

**Date**

Tuesday 14th July 2009

**Title of session**

Workshop: Volunteer Geographic Information

Open Source Geospatial Trends in Government and NMAs

**Name of presenter/chair**

Mark Corey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Earth Sciences, Natural Resources Canada  
– Chair

Dr Suchith Anand, University of Nottingham, UK

**Name of rapporteurs**

Emily Dover & Luke Hampson

Dr Anand began by pointing out that there has been a rapid growth of Open Source GIS in government organisations, research and industry in the last three years. Reasons for this vary but they include the cost and lack of vendor lock in and opportunities for interoperability. He added that it was a big enabler for developing countries. However, the key issues in the growth of open source GIS were the open standards and the maturity of the software.

He highlighted the first OS GIS conference that had been held in 2009, which had seen examples of open source software through the mapping production process in Norway, to produce climate change mapping in the UK and in the health service in Ireland.

When we look at the top mashups we find that 36% involve mapping so there is a huge demand for this information. We must think of crowd sourcing not just in terms of data but also in terms of sourcing innovation and ideas. We must consider how to harness this stream of ideas and talent. By way of example, Suchith Anand cited the Apps for Democracy initiative in the USA which produced savings for government. He stressed that organisations should look at strategies to persuade people to provide volunteered information, ideas and innovation. He suggested that members of the audience become involved in the GIS Software Community and the International Cartographic Association who were seeking to find solutions to these issues.

Questions/Comments	Answers