

The 9th APNG CAMP
27th-30th AUGUST, 2007
Sheraton Hotel Xi'an China

Post Camp Report by Isuru Samaraweera ,Sri Lanka
E-mail- isuru@opensource.lk

Introduction

I was invited to represent the 9th APNG camp on behalf of my friend Ravindra de Silva

since he was extremely busy with his schedule and I was well aware that APNG camp is an excellent platform to share different views and ideas of researchers and practitioners in asia pacific region on various topics. So I did not hesitate to accept the invitation and waited impatiently to participate in the camp. Sumith, Sagarika, Dihan, Mr. Amaraweera and myself traveled from Colombo, Sri Lanka to Xi'an, China on 23rd of August to take part in the 9th APNG camp.

Objectives

1. Technical Knowledge Sharing

I am really interested in internet technologies and disaster management areas. So I want to share my views and ideas with the researchers and practitioners in the asia pacific region and keep my knowledge up to date.

2. Cultural Exchange

Countries in asia pacific region inherit their unique culture. Events like costume parties, team outings will boost the knowledge on cultures in each and every country.

3. Social Networking

APNG camp interconnects people spreaded all over the asia pacific region and it enables me to recognize people personally and build up my social network.

Discussion

Conducting and Participating on Technical sessions

During my stay at APNG camp I was privileged to conduct a workshop on “Disaster Management “ along with my colleague Sagarika on 27th August 2007. Sagarika gave an introduction to the disaster management process and I conducted my session on the Sahana Disaster management system and tracking disaster victims. The presentation is available at http://www.apng.org/9thcamp/apng_sahana_victim_registries.ppt. Around 30 participants were attended the session. After the presentation on Sahana, a discussion was held for around thirty minutes and shared the ideas to improve the quality of the system and the ways it can be deployed in asia pacific region. From this session so many people from asia pacific region got to know about the Sahana FOSS disaster management system and many of them volunteered to contribute to the source code and distribute the domain knowledge among the community.

I attended the LiveE workshop conducted by few Japanese fellows. The Live E project is all about sharing sensor data which is an essential functionality for the provisions of natural disasters. I am thinking of the ways we can integrate the functionalities of this system to our Sahana disaster management system. Another important session I attended was 'Introduction to the Dumbo Project' conducted by Professor. kanchana. It is all about setting up the network infrastructure aftermath of a disaster. This project solves a major problem during a disaster by setting up the required telecommunication infrastructure. I am thinking about the ways which Sahana can be interfaced with DUMBO and ease the disaster management process. Also the session on “Introduction to the FOSS” conducted by Dr. Nimal Ratnayaka was really interesting. I'm sure it created a huge curiosity in the minds of all the attendees. I personally obtained a huge knowledge on the FOSS tools available for computer network management. Further I was really amazed about the introduction of the .asia domain. It creates a lot of new marketing opportunities within and outside the asia pacific region. I am now working on obtaining the sahana.asia domain for the Sahana disaster management system.

Further I participated in the internet technologies working group discussion. Here we discussed about the activities to be done by the working group. Major suggestion arose during the discussion was to initiate a separate working group for FOSS technologies. If a separate FOSS session was initiated definitely the propriety software track should be separately initiated since APNG

should appear as an unbiased entity. So we decided to have FOSS as a subgroup under internet technologies working group. Other than FOSS we identified various sub groups based on the interests of the attendees. Further we decided to create a separate mailing list for the internet technologies working group.

Cultural ,Social Events Attended and historical places visited

During the stay in APNG I visited various historical places. I visited Queens dynasty's park and Terracotta warriors along with Sumith, Dihan, Sagarika, Amaraweera and Tomy San. I would like to thank Tomy San for accompanying a tour guide to do the necessary translation for us. Especially by visiting the places like Terracotta warriors I got a clear understanding of the Chinese tradition 2000 years ago. The technology, religion and the life style were clearly exposed from the statues available in the terracotta warriors premises. According to the terracotta statistics today nearly two million people visit the site annually, and almost one-fifth are foreigners. The Terracotta Army now serves as both a phenomenal archaeological discovery as well as an icon of China's distant past recognizable the world over. and it is the most significant archaeological excavations of the 20th century. I recommend this is a must visit place for all the tourists arrive in china. Further I visited a traditional building called Bell Tower. The Bell Tower, is a stately traditional building, that marks the geographical center of the ancient capital. From this important landmark extend East, South, West and North Streets, connecting the Tower to the East, South, West and North Gates of the City Wall of the Ming Dynasty. Also I couldn't forget the cultural chinese food I had during my visit. I had the opportunity to taste many kinds of food which we don't find in home countries and all of very good taste, the best food item for me was the tomato soup.

