

# Japanese Native-Language Project Now and Beyond

by

中田真秀 (NAKATA, Maho)  
中本崇志 (NAKAMOTO, Takashi)  
樋口貴章 (HIGUCHI, Takaaki)

[maho@openoffice.org](mailto:maho@openoffice.org)  
[bluedwarf@openoffice.org](mailto:bluedwarf@openoffice.org)  
[thiguchi@openoffice.org](mailto:thiguchi@openoffice.org)

- About the speakers
- Introduction
- Communication tools (Mailing list, BBS)
- 9 sub projects
- Conclusion
- Collaborators
- Acknowledgments

- 中田真秀 (NAKATA, Maho)
  - Japanese Native Language Project Owner
  - FreeBSD ports committer
  - Kyoto University (will be Ph.D in 24<sup>th</sup> March)
- 中本崇志 (NAKAMOTO, Takashi)
  - Japanese Native Language Project Developer
  - Shibuya Makuhari Senior High School
- 樋口貴章 (HIGUCHI, Takaaki)
  - SUN Microsystems K.K.
  - Secretary general Japan Linux Association
  - Free Standards Group
  - Open Internationalization WG and Open Printing WG

- Activities of Japanese Native Language Project
- The First Asian Native Language project  
<http://ja.openoffice.org/>
- The biggest among N-L projects (188 members!)
- How to get involved  
Attractive to **users**, not only **developers**
- Take the initiative for non-Latin projects  
Feedback to improve SourceCast  
Encourage other N-Ls to come out

- **Mailing list (E-mail Aliases)**

- openoffice@FreeML.com

**2157** subscribers, 7 mail a day on average

- discuss, translate, doc@ja.openoffice.org, etc...  
about 200-300 subscribers

- **Web-based BBS (Bulletin Board Service)**

- Articles can be submitted as anonymous
- Hosted by a local Internet provider (Inetd Corp.)  
<http://oooug.jp/cgi-bin/bbs/users/index.html>

- **E-mail archive system**

- Problem: no Japanese available on OO.o e-mail archive system
- A local archive server is hosted by LUG(Linux User Group of Kyushu)  
<http://search.luky.org/oo/>

# 9 sub projects

- Marketing - user-deployments in Japan
- Documentations
- Localized Q and A database
- Supports
- Translations
- Templates / cliparts
- Global – Introduction of Japanese OO.o community
- Developments
- Web design

- **Banner campaign**

- Let it Grow!



- **Sessions in OpenOffice.org Conference**

- Linux Conference 2002 (Tokyo)
- KANSAI OPNESOURCE+FREEWARE 2002 (Osaka)

- **Press Announce**

- **Weekly News Letter**

- Editor: 可知豊 (KACHI, Yutaka)

- **Publications**

- 可知豊 (KACHI, Yutaka) – **Book (ISBN 4-88648-665-7)**
- 中田真秀 (NAKATA, Maho) – **2 articles for magazine**
- Over 10 books have been published in Japan
- Several issues of computer magazines with CDs OOo included

- Accumulate know-hows from ML and BBS
- Write documents in Japanese
  - Introduction of OpenOffice.org for novice users
  - How to install
  - Tutorials
  - Tips
- Main target is *casual users*
- SourceForge.jp; main workspace
  - <http://openoffice-docj.sourceforge.jp/>
  - Uploading draft documentations
  - Casual user can participate quite easily
  - After peer-review and check html syntax, released on [ja.OpenOffice.org](http://ja.OpenOffice.org)!

- Accumulate FAQs from ML and BBS
- Providing Japanese search engine capability (work in progress)

## Supporting project

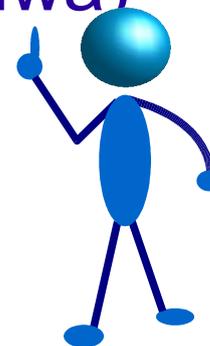
- Follow up questions at ML, BBS from novice, casual users
- Helping the migration from MS-Office to OpenOffice.org, or encourage them
- Accumulate Know-Hows : ML and BBS are important knowledge database
- It is important to have close communications among Documentation, Translation, Q and A and Supporting projects

# Translation Project

- Translate documents located at OpenOffice.org into Japanese
- FAQs, Tips and other documents...

