



# **Sri Lanka Free and Open Source Convention 2005**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2005**

- 1. FOSSSL '05 “Developer” Conference**
- 2. 6<sup>th</sup> AsiaOSS Symposium**
- 3. CxO Forum**
- 4. University and Schools Advocacy**
- 5. Software Freedom Day**
- 6. Public FOSS Advocacy**

## **INFORMATION BROCHURE**

### **Main Organizers**

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Information and  
Communication  
Technology Agency

Lanka Software Foundation



Center of International  
Corporation of  
Computerization, Japan



Lanka Linux User  
Group

University of Colombo  
School of Computing



Virtusa Corporation

Redhat

International  
Business Machines



## Information

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## Free and Open Source Software for Developing Nations

“The world of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) changes rapidly. New technologies and with them, new opportunities, come and go at an ever increasing speed. The Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) movement is one such development that is playing out before us today. It is many things—revolutionary development process, disruptive technology, ideological movement, new knowledge and standards, and more. It offers many opportunities for governmental, private sector, and educational institutions. Organizations, as well as developing nations, that take advantage of FOSS and implement them appropriately stand to gain much, while those that fail to take advantage of this opportunity may find their ICT development lagging behind that of comparable organizations.”

“A major incentive for developing countries to adopt FOSS systems is the enormous cost of proprietary software licenses. Because virtually all proprietary software in developing countries is imported, their purchase consumes precious hard currency and foreign reserves. These reserves could be better spent on other development goals.”

- From UNDP-APDIP IOSN FOSS Primer for developing nations

[ You can download the full UNDP-APDIP IOSN report from [http://www.iosn.net/foss/foss-general-primer/foss\\_primer\\_current.pdf](http://www.iosn.net/foss/foss-general-primer/foss_primer_current.pdf) ]



## Sri Lanka's Progress on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)

As a developing nation Sri Lanka still has low IT penetration in rural areas. The biggest barrier to adoption has been the relatively high cost of computers and the low literacy in English (though we have high literacy rates overall). However this dynamics have now changed with Open Source as for the first time we have a Sinhala Operating System based on Linux which can be deployed at low cost. Nevertheless even with this limited penetration you can find Sri Lankans contribute significantly to the open source community in global projects such as Apache (Web Services), Geronimo, Prozilla, GNU, Sahana (Humanitarian Disaster Management).

In fact during the recent Tsunami, a community of 80 Sri Lankan developers rallied to the cause to build a disaster management system that was used and recognized by the humanitarian community for the benefit of not only Sri Lanka but the rest of the world.

Sri Lanka has a lead in the Asian region on FOSS mainly due the the amount of contribution to the FOSS community by Sri Lankans. Most of this contribution has been to the Apache software foundation through the NPO Lanka Software Foundation. Lanka Software Foundation (LSF) is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to encourage Sri Lankan developers to participate in global open-source software projects. LSF believes that open-source can be a major positive influence in the further development of Sri Lanka. In addition FOSS has been promoted in the IT industry for 10 years now by the LKLUG (Lanka Linux User Group) which was founded at Peradeniya uni, but now spans most of the IT industry. This group has also been responsible for developing the first Sinhala Operating System (based on Linux). This cause is now been supported commercially by companies like Redhat. In addition for the software export market companies such as Virtusa, JKCS, hSenid have or are building export oriented service/product offerings on FOSS.

[Visit <http://www.iosn.net/country/sri-lanka> for more details.]



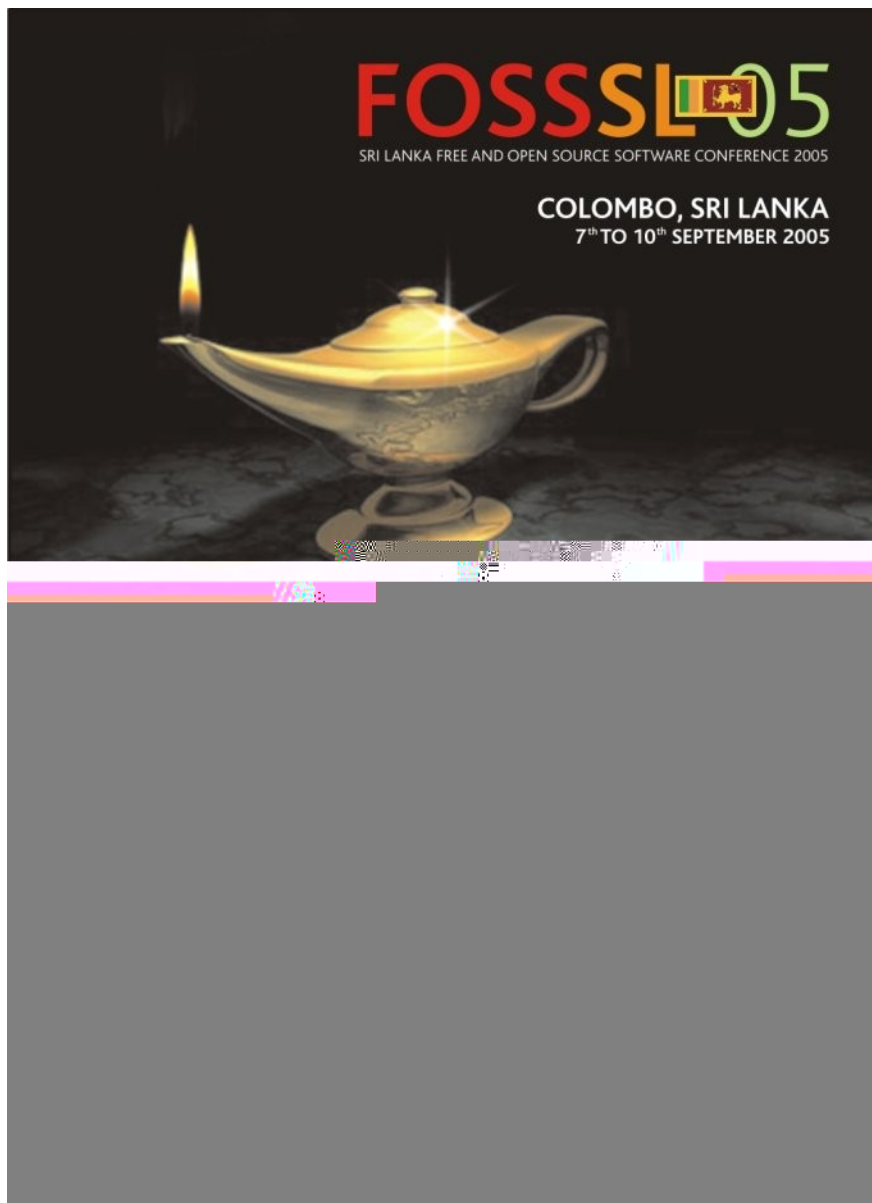
## Sri Lanka Open Source Convention Event Detail

