

Minutes of the first technical group meeting.

Members present:

First meeting of technical group of Mapathon Kerala was held of 8th March 2019 at Kerala State IT Mission. The meeting started with introduction of the program by Dr Chitra, Director KSITM. She outlined the target of the program and potential challenges. The participants discussed potential issues involved. The minutes captures key issues identified and the action plan.

Challenges of voluntarism

Based on his experience with mapping in Kurachundu Panchayath, Mr Jaisen pointed out that, voluntarism alone will not provide sufficient resource required for all mapping activities. By providing certificate of contribution, and providing internship opportunities student level voluntarism can be encouraged. Volunteers with local knowledge will be required to support the students. Such local resource persons will have to be compensated for their expenses. Internship opportunities of ASPA and KTU shall be tapped for student mobilisation.

Local resource mobilisation

Panchayaths used to spend own fund for mapping. Permissive sanction for the same can help interested local bodies to initiate own mapping initiatives linked with the campaign. It was suggested that Jaisen and Grameena Padanakendram would look into local body level initiatives that can be linked to mapping campaign planned.

Community Platform

To coordinate technical community for support it was suggested that existing platform of OSM community shall be used. A page will be created with resource persons for each district. Telegram group of OSM will be used for support. As the campaign intensify any other required facility shall be added.

Road Name data

Considering that road network mapping is one of the important aspect of initial phase, it was pointed out that, details of roads may be obtained from IKM Schitra application. A mechanism shall be created to make this data available to mappers.

Field activities along with armchair mapping

Ms Ganga pointed out need for field activities where people will map around their houses, particularly Points of Interest. This shall be initiated along with road mapping.

Identifying local community organisations

Participants agreed to identify local community organisations that are willing to undertake thematic mapping in their area of interest. Support shall be provided from campaign to train trainers or other feedback.

Rewarding contributors

There shall be review of contributions made to Kerala Map in OSM during the campaign period. This will be done on OSM site using the OSM id of participants. Prizes will be provided at monthly or other suitable intervals. Each filed level campaign shall also have some reward system built in place. The primary tracking mechanism shall be OSM id. Scripts or application needs to be developed for the same. Feedback of OSM team necessary in this regard.

Software Tools

On the issue of usability of tools, it was felt that in general available tools shall be used. The localisation of the tool is not considered as priority either. For point of interest data collection, custom application may be built to make data collection easier.

Tools to show possibilities of OSM like 3D maps and virtual games shall be identified and put into practice to generate interest. Manoj and Naveen mentioned that 3D mapping is done in some part of Thrissur.

On the issue of quality of data from mobile devices, it was felt that not much can be done with regard to ensuring quality of submitted data. For gps trace capture, it would be advisable to have device libraries at different localities. Devices shall be pooled from government agencies if required.

Instructional Materials

Instructional materials need to be developed for mapping. It can be video tutorials to start with. Kelvin pointed out the need to provide a document covering responsibility of mapathon organisers and new mappers. This is primarily to ensure that newcomers does not tamper with the existing data. OSM team shall work with KSDI/CDIT in developing these materials.

Action Points:

1. Creating OSM resource team at district level – OSM Kerala
2. Instructional Manual preparation – OSM Kerala + KSDI + CDIT
3. Identify campaign funding opportunities at local body level – Jaison and Grameena Padanakendram
4. Internship design to be done with input from KTU and ASAP – KSDI (Jaison and Manoj has experience)
5. Systems for measuring contribution – OSM Kerala (for suggestions) KSDI (for development)
6. Reaching out to IKM for list of roads under local bodies – KSITM
7. Identify and reach out to potential organisations that may host mapathons – All
8. Creating a master trainer training program for building a resource group (not discussed requesting feedback of OSM team).

A meeting on campaign organising group shall be undertaken similar to technical group meeting.