

IOSN has collaborated extensively with many government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector in Asia-Pacific countries, to support national and local initiatives. It has developed strategic partnerships with international organizations such as:

- Computer Aid International
- Hivos
- Intel Corporation
- Linux Professional Institute
- OpenDocument Format Alliance
- Open Society Institute
- TacticalTech
- UNESCO

Free and Open Source Software Foundation of Pakistan shapes its activities around FOSS technologies and applications according to the vision set forth by the International Open Source Network.

Dr. M. Anwar-ur-Rehman Pasha
Chairman, Governing Body,
FOSS Foundation of Pakistan

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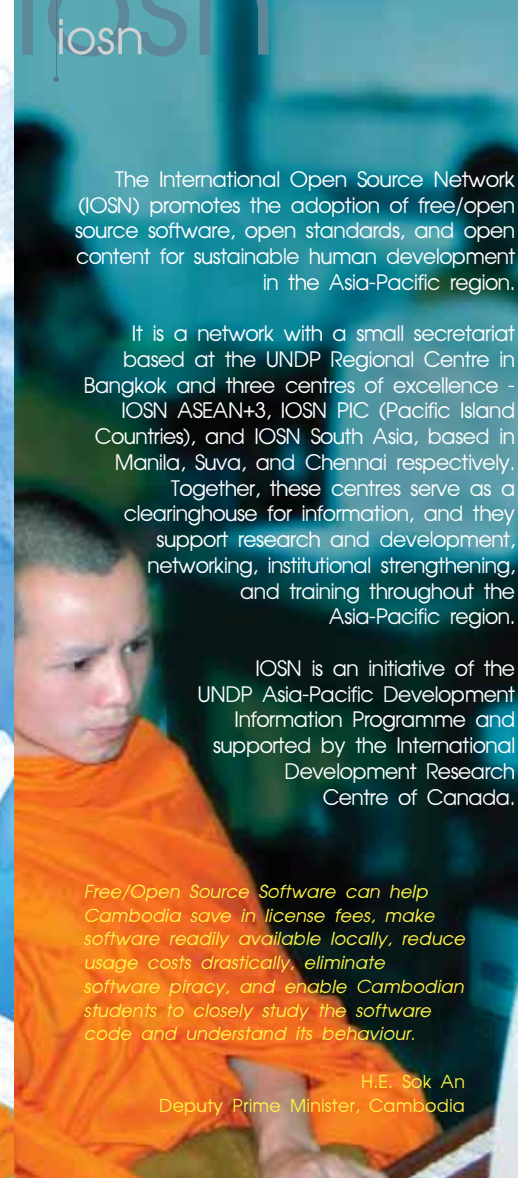
IOSN PIC (Pacific Island Countries)
- a consortium made up of the
University of the South Pacific,
South Pacific Applied Geoscience
Commission, Secretariat of the
South Pacific Community, and
Pacific Islands Chapter of the
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international opensourcenetwork

software freedom for all



The International Open Source Network (IOSN) promotes the adoption of free/open source software, open standards, and open content for sustainable human development in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is a network with a small secretariat based at the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok and three centres of excellence - IOSN ASEAN+3, IOSN PIC (Pacific Island Countries), and IOSN South Asia, based in Manila, Suva, and Chennai respectively. Together, these centres serve as a clearinghouse for information, and they support research and development, networking, institutional strengthening, and training throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

IOSN is an initiative of the UNDP Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme and supported by the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

Free/Open Source Software can help Cambodia save in license fees, make software readily available locally, reduce usage costs drastically, eliminate software piracy, and enable Cambodian students to closely study the software code and understand its behaviour.

