LGM 2017 Proposal: Singapore

1. Team and Contact

Hong Phuc Dang - hp@fossasia.org

Roland Turner - roland@rolandturner.com

Zhuan Teo - zhuanteo1987@gmail.com

Eden Jade - dangphuchau@gmail.com

2. Partners

- Singapore National Design Center www.designsingapore.org/NDC/
- NUS Enterpise http://www2.blk71.com/
- The ArtScience Museum at The Marina Bay Sands
- Nanyang Technological University http://www.ntu.edu.sg/
- SingaporeGeekGirls

3. Date and Venue

3.1 Proposed Date

Date 14. - 17. March 2017

3.2 Proposed Locations and Venues

One North Technology Park

One North is a 200 hectares Singapore business park developed by JTC Corporation for the R&D and high technology cluster, comprising biomedical sciences, infocomm technology (ICT) and media industries. It was only launched officially in 2001 by former Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan Keng Yam with the basis of creating a "global talent hub" and a knowledge-based economy. There are several buildings/locations within One North Park in which **Fusionopolis** and **Block 71** are the most suitable locations for LGM based on our previous experience.

Fusionopolis is a research and development complex. It houses various research organizations, high-tech companies, government agencies and retail outlets. Genexis Theatre located at level 5 of Fusionopolis can host up to 440 people, ideal to run the main program of LGM.

Block 71 [across the street from Fusionopolis]: is considered as the heart of Singapore's technology start-up ecosystem. Blk71 is home to more than 100 start-ups, venture capital firms and tech incubators. Many small and minimum seminar/workshop rooms are available in this building.

3.2.1 Available Venues in the Area

- Genexis theatre: 440 pax

- Large Room: 80-100 pax x 1

- Medium Sized Room: 60 pax x 2

- Meetings: 10-20 pax x 3

- Workshop: 30 pax x 2

Main theatre building - Fusionopolis

Genexis Theatre, Fusionopolis: 440 seats

Genexis Lounge: 300 standing

Seminar building Blk 71

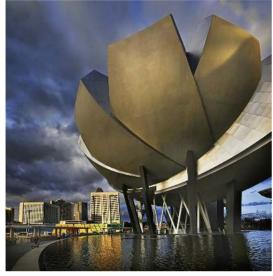Seminar room: 80 - 100 pax

Workshop room: 30 pax

Seminar room: 60 pax

Open space for discussion

3.2.2 Other Venue Options for LGM

- Possible Exhibition Space at National Design Center or Art Science Museum
- Singapore HackerSpace for off-track events
- One Maker Group for social gettogether

Art Science Museum   HackerspaceSG

3.2.3 Checklist Singapore Venue and Location

Space for meetings between artists and developers	Yes
Potential to bring something to LGM that was not there before, and to open up the community to participants that are currently not known.	Yes
Potential to make connections that last beyond personal contact: art schools, design bureaus, activists	Yes
Potential for the involved teams to grow the quality of software, either through deepening connections with users, research, reflection, development of new ideas, learning from each other's methods	Yes
Good accessibility of the host-city and the venue	Yes
Major airport	Yes
Means of transport from the airport to the venue	Yes
Typical prices from typical places within usual price range for LGM locations (from USA, EU, Japan etc; booked 3 months in advance / short in advance)	Yes
Wi-fi access with appropriate bandwidth available	Yes

Electrical power for everyone	Yes
Auditorium or similar space available	Yes
Hands-free microphone for the speakers	Yes
Rooms for BoFs and Team Meetings available at event venue and hackerspace	Yes
Audio/Video equipment	Yes
Projectors	Yes
Food and drinks widely available	Yes

4. FOSS in Singapore

There is a very active and established FOSS community in Singapore, that would be interested to participate at a LGM. Many companies and municipalities also have an interest in Free Software projects.

Singapore Government highly encourages 'Open Source, Open Government' - during the past few years they have been looking into how open source technology can drive openness and innovation in their public sector. At FOSSASIA 2014 Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan - Minister for the Environment and Water Resources gave an inspiring speech emphasised the need for Singapore's society to embrace open data and open source technologies.

