

**Report on
9th APNG Camp, 27-30 August 2007
Xi'An, China**

Introduction

The 9th APNG Camp was organized from 27th to 30th August, 2007 at Xi'AN China in conjunction with the APAN Meeting held at the same venue. The APNG Camp is a regular event of the Asia Pacific Networking Group (APNG), which is the mother organization of numerous Internet related organizations in the Asia Pacific region. The APNG Camp consists of presentations from many different countries of the Asia Pacific region. The presentations are related with various technical and non-technical aspects of the Internet.

APNG also provides fellowships for people from developing countries enabling them to attend the camp. The fellowships provided include airfare, local accommodation and transportation as well as event registration charges. I was one of the lucky people to receive a fellowship to attend this camp.

It must be noted that APNG is not only about making paper presentations but also about interaction between the people of this region. All the people are encouraged to interact with each other through the organization of parties and dinners and various cultural events like singing and dancing. APNG camp is an opportunity for everyone to learn not only about the Internet, but also about the culture and customs of other countries and a place to form lasting friendships.

In this camp there were participants from the following countries: Japan, Korea, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, India and Malaysia.

Day 1: 27 August 2007, Monday

The day started with an APAN track, 'Digital Archive Workshop' which most of the APNG fellows attended. The workshop gave interesting insight into the importance and need of making an archive of all knowledge available to man. With the advent of cheaper storage technology and faster processing technology this is now possible. An archive of all data stored on the Internet can also be made.

In the evening of the same day, I attended the Disaster Management Workshop where a team from Sri Lanka presented about the 'Sahana' Disaster Management Software. This internationally acclaimed open source software has various add-on modules for SMS Early Warning, and GIS mapping as well. A demonstration of how to use the software was also shown.

In the evening we had a APNG Welcome Party at the Silk Road Hotel where we stayed. There was introduction of participants and much singing and dancing.

Day 2: 28 August 2007, Tuesday

On the second day, the APNG camp started in earnest. The opening presentation was by Mr. Tommy Matsumoto about what APNG is all about and what its objectives are. Then we had introduction to the various Working Groups (WGs) of APNG from the WG Chairs. The WGs in the 9th camp were E-learning & Live E!, Internet Technology WG, Disaster Management & E-health WG, Internet Culture & Blog WG, and E-commerce & Business Startup WG.

Next there were very interesting presentations from invited speakers, Professors from various international universities who presented about different interesting and technical aspects of Internet. One interesting presentation was from Ms. Aeryong Yo who presented about the organization of Youth Camp in her university in North Eastern China.

At the end of the day, we attended the APAN reception. There was a grand cultural show along with the dinner. Various dances were shown from different eras of Chinese history which I found very interesting.

Day 3: 29 August 2007, Wednesday

The activities of this day were divided into two tracks. One track consisted of Internet Technology WG; E-commerce & Business Startup WGs and the other track consisted of Disaster Management & E-health WG ; E-Learning & Live E! WG, and Internet Culture & Blog WGs. I had submitted my presentation for the E-learning and Live E WG so I attended this track. There were various interesting presentations from people from different countries. I found the presentation of Mr. Manutsiri Chansutthirangkool of Thailand to be the most interesting as he presented about the network design for the organization of recent World University Games held in Bangkok which was a huge project to manage.

At the end of this day we had APNG WG discussions and distribution of certificates and APNG general meeting. The costume party also was very interesting as we got to see the traditional costumes of many different Asian countries. Participants also presented the traditional songs of their home countries. So it was a grand night for pan-Asian music and traditional fashion.

Day 4: 30 August 2007, Wednesday

On this day, we had the Live-E Project Workshop by a team from University of Tokyo. The workshop was also informative and at the same time a demonstration was also given with the active participation of everyone present. Everyone tried out the software of Live-E and saw how sensor data is updated on the web and how the data can be seen by everyone on the Internet.

I believe sensor networks are an important component of network engineering and its importance is going to increase even more significantly over time. On this day, time was also slotted for Team Building. All the participants were divided into different groups and were assigned the work of researching the different aspects of Xi'an life such as food, fashion, transportation, culture and history etc. I was in the culture and history group, so we went to Xi'an museum and tried to intake as much information as we could in the time slot provided. When we got back to the conference center, all the groups gave a presentation on what they had learned. In the end there was a closing ceremony and farewell dinner at the Silk Road hotel.

Concluding Remarks and Suggestions

The APNG Camp was very enjoyable and interesting as always. It was a good platform for people of AP region to share information among each other and also an opportunity for young people to learn from more experienced presenters. This camp was very much a success. A live video streaming of the whole camp was also available on the Internet for interested people to view. It was also a place where there were many presentations regarding Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). APNG has a very big potential to promote FOSS and FOOS awareness in the whole of AP region as most of the participants are young and energetic people who can work on FOSS after returning back to their country.

It should be noted that Mr. Sumith Gmage and Xihaohui Shi, the Camp Chairs and Ms. Suphitsara Boonrat from APNG Secretariat worked very hard to make this camp a success. They deserve warm appreciations from all the participants.

APNG Camp makes me realize that there is a Digital Divide not only between people but also between countries. Some countries of the AP are much more advanced on Internet Technology than others. I hope this gap can be reduced slowly through efforts of all. I have noticed a lack of participation from island countries of the Pacific Ocean. If participants can be encouraged to come from these places then the Camp would be truly 'Asia-Pacific'. I believe one way to achieve this would be to increase the number of fellowships, which in turn also means reaching out for more sponsorships and making sponsors realize how truly a worthwhile endeavor the APNG Camp is.

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