## Template/Clipart Project

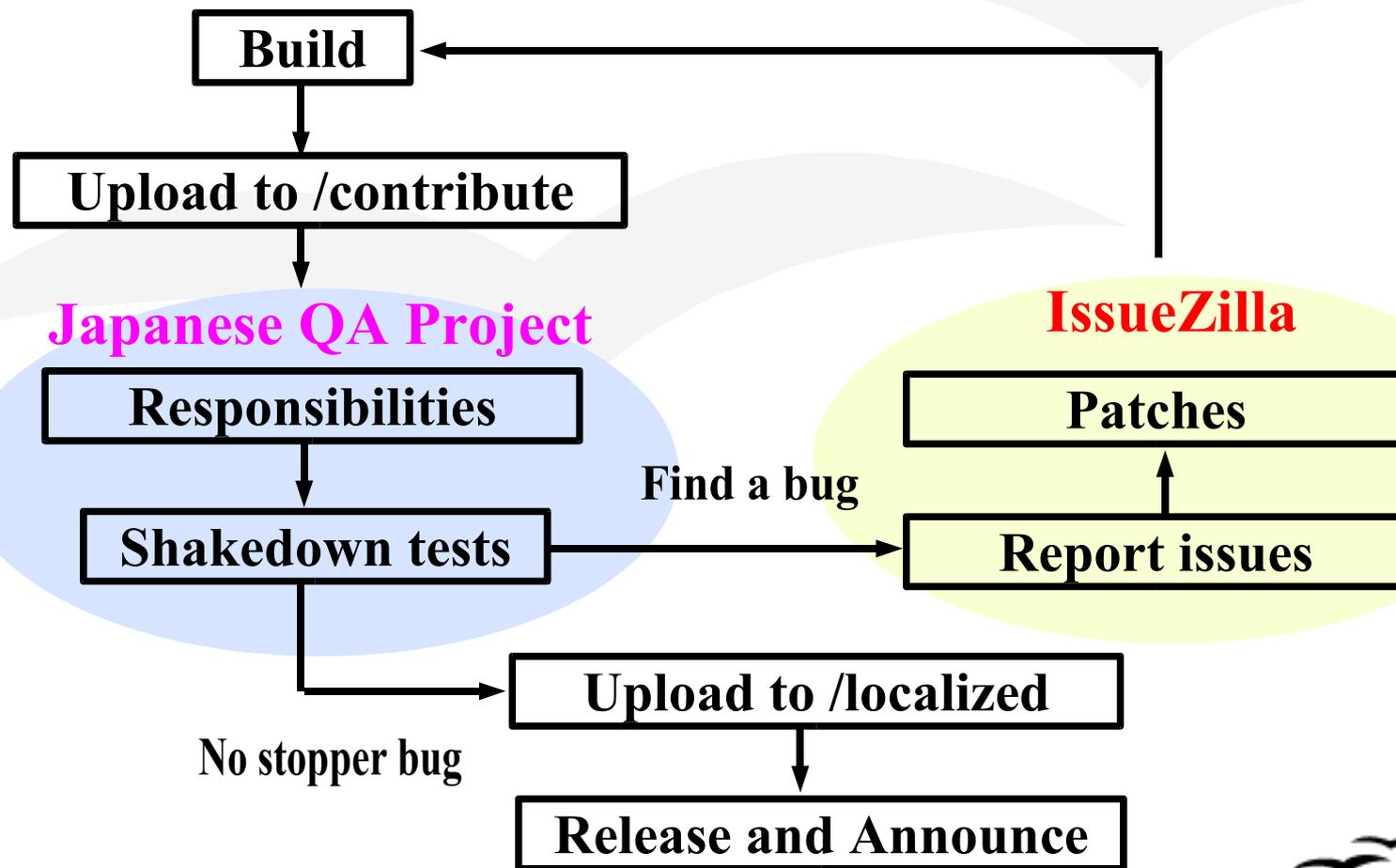
- Templates/Clipart for Writer/Impress/Draw...
- Upload to BBS (template/clipart BBS) for peer-review
- Finally, available at [ja.openoffice.org](http://ja.openoffice.org)
- Templates for Label forms have been developed by Mr. Kamataki(A-one Hisago and Sanwa)



- Many people are interested in Japanese language, cultures and communities, we hope!
- Introductions in English
- Setup guide for input and output Japanese
- Under construction
  - Work space <http://openoffice-docj.sourceforge.jp/doc/global/>
  - In the future <http://ja.openoffice.org/global/>

# QA(Quality Assurance) Project

- For OpenOffice.org Japanese versions
  - Participation in QA team (<http://qa.openoffice.org/>)
  - Translate each QA project page to involve many Japanese testers
  - Wait for release 1.0.2 and 1.1Beta, and build localized binary