There are more than 100 open source user groups in Singapore. FOSS events/meetups take place everyday throughout the year. More info e.g. on https://webuild.sg

5. Destination Singapore

5.1 How to get there

- Singapore is one of Southeast Asia's largest aviation hubs. Changi Airport - the country's main airport is one of the best airports in the world. If you have over 5h to spare there are free city tours five times a day departing from the airport. To register for any of the tours, simply approach the staff at the Free Singapore Tours (FST) Registration Booth. In all terminals, internet access is provided free of charge, both wirelessly and via some 200 terminals and kiosks
- Check out airfare at http://www.momondo.com/
- Low cost airlines in the region: Tiger Airways, AirAsia, Jetstar, VietjetAir

More info: http://wikitravel.org/en/Singapore#Get_in

5.2 Getting Around

5.2.1 Public Transport

The public transportation system is extremely easy to use. Travel card can be purchased at the airport ezlink.com.sg/home-tourist

The **MRT** (Mass Rapid Transit) and **LRT** (Light Rail Transit) are trains that are the main trunk of Singapore's transit system. They are a cheap and very reliable mode of transportation, and the network covers most points of interest for the visitor. All lines are seamlessly integrated, even if the lines are operated by different transport companies, so you do not need to buy a new ticket to transfer. All train lines use contactless RFID tickets. Just tap to scan your train ticket at the gantry when entering and exiting the train service area. Single-trip tickets are purchased from ticket machines located before the gantries and cost from $0.80 to $2.20. A $0.10 deposit is charged when purchasing a new ticket card. The deposit is refunded in double through a $0.10 fare reduction each on the 3rd and 6th trip made with the card. To load a new ticket onto an existing card at a ticket machine, just place it on the designated spot and follow the on-screen instructions.

5.2.2 Taxi

Taxis are reasonably priced. **Grabtaxi App** and **Uber App** are widely used nowadays by Singaporean.

5.3 Visa

Visa application is required for citizens / passport holders of the following countries:

- Nationals of Assessment Level I Countries

India, Myanmar, People's Republic of China, Holders of Hong Kong Document of Identity, Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Travel Permit, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Commonwealth of Independent States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea

- Nationals of Assessment Level II Countries

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, and holders of Palestinian Authority Passport, Temporary Passport issued by the United Arab Emirates and Refugee Travel Document issued by Middle-East countries

- How to apply for a Entry Visa

Official Government Site: http://www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=168&secid=166

Agency: https://www.singapore-visa.sg/Home.html

5.4 Communication and Internet

The international telephone country code for Singapore is **+65**. There are three main telecommunication providers in Singapore: **SingTel**, **StarHub** and **MobileOne** (M1)

SIM cards can be purchased from the telco counters at arrival area at Changi Airport. Passport is required for registration of SIM card. SIM cards can also be bought at the city at any phone shop or convenience store (7-Eleven).

We recommend that you get a top-up card for Internet. Our experience shows, that the net works well at most places in the city, but with a larger crowd connecting at the same spot can become difficult. There are several options for prepaid 3G/HSPA internet. Starhub MaxMobile has different plans from S$2/hour to S$25 for 5 days unlimited 7.2mbps internet. SIM costs S$12. M1 Prepaid Broadband offers unlimited Internet access for three days/five days at S$18/S$30

Singapore has a free city-wide wireless network – wireless.sg but you will need a mobile phone with number that you can access SMS in Singapore to receive the password.

Your phone must be unlocked and GSM. CDMA phones do not work on Singapore networks.

5.5 Accommodation

For your stay we recommend Chinatown area as you can easily get to any other part of the city. Unfortunately there are very few hotels in vicinity to the event location.

Chinatown gives you the mixture of a modern city and a traditional Chinese style with night market, street vendors and temples, just a short distance to Clark Quay (the most famous nightlife district of Singapore). Please be aware that midrange and budget hotels are often very small and sometimes do not have windows.

Many options are available here on booking engines e.g.: booking.com/district/sg/singapore/chinatown.htm

> 1. Splurge: ParkRoyal on Pickering: Located beside Chinatown MRT Station, walking distance Raffles Place, Clarke Quay, offices of Facebook, Google and business district. Rate US$ 200++ Booking.com | TripAdvisor | Website
>
> 2. Mid-range: Porcelain Hotel: Five-minute walk to China Town MRT, in the middle of China Town, close to markets, restaurants, exciting area. Rate US$ 80++ Booking.com | TripAdvisor | Website
>
> 3. Shared: 5 FootWay.Inn: Hostel close to China Town MRT right in middle of China Town, very convenient. [Note: it seems you can find better rate on Booking.com compared to hotel's website]. Rate: US$30++ Booking.com | TripAdvisor | Website

More budget options can be found:

http://www.hostelbookers.com/hostels/singapore/singapore/

https://www.airbnb.com/s/Singapore?price_max=70&ss_id=s1oltrhs

http://www.travelmob.com/vacation-rentals/singapore

5.6 Food

Local, regional and international food is easy to find in Singapore. You can eat at hawker centers and food courts from 3$ onwards. Most of the muslim vendors serve halal food. Most shopping malls have a food court. Pure vegetarian food is slightly harder to find. Little India is your best bet or go to Fortune Centre near Bugis MRT – this building has several vegetarian options. Another option is to go to regular food court or hawker centre and look for the stall that serves rice and a variety of dishes. You can then point to the vegetables you want.

