

Free software meet ends

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KOLLAM: Fosster 09, a two-day national conference on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), concluded at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri Campus. Senior director and site lead of Sun Microsystems India Engineering Center K Nageshwara Rao, while inaugurating the conference, said that FOSS was an irreversible trend. He also emphasised the critical importance of FOSS in the careers of IT professionals in future.

Chief Technical Officer of Amrita Research Labs, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Br. Jayaraj, inaugurated the Kollam GNU/Linux Users Group (KLUG) and the website <http://foss.amrita.ac.in>, which is a portal that will provide information about Free and Open Source Software, with special emphasis on the student community.

The objective of the conference was to popularise free and open source software in educational institutions and industry. One of the highlights of the session was the parallel track 'FOSS and the Common Man'. Active contributors towards the socio-cultural aspects of FOSS, Chandrasekharan Nair, Chandrakumar and Anil Nair have shared their experiences in using open source and said how it could be used for the benefit of farmers and movie makers. Technical sessions were delivered by Amarnath Raja, Chief Executive Officer, InApp Information Technologies, Mayuresh Nirhali, Sun Microsystems, Tirthankar Das, Sun Microsystems and Anish Chandran, Amrita University among several others. Key technical sessions that were delivered during the conference began with Open Solaris, An introduction to Open HA cluster, 3D Game development and Current trends in Blogging.

Nearly 300 delegates, including students, faculty members and industry professionals from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu attended the conference. Principal of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri Campus, K.Sankaran welcomed the gathering. Br. Biju Kumar, head, Corporate Relations, offered felicitations and Geetha, chairperson, Dept of Information Technology, proposed a vote of thanks.

Krishna Kumar, chairperson, Dept of Computer Science, presided over the concluding session.



K Nageshwara Rao, Senior Director and Site Lead of Sun Microsystems, inaugurating the FOSS Conference at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Vallickavu,

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