Government of Pakistan & OSS

Sufyan Kakakhel
OSRC – PSEB

Open Source Initiatives of Ministry of Information Technology
http://www.osrc.org.pk

GoP's Philosophy on Open Source

- Define Requirements independent of Technology
  - Adopt standards that allow Interoperability
    - Increase Opportunity for Participation
      - Match technology with need
  - Where necessary use Proprietary solutions
  - Where possible use Open Source solutions
- Considering, Upfront cost, TCO, Support, Usability, Scalability, Robustness, Integration, etc.

Factors Driving GoP's OSS Initiative

- Affordability
- Local Employment Generation
- Respect for IPRs
- Reduce vendor dependencies.

OSS Projects

- Open Source Resource Center (OSRC)
- Linux Administrator Training Program (Pakistan Computer Bureau)
- Industrial Automation using open source (Pakistan Software Export Board)
- Federal Data Center Project (Electronic Government Directorate)
- One Laptop Per Child ???????????????????

Linux Administration Training Program

- Under this program training would be imparted to the technical employees of the Federal and Provincial Governments at Islamabad/Rawalpindi and all the Provincial Headquarters including AJK and Ex-Divisional Headquarters of Punjab, Sindh, NWFP and Baluchistan.

- The project has been prepared on the demands of the Federal and Provincial Governments. It will be extremely helpful in the introduction of E-Government and will improve administrative efficiency and office productivity

Industrial Automation

- PSEB's "Automation of Domestic Industry on Open Source Systems" project is engaged in developing complete ERP solutions to automate the processes and procedures for the SMEs in HR & Payroll, Finance, Inventory, Production and Sales in those sectors of the economy with the highest export potential.

- The ERP solutions are being developed using open source software. The ERP will be made available to the industry, so that applications can be further enhanced as per the needs of the units

Electronic Government Directorate

- Implementation of different projects related to the Electronic Government (E-Govt) Programme.

- Provide technical advice & guidelines for implementation of E-government projects at the Federal, Provincial and District levels;

- Plan and prepare Electronic government projects

- Provide standards for software and infrastructure in the field of Electronic Government; and

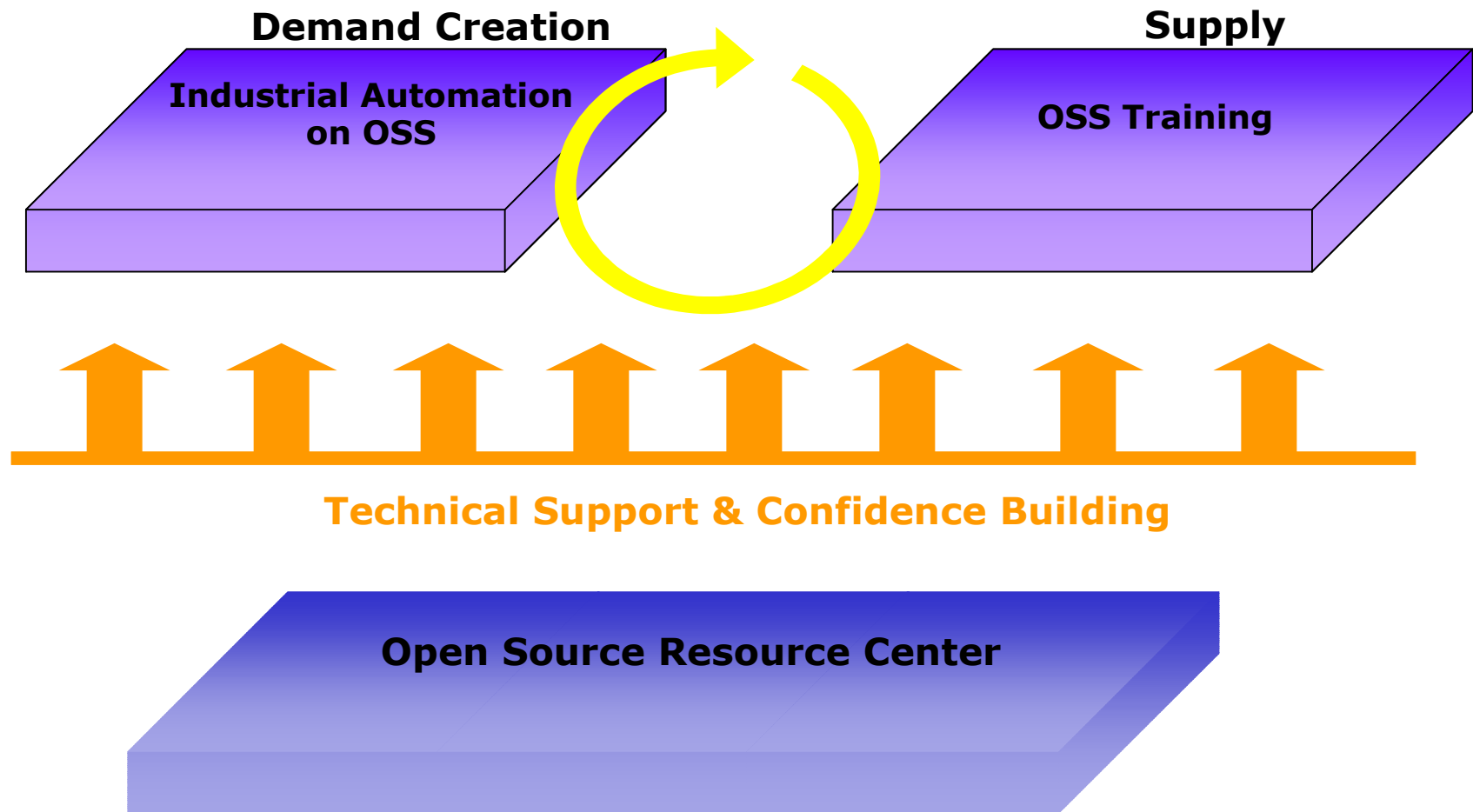- To undertake any other assignment matter that the government may direct.

