OSM Kerala and Mapathon Kerala mediation request.

Darter Manoj <dartermanoj@gmail.com>  
To: Director ICFOSS <director@icfoss.in>  
Cc: Naveen Francis <naveenpf@gmail.com>, Director <director.ksitm@kerala.gov.in>, secretary IT <osdcmo@kerala.gov.in>, Kevin Muzirian <muzirian@gmail.com>, Jaisen Nedumpala OSM <jaisuvyas@gmail.com>, Ark Arjun <arkarjun@gmail.com>, Sajjad K M <sajjadkm@gmail.com>, N Jayaraj <jayaraj.ksitm@kerala.gov.in>, secy.itd@kerala.gov.in

27 August 2020 at 13:22

Gmail - OSM Kerala and Mapathon Kerala mediation request.

Naveen Francis <naveenpf@gmail.com>
On Wed, 26 Aug 2020, 3:07 pm Director ICFOSS, <director@icfoss.in> wrote:

Dear Naveen,

We really appreciate the effort you and community members have put in during the last two floods and in general in extending the mapping efforts in Kerala. Kindly be a little more specific as to why a mediation is needed when something can be resolved very easily.

You want the Map data sets which have been collected as part of map my office and other such community efforts to be catalogued and onboarded to open data portal. In this regard Director IT Mission Madam has to take a call and instruct KSDI to provide KML file datasets to the open data team.

Madam requesting your intervention in this matter and directions may be given to the KSDI team.

Regards
Sabarish

On Tue, Aug 25, 2020 at 12:50 PM Naveen Francis <naveenpf@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Madam and Sir,

We have been contributing to 10 years +. Always wanted to have a free map of Kerala which can be used for all analytical purposes. Post Kerala floods, we as a community had taken a lot of efforts to improve data in Kerala. We have worked with HOTOSM to help during 2018 floods. We have requested all the volunteers across the world to pitch in for the help. Companies like Microsoft, Grab have helped in mapping. Digitalglobe has helped during floods with satellite imagery. We have requested Facebook to help map the priority areas with MapwithAI. They too have helped. <1

During floods, as a volunteer of Kerala Rescue, I had requested taluk data from Kerala Govt. Data was never given for Kerala Rescue Portal from KSDI/KSITM. There was a lot of disappointment. And AFIK none of the geospatial data which was created till that date by govt was not used.

OSM was in use in various ways during the floods. For details <2

Post flood days till date, the community talked to the government and had done few things. For details <3
1. Proposal to share geospatial data so that Kerala can be mapped fastly. (In open data government license)
2. Start a data portal. (https://kerala.data.gov.in/)
3. In person meeting with ICFOSS Director to discuss data release - September 2018.
5. Pre-consultation for Mapathon Kerala in March 2019.

Instead of releasing the data, the government had intended to contribute to OSM. Mapathon Kerala was launched in October 2019. We as a community have helped and pitched in whenever possible. From that onwards, there has been a long standoff between Mapathon Kerala implementing agency (KSDI/KSITM) and OSM Kerala community. There have been lots of issues.
1. Issues on communication front. - No project plan sharing, No community buy-in.
2. Issues on following OSM guidelines.
3. Issues on quality of data added to OSM. - Requested by OSM Kerala volunteers. Assessed by german mapper. <4

The way in which Mapathon Kerala is progressing is really disturbing. Many of the long-time volunteers have serious concerns.
In order to resolve the issues, it will be good to have a third-party mediation. Can we request ICFOSS director and two members of FOSS Kerala community (Praveen, Anivar, Bobinson, Kavya) to help in mediation?

Community projects should be done taking the community in trust and confidence. Otherwise, I am worried that we may lose a lot of long-time volunteers. (including me)

Thanks
naveenpf

<1> https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Kerala_Community_Flood_Response_Mapping
<3> https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Kerala_State_IT_Mission#Timeline
<4> https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Kerala_State_IT_Mission#Common_Mistakes

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SABARISH. K
Director

International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS),
Swatantra, Ground Floor, South Pavilion, Sports Hub, Karyavattom,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695581
Tele: 91 471-270-0014 (Mob: 9447811556)
Web: http://icfoss.in