

FOSS4G 2025 Letter of Intent for Hiroshima, Japan

1. Who is your conference chair?

We proudly announce our esteemed co-chairs for the upcoming FOSS4G 2025 Hiroshima in Japan:

Kenya Tamura is at the forefront of GIS in digital twins. He holds prestigious positions, including CEO of Eukarya Inc., Director of OSGeo Japan chapter, Director of Welcome Japan, and a researcher at the University of Tokyo. Eukarya Inc. served as the Diamond Sponsor for FOSS4G Prizren 2023 under the name Re:Earth.

Nobusuke Iwasaki is a representative of the OSGeo Japan Chapter and has been actively involved in promoting FOSS4G in Japan. As an expert in GIS, he focuses on research related to rural areas and landscapes. Starting in April, he will take on the role of a professor at Tottori University.

2. Who is on your local organizing committee (LOC)?

Our LOC assembles experts from academia, government, industry and non-profits versed in geospatial conferences planning.

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Taichi Furuhashi*	Aoyama Gakuin University	Taro Matsuzawa*	Georepublic Japan LLC.
Toshikazu Seto*	Komazawa University	Satsuki Higuchi	Geolonia Inc.
Daisuke Yoshida*	Osaka Metropolitan University	Toru Mori*	CUNEMO LLC., Founder of OSGeo Japan Chapter
Yuichiro Nishimura*	Nara Women's University	Hirofumi Hayashi*	Applied Technology CO.,LTD., FOSS4G-ASIA
Hidenori Watanave	The University of Tokyo	Jintae Kim	Welcome Japan (NPO)
Narumasa Tsutsumida*	Saitama University	Taisei Nakamura	OSGeo Japan Chapter
Yuya Uchiyama	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Gov.)	Hinako Iseki	OSGeo Japan Chapter
Kyoung-Sook Kim	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (Gov.)		

* OSGeo Foundation Charter Members

3. What is the experience of your committee members with similar events?

Our LOC members boast extensive experience in orchestrating a variety of geospatial conferences.

Local FOSS4G and SotM Conference: Members have successfully organized local FOSS4G conference annually since 2008 and local SotM conference bi-annually since 2014, to share trends and enhance both local and global visibility, including the invitation of international guests.

SotM 2012 Tokyo / 2017 Aizu (global): Instrumental in hosting the milestone SotM 2012 Tokyo, showcased our capability for organizing large international events. Additionally, successfully hosted SotM 2017 Aizu in a relatively small local city.

FOSS4G Asia: Committee members played key roles expanding FOSS4G Asia, ensuring expertise in regional/international conferences and providing financial assistance to support these efforts.

SotM Asia: Provided financial support for SotM Asia from 2014-2017, underscoring long-term commitment.

International Cartographic Conferences: Participated as a committee member in International Geographical Union 2013 Kyoto Regional conference. And also a committee member of the International Cartographic Conference 2019 Tokyo, organizing sessions related to FOSS4G and OSGeo.

Tech for Peace Conferences: [Organized youth-focused Tech for Peace](#) using GIS for peacebuilding in partnership with the UN.

4. What is your proposed venue?

Our proposed FOSS4G 2025 venue is the [Hiroshima International Conference Center](#), located within the [UNESCO Hiroshima Peace Memorial](#). This venue symbolizing international exchange and cultural elevation offers a unique setting reflecting commitment to global peace and understanding, aligning with FOSS4G ethos. We have made a provisional reservation ensuring seamless venue arrangements upon Hiroshima's confirmation as host city.

Phoenix Hall: The centerpiece hall accommodates over 1,500 attendees, ideal for plenary and keynotes. This large space exemplifies the venue's capability to host major international gatherings.

Diverse Meeting Spaces and Exhibition Space: Alongside the main hall, the venue houses rooms of various sizes suitable for parallel sessions, workshops and discussions, offering flexibility for diverse conference needs.

Connectivity and Technology: With optical fiber interconnecting all spaces, the venue supports digital conferencing like live streaming and hybrid meetings. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including six-language interpretation systems, it is an ideal venue for global conferences.

International Recognition: The venue has a proven track record hosting major international events including 2020 Summer Olympic Torch Relay and [G7 Hiroshima Summit](#) 2023, underscoring its capability to accommodate high-profile gatherings and provide a prestigious backdrop for FOSS4G.

5. What are your provisional dates for the conference?

We plan to host from August 25th to August 30th, 2025.

Workshops: August 25th-26th: Workshops for hands-on open source geospatial tech/methodology learning.

Main Conference: August 27th-29th: General and Academic Tracks featuring latest open source geospatial research, projects, and community discussions.

Community Sprint: August 30th: Developers collaborate improving software and documentation.

Tours: Planning tours around the event to explore local geospatial and cultural sites, facilitating an understanding of the region.

6. Early thoughts on prices of conference attendance? (indicative estimates)

We are committed to ensuring inclusive participation in anticipation of the FOSS4G 2025 Hiroshima.

Early Bird: 450 USD available 3 months pre-conference.

Standard Registration: 550-650 USD after early bird. Access to all sessions/events.

Discounts: We are preparing several discount plans. For students, attendees from lower income economies: 20-50% discounts. For Japanese participants: To foster a robust local presence. Rate to be determined.

Support Under Hardship: Fund assisting participation/travel costs for attendees in difficult conditions, refugees.

Student Scholarships: Program covering registration, lodging, travel - enabling global participation.

Workshops: 80 USD early, 120 USD standard for workshops.

Additional Benefits: Registration fee includes daily lunches, coffee breaks and social events.

