LINUX WORLD NEWS

COPYING OSCON TO EUROPE

October 17 through 20, 2005, O'Reilly's Open Source Convention landed in Europe for the first time. Though the scale of Euro OSCON was smaller than its American forerunner OSCON Portland Oregon, the Amsterdam-based event still attracted nearly 500 attendees and many speakers from industry, government, and the developer community to share their visions and ideas.

Among the speakers Euro OSCON featured Alan Cox and Luis Casas Luengo from the Spanish Extremadura Linux Migration Project, who have never attended OSCON in the US. Top Taiwanese hackers Autrijus Tang and Chia-liang Kao, the only two Asian speakers, also presented their work at this European event. Autrijus Tang introduced his work on Pugs, an impressive Haskell implementation of Perl 6. Chia-liang Kao presented his work on SVK, a decentralized version control system that can mirror remote Subversion, Perforce, and CVS repositories to perform offline operations.

Unlike the US-based OSCON, the European event appeared to be quieter and less commercial. Some blamed the use of a non-native language as a means of communication between participants from different European countries, but there might also be another reason: Unlike in the US, adoption of Linux in the EU is mainly driven by governments and SMEs, rather than by "in-your-face" corporations. If they plan a larger Euro OSCON next year, the organizers will have to change the US-style emphasis of this event to more closely reflect the needs of the European Linux community.
http://conferences.oreillynet.com/ eurooscon/
http://www.pugscode.org/
http://svk.elixus.org/

James Duncan Davidson /O'Reilly Media

TEACHING AFRICAN NGOS

Despite challenges such as low budgets, or even a total lack of funding, open source software is available for use, and for tailoring to fit local needs; this is what makes open source software popular among development workers, local activists and campaigners in many poor countries.

January 8 through 15, 2006, technicians, teachers, consultants and campaigners working for non-governmental development projects, within and with non-profit organizations and community centers in Africa will have the opportunity to acquire the necessary technical skills at a camp in Uganda.

In an eight day hands-on workshop called "Africa Source II – Free and Open Source Software for Local Communities" they will learn how open source software can be integrated into their daily work.

The event, organized by several regional organizations on the continent such as Schoolnet Africa and Creative Commons South Africa in cooperation with campaigners from the Tactical Technology Collective Amsterdam, for example, will take place on Kalangala Island, Lake Victoria. It follows "Africa Source I", held in Namibia March 2004 (see Issue #43, p12), which focused on the exchange of information between African open source developers.

To ensure that participants learn to help each other, rather than just relying on external experts, an advisory group called for applications and will pick more than one hundred NGO activists from among the applicants.
http://www.tacticaltech.org/ africasource2/
http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/ 43/Linux_World_News.pdf

"BANGLINUX" BECOMES FOSS.IN

The "Linux Bangalore" conference, India's biggest annual open source event since 2001 and dubbed "BangLinux", has emerged into a "meta-conference, a conference of conferences" as the organizers put it, this year. November 29 through December 2, 2005 the venue of Bangalore Palace in Bangalore will continue to feature technical Linux related topics while at the same time embracing non-technical, and even non-Linux, topics, provided they relate to open source and open content, such as copyrights and patents, open source software for Windows, arts under free licenses, or technical issues related to the free BSDs.

This broadening of the event's scope called for a new name, "Free and Open Source Software India" or "FOSS.IN" for short.
http://foss.in/