Open Source Policy and Promotion of IT Industries in East Asia

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Abstract. The development style of open source has a possibility to create new business markets for Regional IT industries. Some local governments are trying to promote their regional IT industries by adopting an open source in their electronic government systems. In this paper, we analyze the data of open source application policy of the Japanese government and case studies of promotion policy of local industries by local governments; for example, Nagasaki Prefecture and Matsue City. And it aims to extract the issues in the open sources application policy of local governments and the promotion policy of regional industries in Japan.

1 Introduction

The term "Wikinomics" describes a style of business where companies accumulate huge amounts of information to generate revenue, and is typified by multinationals like Google or Amazon. These businesses maximize their high productivity and earnings by leveraging Open Source Software (OSS), which is built on a cooperative development model.

OSS originates from the West coast of the USA, and is still primarily developed and enhanced by American multinationals. It could even be said that the current technical evolution of OSS is focused mainly on companies originating from the United States. However, the inherent benefits of OSS extend beyond the boundaries of enterprises, organizations and even nations, and it has the potential to foster new business markets in regions other than North America.

East Asia nations have made some progress with this technology, and started to introduce OSS for e-government systems during the early part of this century. Many countries granted it a central role in their policies. The reasons for this include adoption of software based on standard specification, liberation from vender lock-in, or opposition to the market control of proprietary software. However, the primary reason is to reduce adoption costs for e-government systems.

While this policy work is useful, there is a great deal more that needs to be done. The OSS adoption policy in each nation of East Asia must be accompanied by technological progress in domestic IT service industries or US multinationals will expand at the cost of local businesses. If this continues unchecked it will create a new form of lock-in for East Asian nations.

Some Asian nations are trying to promote their domestic IT service industries, putting their OSS adoption policy to practical use, and this workshop will provide case studies of that work. It will also provide a forum for discussing current challenges and opportunities around both policy and practical implementation issues across Asia.

- the history and the current stage of open source introduction policy
- the policy of the human resource development in the field of open source
- the IT solution market using open source and the ratio of public sectors
- the current state of open source technology of IT enterprises
- the existence and activity of open source communities
- the open source policy of each Local Government Unit and the appearance of the introduction of open source
- the results that led to promotion of industry of home country

2   Workshop Goals

We intend to extract the issues of open source introduction policy not accompanied by the technological progress of domestic IT service industry. And this will give an indication to the roles of governments not only in East Asia but also other developing countries.

3   Program Committee

- Tetsuo Noda, Shimane University, Japan (workshop co- organizer)
- Sangmook Yi, Duksung Women's University, Korea (workshop co- organizer)
- Dongbin Wang, Tsinghua University, China (workshop co- organizer)
- Shane Coughlan, Regional Director Asia, Open Invention Network, Japan
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