7. What is the price range and general location of your proposed accommodations?

We are committed to providing a wide array of accommodation options to suit our attendees' diverse needs and budgets. Hiroshima offers an efficient, user-friendly public transportation network including trams and buses, making it easy to navigate the city and reach the venue from anywhere. Furthermore, there is no difference in hotel price whether accommodations are within walking distance or further away from the venue.

Rating	Price	Rating	Price
*****	100-150 USD	**	30-50 USD
****	80-120 USD	Hostels	10-30 USD
***	40-80 USD		

8. Are you partnering with other organizations?

For the FOSS4G 2025 Hiroshima, our efforts to collaborate with various organizations are foundational to our vision of creating an inclusive, impactful, and multidisciplinary event. Here's an overview of our partnerships:

Global Partners:

We are in discussions about potential partnerships with open source projects such as [GRASS GIS](#), [pgRouting](#), and [HOTOSM \(Open Mapping Hub Asia-Pacific\)](#), leveraging their expertise and networks.

UN Partners: We have agreed to partner with [UN Open GIS](#), [UNHCR](#), and [UNITAR](#) to leverage geospatial tech for humanitarian/development goals.

Government Partners: For logistics and integrating conference themes, we are partnering with the [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism](#) and [Information-technology Promotion Agency, Japan](#).

Regional Event Partners: We are partnering with [SotM Asia](#) and [FOSS4G Asia](#) to connect regional communities.

Domestic Partners: Ensuring broad community engagement, we are in discussions to partner with [Code for Japan](#), [OpenStreetMap Foundation Japan](#), [MySQL Nippon Association \(Japanese\)](#), MySQL Community Team (Oracle Corporation) and [Japan Unix Society](#).

Humanitarian Partner: We are partnering with refugee inclusion organization Welcome Japan to highlight using tech for social good, and also partnering with Uzawa Kokusai Gakkan, which aims for inclusive capitalism for strong growth and sustainable development.

9. What makes FOSS4G in your proposed location and with your team compelling?

Hiroshima offers a unique and compelling venue for FOSS4G 2025, blending its historical significance with a vision for peace, resilience, and technological innovation.

Geospatial Technology for Peace: 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, a significant milestone. Amid escalating global tensions, Hiroshima's selection as the host city for the G7 Summit underscores its status as an international symbol of peace. Moreover, LOC members have actively utilized geospatial information for peace with local communities, such as the [Hiroshima Archive](#). Hosting FOSS4G 2025, providing a platform to send a powerful message of geospatial technology for peace from Hiroshima to the world.

Technological Hub Excellence with a Global Vision: 2025 is also a pivotal year for Japan's 3D urban development project, [Project PLATEAU*](#), aiming to create 3D digital twins of cities for use in urban planning, disaster management, and more. FOSS4G 2025 presents an excellent opportunity to share the outcomes of this innovative project with the world, expanding the application of open geospatial technologies and fostering international cooperation and technical exchange.

Community Engagement, Inclusion, and Strategic Partnerships: Partnerships with UN agencies and various stakeholders underscore our inclusive approach. Inspired by the FOSS4G Asia 2023 Seoul Declaration and the [multistakeholder pledges made at the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum 2023](#), these partnerships reflect our commitment to leveraging geospatial technologies for humanitarian and developmental purposes, including supporting refugees and promoting social good. So, Hiroshima, home to the [UNITAR office](#), is an ideal venue. We're also offering remote participation to ensure inclusivity for those unable to attend in person due to various circumstances, in line with OSGeo's [Geo for All](#) initiative.

Fostering an Open Philosophy and Community-Driven Development: To achieve these goals, Community-Driven Development is essential. Therefore, our focus is on supporting an open philosophy and participatory, community-driven initiatives. We are committed to enhancing digital public goods and social capital, engaging both local and international stakeholders. Our aim is to facilitate meaningful discussions on the evolving roles of digital public goods, spanning from fully public to private enterprise involvement.

Alignment with Osaka Expo 2025: Alignment with Osaka Expo 2025: [The Osaka Expo 2025](#), accessible from Hiroshima provides a unique context for FOSS4G. It will be exhibited in the Project PLATEAU and [United Nations](#) pavilion. This connection allows attendees to gain additional cultural and technological insights, enhancing the conference experience by aligning with this global event.

10. What are your COVID-19 safety plans? What will you do if travel is significantly restricted in 2025? What is your financial strategy to make the event sustainable in this complex situation?

In response to COVID-19 and travel restriction concerns, our plans leverage Japan's current COVID status, flexible event format, and financial preparedness to ensure a safe, sustainable FOSS4G 2025.

COVID-19 Safety Plans: COVID-19 is [currently classified the same as influenza in Japan](#), allowing cautious normalization, however we are prepared to adapt safety plans per health guidance if needed, with top priority on participant health/safety including social distancing and sanitization stations.

Hybrid Event Contingency: Recognizing potential travel restrictions, our venue supports a hybrid conference enabling virtual engagement with content and community for those unable to travel.

Financial Strategy: Recognizing ongoing uncertainties, we have secured a 200,000USD budget enabling flexibility to adapt to scenarios including shifting to hybrid/virtual formats if necessary.

Conclusion

FOSS4G 2025 Hiroshima is poised to be a milestone event that showcases technological and innovative potential of open geospatial technologies and emphasizes the critical role these tools can play in peacebuilding, sustainable development, and humanitarian efforts. Set against the backdrop of Hiroshima's enduring message of peace, FOSS4G 2025 promises to be a conference that addresses the technical aspects of open geospatial technologies and their profound impact on society and the global community. To ensure the conference's objectives are met, we are committed to hosting an inclusive conference, considering the diverse circumstances of participants.

*Link to presentation video about Project PLATEAU at FOSS4G-Asia 2023 Seoul