

## **ASIA OSS Ecosystem Critical for Sustainable Development**

System promotes collaboration among governments, businesses and community in Asian Countries

**Kuala Lumpur, 7 March 2006** – An Asia Open Source Software Ecosystem is critical for sustainable development in the region, as open source plays an important role in capacity building of a nation.

MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia's premier R&D organisation, firmly believes that open source is an enabler for local R&D programmes.

“Because of its principles of the right to use, study and modify, open source can become a tool for technology development and advancement. This will also encourage the creation of local software industry and entrepreneurship,” said its Acting President and CEO, Raja Noor Ainin Raja Zainal Abidin.

MIMOS co-organises the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Open Source Software Symposium with the Centre of International Cooperation for Computerisation (CICC) Japan, aiming to promote collaboration among governments, businesses and communities of Asian countries in open source software development.

The symposium with the theme, “Towards an Asia Open Source Ecosystem,” was officiated today and has attracted about 400 local and foreign participants from Asia and Europe.

She said all Asian countries share the common interests in the efforts of reducing digital divide, the need for localisation of softwares while maintaining sovereignty and security and building the local economy.

“An open source ecosystem, would ensure that open source software flourish to deliver its benefits for the Asian community. A balanced and stable Open Source Ecosystem requires concerted effort and commitment from each sector.

“The community would stimulate initial demand and create products. The government, on the other hand have to stimulate demand and create an enabling environment for open source software to thrive. The education institutes would produce graduates with OSS capacity. The businesses will create demand and technical expertise in the field, which can address both general or niche demand,” she elaborated.

The ecosystem would be further enhanced with a concerted effort to conduct open source-related R&D in technical areas such as application development and non-technical areas, such as legal issues and commercialisation strategies. This would create friendly environment for local businesses and to foster the supply of OSS products and services, she added.

The symposium features many foreign and local speakers representing the government, industry and the community, discussing topics related to the Symposium's theme.

This 3-day event also supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU).