

**FORMALIZATION MEETING
OF THE
OPEN SOURCE HEALTH CARE ALLIANCE (OSHCA)
ASIA CHAPTER**

*during the
International Conference in Open Source Software in Healthcare
24 November 2008, Bayview Beach Resort Hotel, Penang, Malaysia*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 in the evening. Fifteen (15) OSHCA members were present, including those who had just joined the Alliance during the Conference. Dr. Molly Cheah, President of OSHCA, led the discussion during the meeting.

The first item on the agenda was for the body's approval to the formalization of the OSHCA Asia Chapter. All in attendance agreed to the measure.

Dr. Cheah presented the criteria for membership in OSCHA Asia, which are as follows:

- Current OSHCA members from Asia that are of good standing are automatically qualified to be members of OSHCA Asia.
- Individuals or organizations who wish to be a member of OSHCA Asia need to be members of OSHCA first. Thus, they will need to pay the one-time membership fee as per the different categories stipulated in the OSHCA Constitution. The new member will also be classified as Ordinary or Associate, as per OSHCA Constitution.

A proposal to amend a certain provision of the OSHCA Constitution was put forward, in order to facilitate the formalization process of regional chapters:

- Each OSHCA Regional and Country chapter should have the freedom to develop its own rules and regulations, so long as they are consistent with Article 3.1 of the OSHCA Constitution.

This proposed amendment will be put forward to the OSHCA membership during the AGM scheduled for December 1, 2008.

The following rules and regulations for OSHCA Asia Chapter were proposed to the membership:

1. That the OSHCA Asia Chapter will have the same Vision as that of OSHCA.
2. OSHCA Asia must reach out to more possible stakeholders and beneficiaries in the health sector, so promotion and advocacy of FOSS should

not be limited only to policy-makers, as stated in Mission 4.2.1 of the OSHCA Constitution, but also to other organizations, and the grassroots.

- It was explained that while OSCHA Asia will also continue to promote and advocate FOSS to policymakers, it is also important that OSHCA Asia need to also focus its efforts on reaching more stakeholders, particularly those in the grassroots of health care in the region. This emphasis on reaching and working with more community-based initiatives will help define what OSHCA Asia really needs to do.

3. OSHCA Asia will be an informal organization, with the option to eventually to be registered, as per discretion of its members.

4. OSHCA Asia can apply for funding and develop project proposals independently from OSHCA. However, as OSHCA Asia is an informal group, funds will be coursed through OSHCA, who will then transmit all the funds to the Regional Chapter, minus expenses such as bank draft charges, etc.

- It was proposed that OSCHA Asia has to open its own separate bank account, in order to separate its funds from that of the global OSHCA organization. Dr. Cheah said that this possible to do so.

5. OSHCA Asia will maintain a mailing list that is separate from the OSHCA list.

6. The OSHCA Executive Committee Member for the Asian region will also be the President of the OSHCA Asia chapter.

The body agreed on the proposals, and accepted the six aforementioned items as the Implementing Rules and Regulations of OSHCA Asia Chapter.

The Structure of the OSHCA Asia Executive Committee was also discussed, with the creation of five positions:

- Chair (who will also act as the Asia Chapter representative to OSHCA)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two other members

The membership selected the following people to fill the positions, which will run for 2 years, as stipulated in the OSHCA Constitution:

- Chair – Dr. Angelo Juan Ramos (Philippines)
- Secretary – Dr. Dhanesh Damallandran (Malaysia)
- Treasurer – Ms. Nuraizah Samsul Paharin (Malaysia)
- Members: Dr. H. Lee Seldon and Mr. Tai Hai Sui, both from Malaysia.

Dr. Cheah also discussed future projects and funding sources that OSHCA Asia can work on, in the next year; two particular initiatives are in the pipeline:

- UNU-IIGH Capacity Building Training Programmes for Open Source
- Developing Test Beds for Interoperability, to be tested in Sarawak

State, Malaysia, and to be funded by UNDP, MOST and the Sarawak State Government.

- Members of OSHCA Asia can also work and partner with each other in developing and testing FOSS applications for healthcare in the region, with the possibility of creating various thematic areas, i.e. disaster management.

Further discussions and sharing ideas will be done on-line.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Dr. Angelo Juan O. Ramos

Executive Director

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