

**Report on 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Next Generation (APNG) Camp**  
2007  
Sheraton Hotel, Xian, China

It has been 3 years since I joined the Asia Pacific Next Generation (APNG) Camp. The best and the most encouraging compliment I have received through the camp is it's support and recognition of the need for local language computing in the Asian region.

Three years back when I had joined in the camp I was the only one person harping for the need of localized software to facilitate the local language speakers in the Asian community. However now after three years, it is enlightening to see that the need for local language computing has been recognized as a well established problem and almost in every dimension of discussion and debate, problems surrounding localization are being highlighted. Some of the area in which it has been prominently taken up are:

Internet Culture working group, in which for the last few years focused discussions are being built to tackle to this issue.

Internet Technology, in which increasing focus is being paid to the need for development on open source platforms and free and open source software which are most congenial to development of localized applications.

In terms of web development, include of local language computing through development of internet standards and availability of localized domain names have been discussed.

In the Live E! project, issue concerning localization have been discussed, as the project also recognizes that the data been received at the weather stations may also contain localized information that has to be captured, stored and reproduced to gain value.

Now being a part of the APNG Camp gives me immense pleasure not only because of the technical enlightenment that I received but also because of the social networking, team building, and progress of the campers as a very lucrative output of the camp.

***Brief Overview of the Camp:***

This time the APNG camp in Xian, started with a very warm reception dinner arranged with a Karaoke party. It was an excellent team jelling exercise right from eth out set of the camp. Welcome notes were exchanges between all the members of the camp. From this night onwards the camp started with a very cordial atmosphere where the fellows were provided an immensely congenial environment to interact and present their work in.

The camp was meticulously organized by the camp chair where attention to every detail of the event was thoroughly paid. The maximum credit goes to the efforts of the camp chair, Sumith Gamage, the Coordinator Kung and the Grand Pa Tommy San.

The first day of the camp was dedicated to experience speeches by the keynote speakers. My recommendation would be to gather speakers around a certain topic so that talks are more focused and holds the attention of the participants.

The event was organized over three days however it will be extended to five days in future which would call for more structure program design. I would recommend that the thematic areas must be very thoughtful made so that the 5 day event is not stretched and some value addition might be taken out the best of the 5 days.

Even this time the program for the camp days was structured well, ensuring a fine amalgam of the presentations by the senior Internet leaders/ companies/ groups and presentations on research by young fellows participating from across Asia.

### ***Recommendation for future Camp***

1. Time limitation was definitely one obstacle that abstained researchers to exchange their experiences and views to a more comprehensive manner than how it was done. We should have more time for the presentation including larger time for Q&A and discussion following the thematic area presentation.
2. There should be a separate slot for discussing recommendation that should feed in more recommendations than those just derived from the over all camp.
3. BoFs should be allocated more time.
4. Representation from more developing countries should be included and if possible the upcoming APNG camp should also be held in some developing country so that the campers can witness the ground level technological realities by being in those countries.
5. If possible and if more funding is available more fellows should be invited from one country so that in future these members for one country can team up to establish their local camps in their respective countries too.
6. The camp can also frame a task plan. Within the current camp members can plan for a line of action till the next camp so that each camper can come back to the camp with concrete realization of certain key goals. This would be helpful to gauge the success of the preceding camp, where concrete, tangible realization of set goals may not be the target, but a movement for promotion of internet and its related facets may be set as short term goal. This can be extendable to the attainment of more challenging goals as much as the effort and funding may permit.

In the end I would like to congratulate all the team members for holding a very successful event and wish the new chairs heartiest welcome and best of luck for the upcoming camp.

### **Report Presented by:**

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