

ASIAN LEGAL NETWORK

"Software Patents and Copyright License Compliance in FOSS"

*Organised by:
SFLC.in and Open Invention Network*

Date: January 13th, 2015
Location: Oberoi Hotel, Bangalore, India
Time: 12.00 pm to 17.30pm

Q1 meeting of the Asian Legal Network

SFLC.IN in association with Open Invention Network is organising first Asian Legal Network round-table in Bangalore, India. The event will be structured as a round-table between 20 to 30 participants in an informal half-day setting and will present a unique opportunity to discuss key issues impacting our business segment. The agenda will be anchored by a keynote speech exploring the key legal challenges and opportunities that leading Indian companies face when engaging with Open Source Software.

Overview of ALN events Asian Legal Network roundtables have the following features:

- (1) They are by invitation only, small roundtables that encourage open contribution
- (2) There are some keynotes to get the discussion started before the roundtable section
- (3) The event is under Chatham House Rule to ensure people can speak freely.

CONFERENCE CONTEXT

Open source software has been one of the greatest sources of innovation. Open source developers have built excellent software solutions for business, education and personal use. Free and open source programs give companies, schools, governments and users more choices, ensuring that they are getting the best possible technology for their needs. Unfortunately, the last decade has seen an enormous rise in software patent suits. Open source developers aren't any more immune to this threat than other software vendors. However, the culture and innovation modality of open source software, based on

engagement and sharing, made it natural to build a collective defensive solution to protect and enable it.

OPEN INVENTION NETWORK is a shared defensive patent pool with the mission to protect Linux. Launched in 2005, OIN has strong industry support with backing from Google, IBM, NEC, Philips, Red Hat, Sony and SUSE (a business unit of Novell). Any company, project or developer that is working on Linux, GNU, Android or any other Linux-related software is welcome to join OIN, free of charge or royalties.

SFLC.IN

SFLC.IN is a donor supported legal services organization that brings together lawyers, policy analysts, technologists, and students to protect freedom in the digital world. We promote innovation and open access to knowledge by helping developers make great Free and Open Source Software, protect privacy and civil liberties of citizens in the digital world through education and provision of pro-bono legal advice, and help policy makers make informed and just decisions with the use and adoption of technology

ASIAN LEGAL NETWORK

In the last decade excellent professional networks have emerged around Open Source technology. These networks initially focused on technical participants but in recent times legal networks have begun to facilitate workshops, conferences and publications to share best practice between professionals. Two outstanding Linux Foundation Member Counsel meetings and Free Software Foundation Europe's (FSFE) European Legal Network, which is now the world's largest network for discussion in this field.

On March 14th 2014, Open Invention Network, the Linux Foundation and FSFE announced an initiative to enhance discussion around Open Source (Free Software) legal issues in Asia through the formation of the "Asian Legal Network" (ALN). Throughout 2014 the ALN hosted a series of legal meetings in China, Korea and Japan to provide a bridge between existing Linux Foundation and European Legal Network activities. The goal was to bring high level professionals together and to provide a forum for informed discussion around topics of shared interest. The events were invitation-only, with no fee to attend, and no

requirements beyond adhering to Chatham House Rule to ensure that privacy for all parties is respected. This means that participants are free to use the information received at the meetings, but are asked not to identify other participants by name or affiliation.