

【Interview】Drupal Association’s officer describes Drupal community’s up to now and hereafter

Drupal association, which is established for supporting Drupal community, is extensively and energetically active in from promotional activities to providing fund and know-how to the community. This time, we interviewed exclusively Ms. Lizz Trudeau, who is in charge of public relations of Drupal Association on Drupal community’s updates. Also, we heard about Drupal Association’s thoughts/expectations to the Japanese community

We thank and have a high expectations for Drupal community in Japan

—First, tell us about Drupal Association. For what goals and what kind of activities do you do?

Lizz : Drupal Association is an incorporated non-profit organization to support community for building Drupal software. Our mission is to create ideal type of web by using Drupal. More specifically, we are trying to unite global OSS community as one and coordinate information exchange and promotional activities.

Our main activities include operating the events such as the one called “DrupalCon” and our official website “Drupal.org”, and providing financial support for community activities. We also run special programs to increase the recognition of Drupal and to raise funds.

—How is Drupal community now. We know it gains steam in the U.S. and Europe, but how are the communities in other regions?

Lizz : Recently, Drupal events are increasing in South Africa and around Mexico City. Most notably and unique is the one in latter, it grows differently from other places. Two years ago, Drupal engineers in Mexico City held the event together with PHP community which is relatively bigger community. Also, they ran massive camp in Guadalajara. Many people joined the event to learn not only Drupal 8, but also Symfony2. Through those events, I feel that people are challenging to learn other beneficial technologies beyond Drupal.

—What is the reason that Drupal is charged up in South Africa and Mexico City?

Lizz : We have to ask local organizers for detail, but I feel “the door” is opened by holding events and it creates the connections in the city or in the country. By this connection, when the company wants to use Drupal, they can easily find developers. After all, sitting across a table and discussing directly is very important.

—**Which area is charged up from now?**

Lizz : For example, the community held their first Drupal camp in Siberia. The Icelandic community will hold a camp soon titled “Drupal Camp Northern Lights” in Iceland. Another first was a camp this year in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

—**How is Japan? Drupal camp will be hold in Tokyo next year.**

Lizz : Of course I know! (haha) It is the first camp in Tokyo. The other day, Driss spoke in Tokyo (at “Drupal Summit Tokyo 2016” on October 21st, 2016. [For more detail, click here](#)) . In India, Drupal community have more incentive and grow rapidly after Driss’s visit. Same thing may happen in Japan.

We have several Drupal Association member in Japan. We are grateful that they provide support to us. Drupal Association exists for connecting Japanese people and global community. Please ask for help when you need an advice. We also thank 73 contributors for translation on Drupal. Translation is very important for Drupal to be adopted in different countries. Thanks to them, we can provide multilingual Drupal8, and the opportunity for many people to try Drupal.

Adopting open source technology raise “the culture of contribution” in companies

—**Following the story of engineers heat, please tell us about how end users are using Drupal. In this Sakura Knowledge (our owned media), we have been introducing many case studies in overseas and in Japan, but can you share the newest cases?**

Lizz : We do not know all end users, but we always think it is important for us to have communication with and understand them. All Drupal development companies – we call them “Drupal shops” – may not open all of their end users, so it is difficult.

In such circumstances, a non-profit organization Habitat for Humanity released the

site built with Drupal8 and its story just a few days ago. White House, Harvard University, Princess Cruise, Johnson and Johnson are just few other examples. Johnson and Johnson became a sponsor for DrupalCon held at Dublin. We are grateful that the end user, not the Drupal shops, directly sponsored us. Other than that are Government of Australia, Gatwick Airport at London, Grammy, and so on. By the way, I love the case of MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York). I love New York and riding the subway. I lived there for several years.

We are introducing these cases on our website, so please visit the site:

<https://www.drupal.org/case-studies>

<https://www.drupal.com/>

—Can you provide us some advantages that companies adopt open source technologies such as Drupal?

Lizz : Companies that are actively adopting open source technologies can be positioned closer to success. Also, those companies raise “the culture of contribution” among employees. Spirit of contribution or collaboration is very positive. Those companies place a greater emphasis on sharing than competing. Of course there are some healthy competition, but they think sharing of code, idea, and passion will create quicker innovation. Contributing to the development of open source technology also leads to attracting more talented people.

—What can we do to contribute to open source technology such as Drupal?

Lizz : Some companies hire the employee to contribute Drupal by supporting core development. Blackmesh, ACQUIA, and Chapter3 are just a few examples. Also, we have many companies called “supporting partners”. They are raising fund for Drupal.org engineer team. They are concretize Drupal spirit by doing it.

—Finally, please tell us what Drupal Association is aiming for future.

Lizz : We are concentrating on building the sustainable organization until the mid-2017. With that, we are also putting an emphasis on strengthening promotional activities to diffuse Drupal more. Of course we join the DrupalCon hold at Baltimore in April!