

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Abstract submission Deadline: ~~Nov. 5th, 2010~~ Extended to Monday, November 15, 2010

Free and Open Source Software for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries

A book edited by **Dr. Sulayman K. Sowe¹, Prof. Govindan Parayil² and Prof. Atsushi Sunami³**

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Introduction

Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) transcends geographical and cultural boundaries to usher in a new software development paradigm where volunteers collaboratively create software for the commons. The FOSS phenomenon has come of age and is redefining the way we develop, distribute, use, maintain, and support software. The political economy of FOSS has far reaching implications for world development because of the centrality of information and communications technologies for development (ICT4D). The global trend in the diffusion and adoption of FOSS is a testimony to the socioeconomic and technological impact the software has for both developed and developing economies. While FOSS development and business potentials may appear as a phenomenon for the developed world, a sizable number of developing countries have undertaken bold measures; implementing FOSS policies, supporting R&D, initiating projects; all with the ultimate aim of bringing about innovation, sustainable ICT development, and technology independence. Amidst the debate about what sort of technology is appropriate for achieving sustainable development, FOSS offers some solutions to today's and tomorrow's technology problems for developing countries. Empirical and anecdotal evidence continues to demonstrate the potential FOSS has in empowering individuals and communities, giving technology users ownership rights, enabling countries and regional institutions to collaborate with technology partners of their choice at an unprecedented rate. These characteristics have the intrinsic value of giving people the opportunity to actively participate in the development and shaping of their own technology, stimulating the growth of indigenous software industries, creating local jobs, and lowering technology acquisition and deployment costs.

The key ideas in this book will be drawn from diverse and interrelated topics covering qualitative and quantitative research which has implications for FOSS diffusion and adoption; theories and best practices on FOSS for sustainable development, scientifically grounded models to explain the complex relationships driving FOSS sustainability and innovation in developing countries, FOSS and IPR issues; FOSS case studies and surveys with emphasis on lessons to be learnt; experiences on FOSS policy formulation, and obstacles to policy implementations in developing countries.

We seek scholarly contributions that will give the reader a synergetic overview of the status and projected trends of FOSS in developing countries. We encourage contributions from experts who are able to combine their FOSS experiences from developing countries with their informed knowledge from developed countries to provide a comprehensive outlook of the themes in this book.

Overall Objective of the Book:

The main aim of the book is to raise awareness, increase the deployment, and capture the socio-economic, technical, and educational impact of FOSS in developing countries. In order to achieve this aim, this book will integrate knowledge on sustainable development practices from a global audience of experts from social, natural and human sciences, with contributions coming from researchers and practitioners in both developing and developed countries.

The Target Audience:

FOSS developers and users, policymakers, and sustainable development experts in both the developed and developing countries, ICT-based SMEs leveraging benefits inherent in FOSS to support and sustain their business practices, NGOs and Not-for-profit organizations working in ICT and sustainable development in developing countries, International organizations with technology transfer initiatives, information systems practitioners and research institutions. This book also targets curriculum designers, universities and colleges, and training institutions, which are interested in the pedagogical aspects of FOSS.

Book Themes and Possible Topics:

The book will be divided into five interrelated themes; all covering issues that demonstrate FOSS as a viable instrument in helping achieve technology sustainability and improving lives in developing countries.

Theme 1: FOSS Research - qualitative and quantitative research which has implications for the diffusion and adoption of FOSS in public and private sectors in developing countries.

Theme 2: Theory and Practice – theories of information society, ICT4D, innovation systems and best practices on FOSS technology sustainability and innovation.

Theme 3: FOSS technology diffusion, technology acceptance models, the use of FOSS technologies and services as tools to achieve sustainability, FOSS and its relationship with intellectual property rights (IPR), expositions on how FOSS helps developing countries meet their present and future ICT needs.

Theme 4: Case Studies and Surveys – practical implementation of FOSS in public and private sectors in developing countries with emphasis on quality and lessons to be learnt.

Theme 5: FOSS policy - the development, formulation, evaluation, review of appropriate policies which are responsive to technological trends, what works and what does not work in existing FOSS policies in developing countries, obstacles to policy implementation.

Recommended topics include (but are not limited to):

1. Theories of information society, ICT4D and FOSS.
2. Theories of FOSS technology innovation and sustainable development.
3. The use/adoption of FOSS in various public and private sectors in developing countries.
4. Projects and initiatives demonstrating FOSS as a viable tool for sustainable development.
5. Measuring, evaluating FOSS innovation and sustainable development capabilities.

6. Case studies demonstrating practical implementation of FOSS in developing countries, Surveys.
7. FOSS policy implementation by national and regional governments.
8. Empirically validated concepts, theoretical base for studying and understanding the factors that might influence FOSS acceptance (or the lack of it thereof) in developing countries.
9. FOSS in Education, curriculum perspectives, education for sustainable development.
10. Technology trends and its implications for developing countries.
11. FOSS and its relationship with Intellectual property rights (IPR).
12. Legal and equity implications of FOSS

Submission Procedure:

Authors are invited to submit on or before **November 5th**, 2010, 2-5 pages manuscript proposal clearly explaining the mission, concerns, and how the proposed chapter fits into the themes of the book. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified by **November 19th**, 2010 about the status of their proposals and sent chapter organizational guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by **February 21st**, 2011. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. The book is scheduled to be published by UNU Press, <http://www.unu.edu/unupress/>, in summer, 2011.

Important Dates:

Abstract submission: ~~November 5~~, **Extended to Monday, November 15, 2010**

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: **November 30, 2010**

Full Chapter submission: **February 21, 2011**

Communication of Review Results to authors: **April 27, 2011**

Final Chapter submission: **May 27, 2011**

Contact Information:

Inquiries and submissions can be forwarded electronically (Word or PDF document) or by mail to:

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