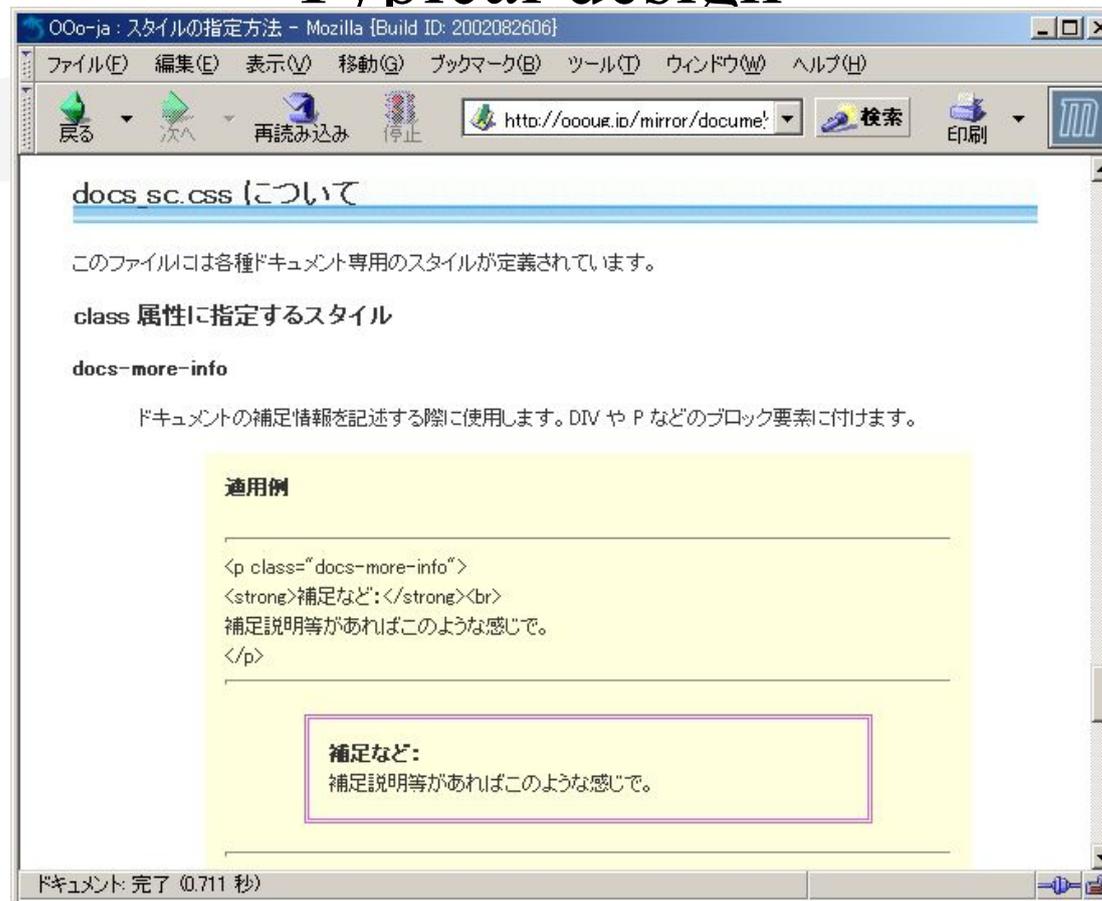


- **Japanese Configuration Program (JCP)**
  - Providing the additional default Japanese capabilities to general release
    - Font settings
    - Normal template settings
    - Cool templates and cliparts!
  - GPL
  - We assume these are common problems for CJK.
  - <http://openoffice-docj.sourceforge.jp/document/develop/jcp/index.html>
- **Discuss Japanese specific problems**
  - forbidden characters, CJK wordwrapping problems  
-> resolved in OpenOffice.org 644m4
- **Building localized binaries**
  - 643C for Linux/Windows, 1.0.x for FreeBSD
- **Porting (FreeBSD)**
  - Localization

# Web Design Project (1)

- Appearance of top page and each page is *important*
- Management for HTML templates, page style, CSS
- Coding rules for HTML documents

## Typical design



# Web Design Project (2)

## • Problems :

- ◆ Most casual users will turn back soon since they prefer Japanese to English
- ◆ **Only 30%** of entire area is available in Japanese with typical browser
  - Navigation of left side in English is **VERY** notorious (too many claims...)
  - No sufficient communication in limited area
- ◆ We prepare mirror site involuntarily <http://oooug.jp/mirror/>

Not needed  
for *all* users!

