

LGM 2020 Sri Lanka

Draft-proposal - May 27, 2018

The Libre Graphics Meeting (LGM) is an annual international convention for the discussion of free and open source software used with graphics. The first Libre Graphics Meeting was held in March 2006.

Venue

The primary venue location is [University of Moratuwa \(UoM\)](#) . [There are two departments that may be interested to host the LGM, and the local team has established connections with staff in these departments.](#)

- [Department of Intergrated Design \(DID\)](#)
- [Centre for Natural Language Processing \(CNLP\)](#)

UoM holds and hosts international conferences, symposiums and events regularly and has everything you would expect from a Government run University. We can look at specific buildings and venues at the next stage of the discussion. In case UoM collaboration fails, we have a few other options.

Accommodation

Lodging Lodging is cheap here in Sri Lanka compared to Europe, but as not cheap as can be found in India. UoM is 30 minutes drive outside the very center of Colombo, but there are many hotels on the beach nearer to the UoM. (A taxi from those would typically cost 2-3 EUR to get around)

Food: If you want usual Western cuisine during the day, that may be difficult. Since the UoM campus is not in the city center, there are no cafes or restaurants nearby who provide high quality Western cuisine - including a lack of good coffee shops... However, the development of the city is happening rapidly and there is a chance that by 2020 this might change, and also it is possible to arrange on-site catering with a predetermined menu.

Transportation Getting around Columbo is easy, with street hailing of the local the three-wheeler rikshaws possible on every major street, which cost around 0.30EUR/km. There is also a popular Uber-like rikshaw hailing app, PickMe, and Uber itself and a few other apps for air conditioned cab services. While there are public transportation options that are safe, they are not that efficient. And again, we might be able to arrange a minibus to pick-up and drop-off groups from the University campus on a predetermined schedule.

Accessibility (physical travel and visas)

Sri Lanka has one of the [easiest Visas in the world for people with a European or North American passport, and for almost all other countries it is usually very easy to obtain a tourist visa.](#)

Colombo International Airport (CMB) has direct flights from London and few other European cities, and there are many 1-stop connections via Mumbai, Singapore, and other regional hubs.

Areas of difficulty

Sri Lanka is a developing country, which means there is a typical amount of general chaos in the street and in national politics. However, SL is politically stable and secure. Some Western tourists call it “India Light,” and if you have been to India you will understand Sri Lanka as similar but a bit more organised and Westernised due to a longer British colonial period.

The social culture is safe and friendly. Some online tourist resources still provide warnings for women against traveling alone at night or on public transportation, but this was an issue during the civil war period (1983 - 2008) and immediately after that, but is no longer generally applicable in the country, and is not an issue in the capital of Colombo, and the UoM area today, at all.

Local participation/attendance

Sadly, the local FLOSS scene is not very strong at the moment compared to Europe.

Once RMS visited Sri Lanka when the [Lanka Linux User Group was more popular.](#) Today, the tech scene is dominated by meetups around web and mobile technologies and start-up culture, although this often has many “open source” aspects.

Sri Lanka also produces a [high number of GSoC participants and UoM students are at the forefront of this.](#)

We hope that LGM in 2020 would give us ample time to develop community interest and educate people about Libre Graphics software in general. Akuru Collective is a local initiative around typography and design that was co-founded by the local team members, and the collective will be promoting this event in their schedule.

Programming Suggestions

A section of the schedule dedicated to Libre Graphics international language

support, text processing, and font rendering would be a plus for the UoM and CNLP. Could LGM 2020 Sri Lanka have a loose theme around supporting global languages , and a hack sprint where projects aim to resolve language-related bugs and make improvements in that area?

Local team

This proposal is prepared by Pathum Egodawatta and Lohan Gunaweera. Pathum is collaborating on some projects with UoM, and is seeking an 'insider' to work with on the conference.

- Pathum Egodawatta: Typographer and researcher with MA Type Design from University of Reading (UK)
 - Experience
 - [Typoday 2016 organiser](#)
 - Design Educators Forum in Sri Lanka lead organiser (2017)
 - Contributing to TruFont, Fontforge since 2014
 - Regular user of GIMP
 - Presented at LGM 2015 (remote) and LGM 2016
- Lohan Gunaweera: Visual artist, writer, translator, performance artist and actor.
 - Experience
 - Colombo International Theatre Festival committee member (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
 - Colombo International Theatre Festival workshop moderator (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
 - Regular user of Inkscape, GIMP
 - [Danishka Navin : Systems Engineer. activist](#)
 - Experience
 - Founder, [Hanthana Linux Project](#)
 - Organizer, [Fedora FAD Singapore](#)
 - Organised [Mozilla hackathons in Sri Lanka](#)
 - [UoM representative/ organiser to be determined]
 - UoM non-academic staff: If the UoM comes onboard as host, they will assign a few non-academic staff members for the project.

Budget

<TODO: Later>

Local sponsors

<TODO: Later>