minutes walking distance from exits # 2 & 3 of Ewha Womans University Station (Metro Line 2).

<Metro map nearby Ewha Womans University>

LOC Members

Currently we have 2 co-chairs and 6 other LOC members who are all experienced with organizing various level of international conferences. However, we will invite more passionate members to LOC after being selected as host city from Asia and other countries to reflect the diverse views. Current LOC members are as follows:

- Youngok Kang(Conference Chair): Professor of Ewha Womans University, President of KSIS
- Sanghee Shin(Co-chair): President of Gaia3D, Board Member of OSGeo, Chair of KAOS-G
- Minpa Lee: OSGeo Charter Member, Chief Programmer of Mango System
- BJ Jang: OSGeo Charter Member, Director of Open Source GIS Team at Gaia3D
- Ki-Joune Li: Professor of Pusan National University. Emeritus President of KSIS
- Haekyoung Kang: Project Director of OpenGDS, Senior Researcher at KRIHS
- Kyu-sung Choi: President of EZMapping
- Jeff McKenna: Emeritus President of OSGeo

What Makes Seoul Attractive?

- Ideal mixture of Academia(KSIS), Industry(KAOS-G), and Community(OSGeo Korean Chapter)
- Many experiences in organizing successful international events
- Easy access to the venue and affordable accommodations nearby
- All-in-one hassle-free venue with modern facilities
- Strong interest in open source GIS in Korea
- Most attractive point of our proposal is the LOC members who are warm-hearted and committed to spread the open source spirit to all over the world!