During my stay I identified around fifty people spreaded all over the asia pacific region. Especially the events like costume party, team performance event, karoake dance will connect people and let them interact in a single society. APNG camp is an ideal place to build up a good social network in asia pacific region.

Suggestions for future APNG camps

1. Avoidance of parallel sessions

Most of the sessions were conducted in parallel. So interested participant can't participate for all the sessions.

2. Equal distribution of the composition of technical tracks

Though separate working groups are defined the distribution of presentations are not homogeneous across working groups

3. More Social gatherings and team outings.

4. Add more fellows to the camp.

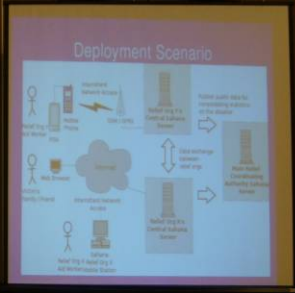
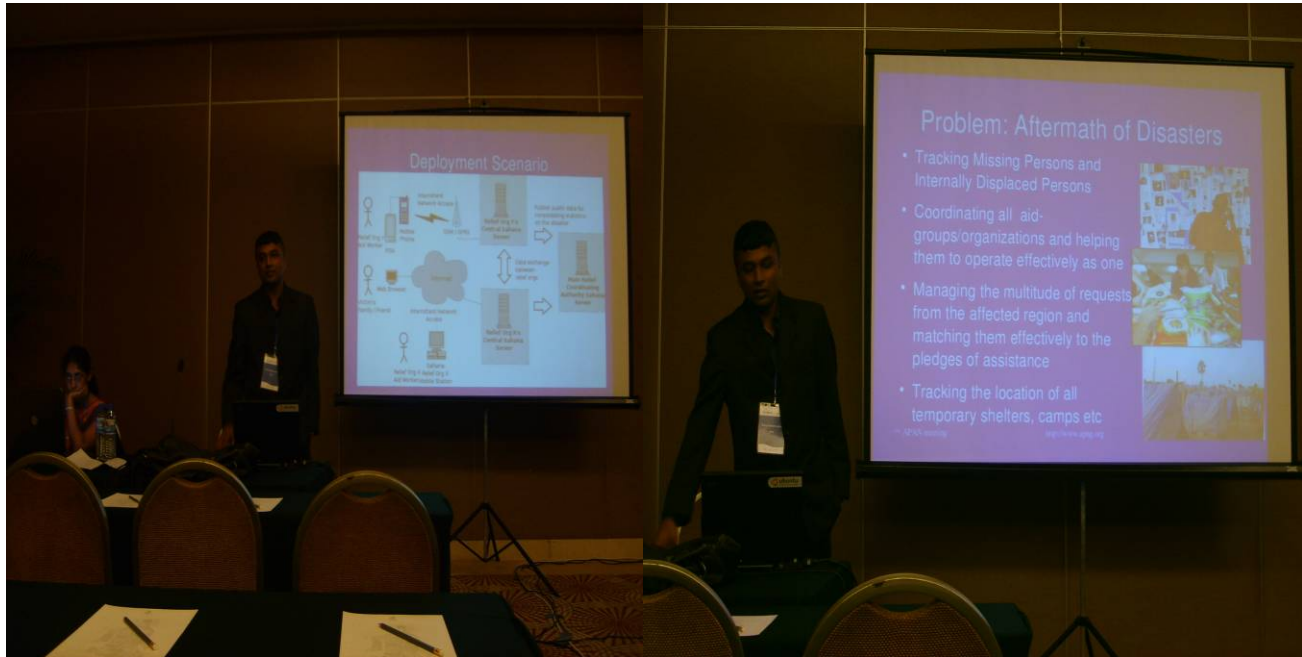
Conclusion

APNG camp can be considered as a huge reservoir of knowledge and excellent platform for social networking. I must thank the Camp President, Secretary and the Organizing Committee for giving me this opportunity to participate the 9th Camp. I would like to thank all the fellows came from different countries. Especially I would like to thank grandpa of APNG Tommy San for his continuous dedication rendered to make the event a total success. Finally I sum up congratulating and wishing all the best for the next camp committee to hold the next camp in grand fashion.

Few Memories from APNG camp







Problem: Aftermath of Disasters

- Tracking Missing Persons and Internally Displaced Persons
- Coordinating all aid-groups/organizations and helping them to operate effectively as one
- Managing the multitude of requests from the affected region and matching them effectively to the pledges of assistance
- Tracking the location of all temporary shelters, camps etc

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