The challenge of growing the LibreOffice Japanese community through events under COVID-19

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openSUSE+LibreOffice Conference ONLINE
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Agenda

- Event activities in Japan for the last 10 years
- Current event activity status in Japan
- Conclusion
Shinji Enoki (榎真治)

- Member of LibreOffice Japanese Team (2011-)
- Member of The Document Foundation (2014-)
- Activity: organizing events, grows community, sometimes QA
- Other community:
  - Vice-chairperson of Japan UNIX Society
  - Staff of KANSAI OPEN SOURCE
  - Nextcloud, OpenData, etc...
Live in Nishinomiya, Japan
Event activities in Japan for the last 10 years
2010: LibreOffice starts

- No JA community members founding LibreOffice
- But soon many people join
  - OOo contributors
  - Other OSS contributors
  - And more
2011

• We had 4 events
  – Open source conference: 3 times
  – Kansai LibreOffice study meetup
    • OOo study meetup changed to LibreOffice
• LibreOffice Japanese Team founded
  – Part of JA community
  – Responsible for task support and relationships within the JA community
Focus point of events

- Appeal and strengthen relationships with other OSS communities
  - Join Other oss events (OSC, KOF)
- Relationships between LibreOffice contributors
  - LibreOffice kaigi, hackfest
- Get contributors
  - Hackfest, OSC
- Increase LibreOffice users
  - Study meetup, LibreOffice kaigi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Study Party</th>
<th>Offline Meeting</th>
<th>HackFest</th>
<th>OSS Events</th>
<th>LibreOffice day</th>
<th>Miniconf / etc</th>
<th>合計</th>
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LibreOffice Day 1st
hackfest (miniconf after events)
Strengthening relations with Est Asia

- Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, etc.
  - LibreOffice Kaigi 2016.12: keynote, Franklin
  - LibreOffice mini conf 2017 with openSUSE.Asia summit
  - openSUSE.Asia summit 2018, 2019: JA member join
  - COSCUP 2018, 2019: JA member join

- And last year was the 1st Asia Conference
Other information

- LibreOffice Conference 2016 slide
Current event activity status in Japan
Now focus on online events

- Hackfest
  - Every Wednesday 19:00-21:00
- OpenSource Conference
- 10th anniversary event
- openSUSE / LibreOffice Conference pre-party
Difficult situation in 2020

- COVID-19 made our offline activities difficult
- Most contributions can be made online
- However, it is also important to meet face to face
  - It helps build trust, makes communication easier, and interaction is fun!
Status of COVIT-19 in Japan

• Hundreds of COVID-19 infected people are found daily, now
• That may be less than in many countries
• However, offline activity is not easy
Daily Confirmed Cases

https://covid19japan.com/
Positive side

- Acceleration of open source online tool development
  - Ex. Jitsi meet
- Our skills on online tools are improving
- Online communication has become widespread in society
  - Many people are now accepting online meetings
What kind of online events do we do in Japan?

- Hackfest
  - Every Wednesday 19:00-21:00
- OpenSource Conference
  - LibreOffice Seminar and BOF
- 10th anniversary event
- openSUSE / LibreOffice Conference pre-party
Why Hackfest?

- Easy to hold
- It had the effect of accelerating the community
  - Of course, outreach has a limited effect
- Why it started?
  - Document Freedom Day Online in March was success with about 15 participants. This is our first online event.
  - It started from the next month with that momentum
How to online hackfest

- Different from offline hackfest
  - Discuss one topic
    - Limitation of online conference system
  - Work together one task
    - Ex. Write a bug report while sharing screens and discussing
    - Ex. Discuss UI /Help translations
    - Ex. Everyone check reproduction of bugs in own environment
      - Easy to understand how to reproduce
    - Ex. Lecture to read the source code

- I think this is “mob work”
What is mob work?

- Applying Mob Programming to Non-Programming Tasks
- In **pair programming**, two people work together, but in **mob programming**, team members work together on the same computer

- Definition of Agile Alliance
  - Mob Programming is a software development approach where the whole team works on the same thing, at the same time, in the same space, and at the same computer.
  - [https://www.agilealliance.org/glossary/mob-programming/](https://www.agilealliance.org/glossary/mob-programming/)
Effect of hackfest

• Improved accuracy and speed of discussion
  – It's clear what's happening with screen sharing

• Training
  – Easy to understand how to do it
  – We are not focused on training, but we will explain if someone doesn't understand
    • Understanding is more important than task completion
Use Jitsi meet and Youtube live

- Simple is best
  - No special preparation, There are few troubles
  - Sometimes it gets in trouble, but not critical
    - Live stream is suddenly disconnected
    - Sometimes someone doesn't make a sound
- Live streaming
  - Psychological hurdle is low on Youtube live
  - Some people seem to be watching it, like listening to the radio
  - Some people are watching later
  - The number of views is small, but that's not an important
LibreOffice日本語チーム
チャンネル登録者数 232人

LibreOffice Hackfest Online
#22
74 御上・5 日前 に配信済み

LibreOffice 10周年記念オンラインインテクトアップ
64 御上・3 週間前 に配信済み

LibreOffice Hackfest Online
#21
59 御上・2 週間前 に配信済み

LibreOffice Hackfest Online
#20
27 御上・1 週間前 に配信済み

LibreOffice Hackfest Online
#19
17 御上・1 か月前 に配信済み

LibreOffice Hackfest Online
#18
25 御上・1 か月前 に配信済み

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJjOaLmTjYu4129vzZLmMNg/
Regularly is important

- Make it a habit by holding it every week
  - For organizers and participants
- Easy to remember that we have learned
No preparation for hackfset

- Organizer only creates the event page and setup youtube live
- Quality of the content depends on the participants
  - My lucky point is that participants have a lot of topics
Other event activities

- Online meetups with Jitsi meet
  - Document Freedom Day
  - 7.0 release party
  - 10th anniversary event
- OpneSouce Conference Online series
  - Seminar and BOF, at four events
- (Offline) LibreOffice day
  - Small events in co-working space
- We've missed our annual conference in Japan
OpneSouce Conference (1)

- Many open source communities get together
- It is held in various cities of Japan, but this year it will be held online

Alu “First Stages and challenges of LibreOffice Translation in Hausa Language”
OpneSouce Conference (2)

- Seminar talk with Zoom. Participants can see on Zoom or Youtube Live
  - Ex. Raru-san had a demo in the story of how to set up when writing a novel in Writer
- BOF
  - Meetup for discussion
Benefits and challenges of online events

• Benefits
  − No restrictions on location, easier join
  − Easy to hold
  − Easily make effective mob work

• Challenges
  − Outreach is not successful, now
  − Face-to-face is better for dealing with communication problems
  − Party is more fun offline
Stress by COVID-19

- Community members are also stressful
- More communication trouble than usual
- JA community have not been able to handle it well
  - I don't know the solution
- I think important that more considerate, more respectful
Communication channel

- JA mailing list is not active now
- Telegram group is active
  - Easy to respond
  - Communication speed is fast
  - But discussion is difficult
- JA community started using TDF Redmine
  - To track tasks and discussions
Conclusion

- Over the last 10 years we have had many events
  - Different types of events for different purposes
- This year, focus on online events
  - Focusing especially on hackfests, it helps accelerate the community
  - Outreach and communication issues need to be addressed
• Contact : shinji.enoki@libreoffice.org
• JA Team blog : https://ja.blog.documentfoundation.org/
• Events list : https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/Events

Thank You!
ありがとうございました！