Building a bridge between Japanese LibreOffice community and the world
Naruhiko Ogasawara

naruoga@gmail.com

TIRANA | 27th Sept. 2018
• Background: LibreOffice in Japan
• LibreOffice Japanese Community
• Japanese LibreOffice Events
  • LibreOffice mini-conference
  • LibreOffice Kaigi
• Why we need a bridge?
• How to make the bridge?
• Our next challenge
• Conclusion
Who am I?

- Naruhiko NARU Ogasawara
- From Tokyo, Japan
- TDF member #337
- LibreOffice Japanese Team (JA NLP) member
- Ubuntu as private usage
- Automation testing architect @ 3rd-party testing vendor
LibreOffice in Japan
Enterprise

- Local government
  - Tokushima-pref, Aizu-wakamatsu-city, Kosai-city

- Companies
  - NTT Comware (dual standard with MSO), JA Fukuoka

- less active for some years
- ... no step back to MSO, but no any new implementation
Consumer Market

- “PC bundled Office” culture
  - Microsoft Office ↘ WPS Office ↗
- Still less subscription (means not move to Office365)
  - MS Japan also seems confusing...
- **Limited people** choices their office suite by themselves
- Under the development for majority of PC users
• Can’t say huge success at this time

• iCRAFT is struggling now to change that situation
Japanese LibreOffice community
People

- Three TDF members
- LibreOffice Japanese Team (JA NLP) has 19 members
  - Spread wide area in Japan
  - But few actives (less than a half...?)
- NO paid worker
  - Voluntary base
Activities

- **No strategy, “Do anything what the member(s) want to do” model**
- UI / Help / Wiki / Web translation
- Organize events
  - Discuss later
- Exhibit / participate events (in Japan | Global)
- Write articles for Japanese media (Magazine, web)
- SNS marketing (Facebook, Twitter)
Communication

- Mailing List
  - Announce, Users, Discuss
- Askbot
- Telegram (#libreoffice-ja)
LibreOffice Events in Japan
Two events in Japan

**LibreOffice mini-conference**

- Regional but Global
- Focus on contributors

**LibreOffice Kaigi**

- For Japanese speakers, By Japanese speakers
- Focus on end-users
- Kaigi is taken from a Japanese word “会議” means “conference”
Beginning is mini-conference

• First goal at 2014 (1st):
  “Make a place to meet LibreOffice contributors from anywhere in Japan each other”

• And improve our community strength to host global events
  - Like “Mini DebConf 2009 Taipei,” which is taken from the event name

• Then, became “regional but global” event at 2017
  - Not only for Japan residences, but also for other areas

• of course, could be remove “mini-” as Indonesian does ;)

Why “Kaigi”? 

- Because we have the manifest:

  WE COMMIT OURSELVES:
  to support the preservation of mother tongues by encouraging all peoples to translate, document, support, and promote our office productivity tools in their mother tongue

  https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/TDF/Next_Decade_Manifesto

- Kaigi aims “encouraging all people,” not only contributors, with our mother tongue (Japanese)
Why we need a bridge?
Anyway, why LibreOffice?

- Personally, because we have opportunities to make world (through LibreOffice) better together
- Together? With who?

LibreOffice is made by a worldwide community of people like you. Get involved, give our volunteers a hand, and meet new people! Oh, and contributing to a well-known project looks good on your CV too. tdf.io/joinus

We look forward to meeting you!
Yes, we are worldwide community!
In the global collaboration, we generally use English.

Most Japanese learned English several years, but many of them don’t want to use it.

My English is really bad, so I might be laughed by others if I use English at public space...

You may know I’m not a typical Japanese ;)}
So, we need to build a bridge over the language valley
How to build a bridge?
Solution 1: core team approach

- Core NLP members become translators / interpreters (bridge)
- Doesn’t work well in JP
  - Limited resource
  - Hard to keep our motivation
  - “You guys are good at English, I’m not, so it’s not my job”
Solution 2: “pier” approach

- We core team isn’t a bridge, just “piers”
- NLP core team do NOT everything
- Instead, encourage others and help them
- JP community itself become a bridge
Make “Kaigi” to “little global”

- Our Kaigi aims for end-users, but sometimes we invited foreign guest speakers, **without interpreters**
  - 2016 Tokyo: Franklin Weng
    - Taiwan ODF migration
  - 2018 Osaka: Tomaž Vajngerl
    - LibreOffice 6.0 / 6.1 / 6.x features from developer POV
  - 2019 ????: Under the discussion
“Opportunity” is the keyword

We would like to provide end-users the “opportunity” to:

- Communicate non-Japanese speakers directly in English (if some translator is there or not) to ask their own interest
- See how we (core team) communicate with non-Japanese speakers with (broken) English
  - You all are smart enough to understand our wrong English!

To encourage people who want to communicate global project!
Another trials to build a bridge

- Offline collaborative events
  - Translation Sprint
  - Bug-Hunting day
  - LibreOffice Day (run by Shinji Enoki)
    - Gathering 3rd Wednesday in each month
    - (now I plans to do same thing in Tokyo)

- Connect several place (Tokyo / Osaka / ...) via net (IRC / Telegram)
- To attract people who have interest to get involved our community
Our next challenge
Just imagine ATM, anyway...

- Annual **Asian Conference**
  - Like GNOME and openSUSE people do
  - Gather people from other communities like Taiwan, Indonesia, China, Korea, or else
  - Asia has no common language but geographically close (timezone, travel costs)

- Attract more people in Japanese events and do multi-track (global track and local language track)
  - How?
  - Need to reach more enterprise / non-geek people (outside FLOSS world)
Conclusion
Conclusion

- Japanese LibreOffice market is under the development (especially for non-geek users)
- We have events: “miniconf” and “Kaigi”, which has different targets
- “Using LibreOffice with our mother tongue” is important, but global collaboration is also important
- Thus we, JP NLP core team, NOT ONLY communicate globally by ourselves, BUT ALSO encourage others to do so
- That’s why our Kaigi is “little global”
Questions?