Hawker centres

The cheapest and most popular places to eat in Singapore are hawker centres, essentially former pushcart vendors directed into giant complexes by government fiat. Prices are low ($2-5 for most dishes), hygiene standards are high (every stall is required to prominently display a health certificate grading it from A to D) and the food can be excellent — if you see a queue, join it! Ambience tends to be a little lacking though and there is no air-conditioning either, but a visit to a hawker centre is a must when in Singapore.

More info about Hawker food here: http://www.hungrygowhere.com/hawker-food/

Tap water is safe for drinking, and sanitation standards are very high

5.7 Safety and Security

Singapore is one of the safest major cities in the world by virtually any measure. Most people, including single female travellers, will not face any problems walking along the streets alone at night.

Though perfectly safe, local women tend to stick to the main road and avoid walking alone through the "lorongs" in Geylang, the red light district of Singapore, to stay clear of unwanted attention at night. This is not to say they avoid the area completely. The area is, among several others, well-known for its late night local food fare. If you are dressed conservatively (to avoid being mistaken for a sex worker) or look the part of a tourist, you will not be harassed.

Singapore's cleanliness is achieved in part by strict rules against public nuisance activities that are often flouted in many other countries. For example, jay-walking, spitting, littering, and drinking and eating on public transport are prohibited. **Chewing gum**, famously long banned from sale (consumption was never banned, contrary to popular belief), is now available at pharmacies for medical purposes (eg nicotine gum) if you ask for it directly, show your ID and sign the register. While importing gum for resale is still illegal, one can usually bring in a few packs for personal consumption without any problem.

Emergency numbers
- Ambulance ☎ 995
- Fire ☎ 995
- Police (Main number for Emergency Services) ☎ 999
- Singapore General Hospital ☎ +65 6222 3322
- Drug & Poison Information Centre ☎ +65 6423 9119

6. Event Budget

6.1 Expenses in Singapore

Singapore is regarded more costly than surrounding Asian countries, but in similar price categories to Japan, Korea and other big cities in Asia such as Beijing, Shanghai and Bangkok. On the other hand there are things that are much cheaper than in many countries such as food and flights.

Nowadays there are a lot of options for event locations and partners. Compared to years ago, they usually require a budget, even in universities. Also, partners such as the hackerspace require a fee to be used as an administrative space for the event organization.

Some events succeed to get a ministry or company to partner with an event, but this is usually only possible for well-known events or recurring events, that have shown a potential.

So, while Singapore is a perfect location for LGM to reach and integrate the community in Asia and around the world, the organization and set-up of the event requires a budget itself as well, which can probably only covered partly through local partners or sponsors.

The following list shows a cost estimation based on events we have run in Singapore.

6.2 Expense Calculation

Type of Expense	Minimum Estimation	Optimum Estimation	Maximum Estimation
Venue (Depending on the size, number of rooms and days used. 1,500 - 2,000 USD per day, 4 days event)	6,000 USD	6,000 USD	8,000 USD
Administrative costs (e.g. 3 months seat in coworking space and 12 months address for shipment and storage 1,500 USD, Communication costs 200-350 USD etc.)	1,700 USD	1,700 USD	1,850 USD
Presentation and Outreach Materials (Posters, Banners, Flyers)	Optional	1,000 USD	2,000 USD
Accommodation for organizers (one month, 30-50 USD/day each)	900 USD	900 USD	1,500 USD
Volunteers Meetups (15-20 people, 5-8 USD, 3 meetups)	225 USD	225 USD	480 USD
Social Event (100 people x 20-30 USD/person)	Optional	2,000 USD	3,000 USD
Video and Audio Recording (1,000 - 1,500 USD/day, 4 days)	Optional	4,000 USD	6,000 USD
Other Costs (Transportation costs, meetups, hardware materials, equipment rental etc.)	800 USD	800 USD	1,500 USD
Total	9,625 USD	16,625 USD	24,330 USD
Contingency (10%)	962 USD	1,662 USD	2,433 USD
Absolute Total	10,587 USD	18,287 USD	26,763 USD

6. 3 Event Income

- Donations
- Supporter Ticket Sales
- International Sponsorships

6. 4 Sponsorship Possibilities

- Corporate sponsoring
- Local sponsoring
- Institutional sponsoring
- Hardware Sponsorships

- Internet and Wifi Networks