The events are normalized to maximize on the benefit to the different target audiences of international FOSS policy makers, FOSS advocates/developers, CIOs, Academia/Schools and the Sri Lankan public. The schedule is organized into a week as is shown below. A brief description of each event follows:

### September - new schedule

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	AsiaOSS (60)	AsiaOSS (100)	AsiaOSS (60)		Public Exhibition / S Freedom Day	
Uni/Schools (300)		FOSS Tutorials	FOSSSL "LAMP" Conference (300)	FOSS Tutorials		
	Codefest	Codefest				

- **6<sup>th</sup> Asia OSS Symposium (International):** An international forum of IT/FOSS policy makers in the Asian Region (invitation only)
- **FOSSSL '05 Conference:** With a theme on LAMP development. For FOSS/IT developers/contributors focused on the LAMP stack (Registration based)
- **FOSSSL '05 Tutorials:** ½ day workshops from some of the FOSS speakers (Registration based)
- **Codefest (International):** a two day code-a-thon organized by the AsiaOSS Symposium
- **CXO Conference:** Targeting CIO, CTO and CEOs
- **Academia and Universities:** Advocacy for students and lecturers
- **Software Freedom day / Public day:** Advocacy for the general public



## **FOSSSL '05 Developer Conference**

**Theme: "Lighting the LAMP"**

The FOSSSL Developer Conference is a two day event targeted at the IT industry/FOSS developers and technologists. A group of 8-9 international recognized FOSS leaders will give keynotes on the Open Source LAMP stack (Linux, Apache, MySQL/Postgres, PHP/Python/Perl, Distro). In terms of speakers we already have confirmations from Rasmus Lerdorf (Father of PHP), Michael Tiemann (Redhat CTO), Bruce Momjian (co-founder of PostgreSQL development group), Martin Michlmayr (Debian Project Lead), Greg Stein (Apache Chairman), Sam Ruby (IBM), David Axmark (MySQL CoFounder), and Dr Sanjiva Weerawarna



(OSI Board Member / Web Services Co-Author). All that is pending is leader from the GNU/Linux kernel team (Alan Cox).

## FOSSSL '05 Tutorials

We are inviting some of the FOSS keynote speakers to give ½ a day technical workshops. This will be targeted to a FOSS savvy technically oriented participants.

[ To attend both the FOSSSL '05 Conference and Tutorials you will have to register – A registration website will be out shortly ]

## Asia OSS Symposium and the CICC

Recent years have been seen dramatic growths in the expectation of Open Source Software (OSS), and adoption of OSS or OSS promoting policies has been increasing among Asian countries/regions. With the preceding considerations, "Asia Open Source Software Symposium" has held twice a year from FY 2002, in order to share policies/technical movements related to OSS and build cooperative measures among 19 Asian participating economies. The Symposium is sponsored predominantly by the Center of International Corporation for Computerization (CICC, <http://www.cicc.or.jp/> ) and sponsors 30-40 delegates which include IT policy makers, FOSS advocates and government representative from the 19 economies. The past Asia OSS symposium was held in Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Chinese Taipei and Beijing, China. Sri Lanka has been represented in these symposium by members of UCSC, LKLUG and LSF. This year Sri Lanka will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Open Source Software Symposium (<http://www.asia-oss.org/>)

[ AsiaOSS Symposium is an invitation only event coordinated by the CICC ]

## CXO Conference

The CXO conference will be targeted toward public and private sector CxOs (CIOs or the main IT decision makers) bring awareness and educating them on the benefits, approaches and commercial services available on the use of Open Source in their enterprise.



## Registration, Travel and Accommodation

We will shortly be putting up a dedicated web site on which you will be able to:

- Register for the FOSSSL Conference and Workshop
- Find out about Sri Lanka ( A visitors guide )
- Travel details
- Easily find and book hotels
- Find the right representatives and contacts

[ Please note accommodation and registration for AsiaOSS Symposium will be handled separately for the delegates ]

The website is targeted to be ready around the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. It will be announced on the IOSN website at

[ <http://www.iosn.net/country/sri-lanka/events/FOSSWeek2005> ]



**Sri Lanka  
Free and Open Source  
Convention 2005**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2005**

**We warmly welcome you to  
Sri Lanka to participate,  
contribute and benefit from  
this event !**

**The Sri Lanka FOSS  
Convention Organizing Committee  
ICTA, LSF, LKLUG, UCSC, Redhat, Virtusa, IBM**