

Proposal to host APriGF 2014

Proponent:

Department of Computer Science

University of the Philippines Cebu

Cebu City

PHILIPPINES

The Department of Computer Science of the University of the Philippines Cebu (DCS-UP Cebu) conveys our intent to become the local host of APriGF 2014.

According to a report by BuddeCom, mobile telephone subscribers in the Philippines has risen to around 100 million coming into 2013 or 112% penetration to a country of 96 million people¹. Furthermore, around two billion SMS are sent daily, the largest in the world¹. With this level of mobile connectedness, the Philippines comes as a very viable venue for the APriGF 2014 with the DCS-UP Cebu as local organizer.

The vibrant climate for information technology-powered corporations and startup companies provide a good background for next year's APriGF.

Organization Background

The DCS-UP Cebu is a Center of Excellence grantee of the Philippines' Commission on Higher Education (CHED) since March, 2007. It is also one of just two grantees of Center of Excellence in Information Technology (IT) education in the southern islands of the Philippines.

As a Center of Excellence in IT education, the DCS-UP Cebu extends its expertise to colleges and universities from neighboring cities and towns through short courses, workshops, and linkages.

Currently, the DCS-UP Cebu offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Computer Science and serves Introduction to Information Systems to other academic programs in the college.

The department currently has ten (10) full time faculty who are immersed in research; lecturers drawn from practicing IT specialists; and affiliate professors from University of the Philippines Diliman - the flagship campus.

A number of the DCS-UP Cebu faculty are also tapped by the college administration to oversee the operations of the campus' computing services unit and the Cebu Technology Business Incubator (<http://cebuinit.org>)

Back in 2008, the department, with De La Salle University, successfully hosted the 22nd Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC).

Location Information (Information of the countries e.g. accessibility, safety)

The locale of the department is Cebu (<http://cebu.gov.ph/>) which is located in the Central Visayas region of the Philippines. Cebu is the largest province and the second most urbanized area in the country.

Delegates may come to Cebu via the regular international flights through the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA). The MCIA serves direct flights to or from Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Qatar and China including chartered flights from the United States, and other major travel capitals. Visitors may also book flights via a connecting flight from Manila, the country's capital.

Foreign nationals can safely travel around Metro Cebu and can seek assistance from designated tourist policemen spread across the different destinations.

Visa and Entry Information

Foreign nationals can easily travel to or from the Philippines with the easing of immigration policies. According to the Department of Tourism, "starting August 1, 2013, nationals from 151 countries may enter the Philippines without a visa and stay for a maximum of thirty (30) days, provided they are holders of a passport valid at least six (6) months beyond the period of stay in the Philippines, and present a return or outward bound ticket to their country of origin or to a next country of destination."

Delegates may visit the official website of the Department of Tourism, for more details on entry, customs, and foreign exchange regulations (<http://itsmorefuninthephilippines.com/philippines-visa-and-entry-information>).

Suggested Dates and Schedule Outline

The suggested dates of next year's APRIGF are September 10-12, 2014.

September 10, 2014

9:00-10:30	Registration
10:30-12:00	Opening Plenary
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-15:00	Parallel Sessions 1
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-17:00	Parallel Sessions 2
18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception

September 11, 2014

9:00-10:30	Parallel Sessions 3
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	Parallel Sessions 4
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	Parallel Sessions 5
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:30	Parallel Sessions 6

September 12, 2014

9:00-10:30	Parallel Sessions 7
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	Parallel Sessions 8 / Summary Sessions

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-15:30 Summary Sessions
15:30-16:00 Coffee Break
16:00-17:30 Closing Plenary
18:30-20:30 Fellowship Night

Recommended Meeting Venue

The department plans to hold APriGF and yIGF at the UP Cebu - Lahug campus. Facilities are available and in place for the different sessions mentioned in the meeting space requirements.

For the Main Hall, there is the Cebu Cultural Center which is co-owned by the University of the Philippines and Cebu Provincial Government. It can accommodate up to a maximum of 1500 persons.

An alternative venue is the UP Cebu - SRP campus which can also provide for the meeting space requirements.



Figure 1. Cebu Cultural Center shall be the Main Hall for APriGF 2014. Photo taken from: <http://www.facebook.com/CebuCulturalCenter>

Accommodations

The meeting venue of the APriGF, UP Cebu - Lahug campus, is near the prominent technology and business districts of Cebu. Thus, delegates may find their preferred accommodation near or just less than five (5) kilometers from the meeting venue. Closest to the UP Cebu - Lahug campus is the Harolds Hotel, Golden Peak Hotel, and West Gorordo Hotel.

A few kilometers off are the Parklane Hotel, Marco Polo Hotel, Waterfront Hotel, and Best Western Lex. Other hotels are the Regal Business Hotel, Hotel Elizabeth, Golden Prince Hotel, Maxwell Hotel.

Hotel rates for a standard single room can go as low as US\$23.

Labor Capacity and Contact Info of key personnel of the local host

The responsibilities expected from the local host are within the capability of the DCS-UP Cebu personnel, its students and prospect volunteers from other universities and the startup community, and the augmentation staff that will be tapped from the college upon due request.

Prof. Kurt Junshean Espinosa, chairperson of DCS-UP Cebu, shall be the point person in managing the personnel needed for the APriGF. His e-mail is kpespinosa@up.edu.ph.

Financial and Sponsorship (Forecast and budget)

Communication	US\$ 480.00
Meals	6,000.00
Supplies and Materials	1,200.00
Miscellaneous	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL:	US\$ 8,180.00

Reference:

[1] Philippines - Mobile Communications, Forecasts and Broadcasting Market URL: <http://www.budde.com.au/Research/Philippines-Mobile-Communications-Forecasts-and-Broadcasting-Market.html#sthash.tP5e9Hei.dpuf>, Accessed: 12 August 2013.