Open Source Resource Center

- Develop a community for open source

- Hold workshops on Open Source Development in all major cities

- Create a network of Open Source developers

- Groom an environment of Open Source Development in Pakistan

- Encourage OSS R&D activities in local universities with international collaboration

GoP's OSS Strategy

Demand Creation

Supply

Industrial Automation on OSS

OSS Training

Technical Support & Confidence Building

Open Source Resource Center

Why Open Source Resource Center

- Voluntary support groups add value but have certain limitations

- Hence the need to have a fully funded institutional setup

- To serve as a focal point and center of excellence

- The Open Source Resource Center of GOP is one of the few centers in the Region

OSRC Objectives

- A centralized forte of experts in Pakistan, to shore up OS developers, administrators, faculty and students.

- FOSS awareness propagation in Academia, Government and Industries.

- Provide technical and strategic support to sustain and migrate to open source

- Arrange trainings and seminars

- Maintain forum to exchange ideas among the experts nation-wide

OSRC – Activities

- Workshops/Seminars on OSS awareness held in major cities
- Developing a graduate level course on OSS to be introduced in local universities.
- Supporting local forums and participating in international forums
- Providing financial support for conducting OSS related programs nationwide.

OSRC – Achievements

- Over 700 LAMP Trainees in Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta.

- 11 Migrations to open source

- Savings of over 35 million rupees.

- Inclusion of OSS in government projects

- OSRC web portal

- Over 50 workshops & Seminars on OSS

- Develo/media/disk/CHASE_07.odppment of Open Source Training Toolkit

OSRC – STRATEGY

- Mobilize the OSS practising community (through OSRC web-portal & academia)

- Conduct Training/Awareness workshops (ensuring local industry participation)

- Promote OSS in industry (seminars, training material, discussion forums, network with hardware/software vendors)

- Build in-house support capability

- Back-up support on solution(s) given to the industry on OSS

- Collaborate with local OSS solution provider

- Collaborate with international community

OSRC – Web Portal

- Act as a comprehensive online resource for FOSS
- Gateway to online resources on FOSS
- Means for the FOSS community to contribute and to interact
- News on FOSS
- Discussion forums
- FOSS activities in the region
- FAQ

Collaboration – Local OSS Organizations

- ANTS Consulting (Migration Consultants), Karachi
- Convergence
- Copyleft Solutions, Islamabad
- Expert Systems
- Emergen Consulting, Karachi
- Iinix Solutions (OSS based Solutions), Islamabad
- Iphonica
- PING Systems (Security & Network Consultants), Karachi
- Sapphire Consulting
- Softhand

Collaboration – International OSS Organization

- Recognition on International Forum
  - Participation in 25 conferences/workshops held in 15 countries.
- Collaboration with International Firms
  - UNDP-IOSN
  - CICC
  - Tactical Tech
  - Asia OSS
  - MySQL AB
  - Others.

Local OSS Forums

- LinuxPakistan.net

- Computer Society of Pakistan FOSS Special Interest Group

- FOSS-FP

- A forum of open source security professionals.......CHASE??????

What is Next ???

- An International Conference on OSS in 2009.

- OSS Awareness Seminars

- OSS Training Workshops

- Assistance in Migration / Adoption

- Open Source in University Curriculum

- Liaise with Virtual University

- Liaise with Provincial and Local Governments for open source projects

- You tell us.......................?

Open Source Resource Center

Thank You
Q&A

http://www.osrc.org.pk