H.E. Sok An
Deputy Prime Minister, Cambodia

free/open source software

Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) is software that can be used, copied, studied, modified, and redistributed without restriction. These freedoms that are for all - developers and users - are highly significant to the developing world as FOSS increases access, ownership, and control of information and communication technologies. It provides a framework for the usage and sharing of intellectual capital in a way that is applicable to many areas of development. The adoption of FOSS presents opportunities for industry and capacity development, software piracy reduction, and localization and customization for diverse cultural and development needs.

open standards

Open standards ensure that products and services are of adequate quality and that they can interoperate and work together even though they may be from different parties or entities. Open standards ensure that the next purchase is not dictated by the last purchase, thus, increasing users' choices, access to products, information and services, and opportunities for sharing and collaboration. In addition, open standards reduce training, and system and data conversion costs. IOSN is a member of the OpenDocument Format Alliance, which aims to help ensure that government information, records, and documents are accessible across platforms and applications, even as technologies change.

open content

Open content describes any kind of creative work, including text, pictures, audio, and video that is published in a format that explicitly allows reproduction, redistribution, and even modification of the work. Open content promotes learning and collaborative creation, and dissemination of knowledge in different formats and languages. IOSN promotes the use of open content by releasing materials using the Creative Commons Attribution License whereby users may copy, distribute, and display the original material and derivative works as long as the original copyright is cited.



policy and technical support

IOSN provides policy and technical advice on FOSS, open standards, and open content to governments, civil society, academe, and the private sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

IOSN brings out a series of e-primers that are targeted primarily at policy- and decision-makers. The e-primers serve as an introduction to a host of FOSS, open standards, and open content issues such as licensing, localization, and network security.

research and development

While the use of FOSS, open standards, and open content is becoming more widespread, there is still a lack of understanding on their benefits, policy implications, and resources available. Supporting research and development is one of IOSN's priorities.

IOSN aims to develop position papers on issues related to FOSS, open standards, and open content for education and training, e-governance, gender equity, geographic information systems, health, public administration, and small- and medium-enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region.

awareness raising

FOSSAP, or the FOSS Asia-Pacific consultation, is an annual IOSN event bringing together government officials, educators, and professionals. FOSSAP provides an effective policy-level platform for the exchange of information and experiences in the use of FOSS, open standards, and open content for development.

IOSN also organizes other events in collaboration with national, regional, and international partners to raise awareness, including focusing on policy dialogue on open standards and the sharing of experience in open content.

I had a look at the Interactive FOSS User Guide and it is really impressive. It is really good for new Linux users. I would like to know if we can join your team to translate the guide into Vietnamese and (freely) distribute it to Vietnamese users?

Do Hoang Son
HPT Vietnam Corporation

For a region scarce in resources (both human and financial), the FOSS concept represents a wonderful opportunity for Pacific Islanders to not only use and learn new and effective software, but at the same time, be able to participate in the development of such software. This participation can be on many fronts, from contributing to core code to adapting/translating such software to suit local languages and cultures.

Rajresh D. Singh, Chairman,
Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society

capacity building and institutional strengthening

IOSN produces training materials with open content licenses. It has developed a GNU/Linux Desktop Guide for End-Users that serves as a self-learning guide for those interested in running a FOSS operating system on their personal computer, and it is available in print, online, and interactive multimedia format.

IOSN supports 'training of trainers' for FOSS system administration based on open content learning materials. A GNU/Linux System Administration Training Programme has been developed and offered in Vietnam and Fiji to build a cadre of certified trainers.

In partnership with Hivos and TacticalTech, IOSN organizes training camps for civil society to build their capacity in using and developing FOSS applications.

IOSN facilitates localization of FOSS for the Asia-Pacific region by providing packaged information in the form of simple 'toolkits' to aid researchers and developers.

To encourage the development of FOSS, open standards, and open content, IOSN is operating a competitive small grants scheme in the Pacific Island Countries.

The IOSN web portal <www.iosn.net> serves as a comprehensive online resource centre with latest news and events, publications, training materials, videos, and articles in different formats and languages, as well as online discussion forums. It is a collaborative platform for the 'open' community-at-large, managed by practitioners of FOSS, open standards, and open content across the Asia-Pacific region.

Member States from the Asia-Pacific region have been at the forefront of the trend towards more use of (F)OSS. They have benefited from the very active IOSN programme run by UNDP-APDIP which, besides fostering awareness raising and information sharing about (F)OSS policies within the region, made a valuable contribution through training and provision of (F)OSS modules.

United Nations Joint Inspection Unit Report,
2005