The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window displaying the OpenOffice.org website in Japanese. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://ja.openoffice.org/>. The website features a navigation menu on the left side with links such as Home, About Us, News, Downloads, Application, Source, Developer, Snapshot, My Start Page, My Issues, Logout, Projects, Mailing Lists, Bugs and Issues, File an Issue, Find an Issue, To-Dos, Documentation, and User Help. The main content area includes a project summary for the Japanese Native-Language Project, with details like Category (native-lang), License (LGPL/SSSL), and Owner (maho). A message from the owner states: "Japanese Language Project. Provides many useful informations espec Japanese." Below this, there is a section for "Project Japan" with a "Let it Grow!" logo and text about the first page and latest version news. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "ドキュメント:完了 (2.387 秒)".

Not needed  
for *all* users!

# Web Design Project (3)

## • Solution A : Localizing left navigations/project information

- Pros**
- ◆ Design is *not* drastically changed
  - ◆ Project information is not needed for casual users (!developer)

- Cons**
- ◆ Even if navigations are translated, on click to jump to English pages
  - ◆ Should jump to localized pages? Flexibility is needed

Localize

Bottom

The screenshot shows a Mozilla browser window displaying the OpenOffice.org website in Japanese. The address bar shows 'http://ja.openoffice.org/'. The page content includes a navigation menu on the left, project information in the center, and a footer with the OpenOffice.org logo and 'Conference' text. The navigation menu is highlighted with a rounded rectangle, and the project information section is also highlighted with a rounded rectangle. Arrows point from the text 'Localize' to the navigation menu and from 'Bottom' to the project information section.

# Web Design Project (4)

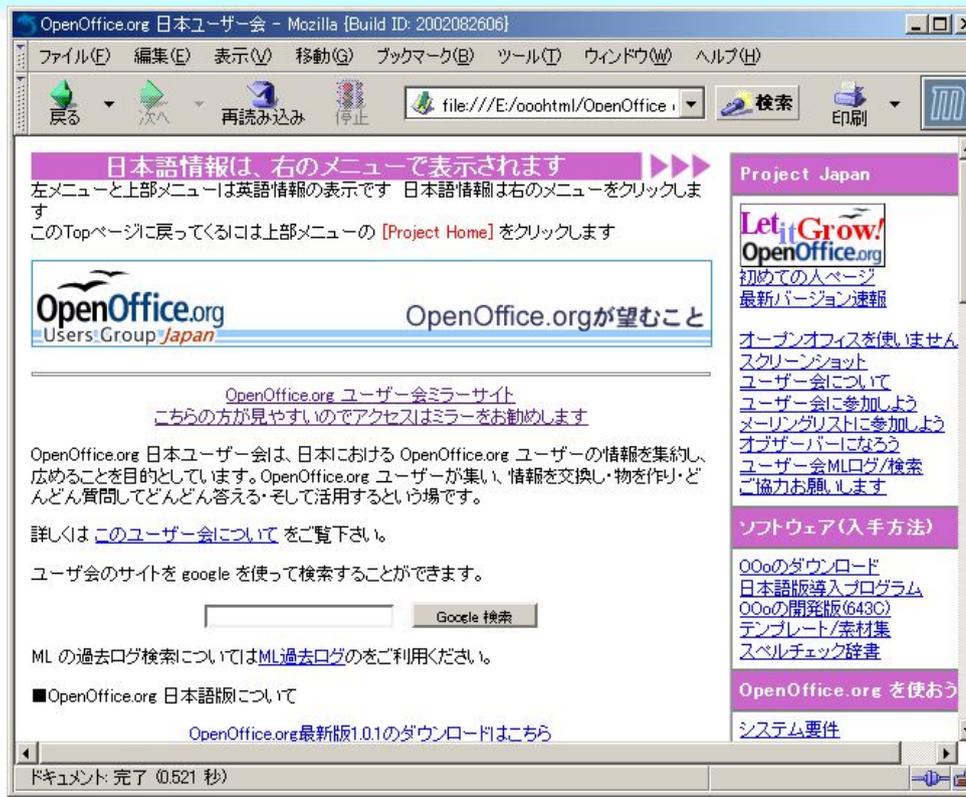
## • Solution B : Removing all general navigation

### Pros

- ◆ Improves usability and efficiency of communication
- ◆ Easy to find informations for casual users

### Cons

- ◆ No way to return to OpenOffice.org pages
- ◆ Does not match other page design in OpenOffice.org
- ◆ Has no hyperlinks to another category (e.g. Download page)
- ◆ Can't indicate location of N-L project's pages in OpenOffice.org



# Web Design Project (5)

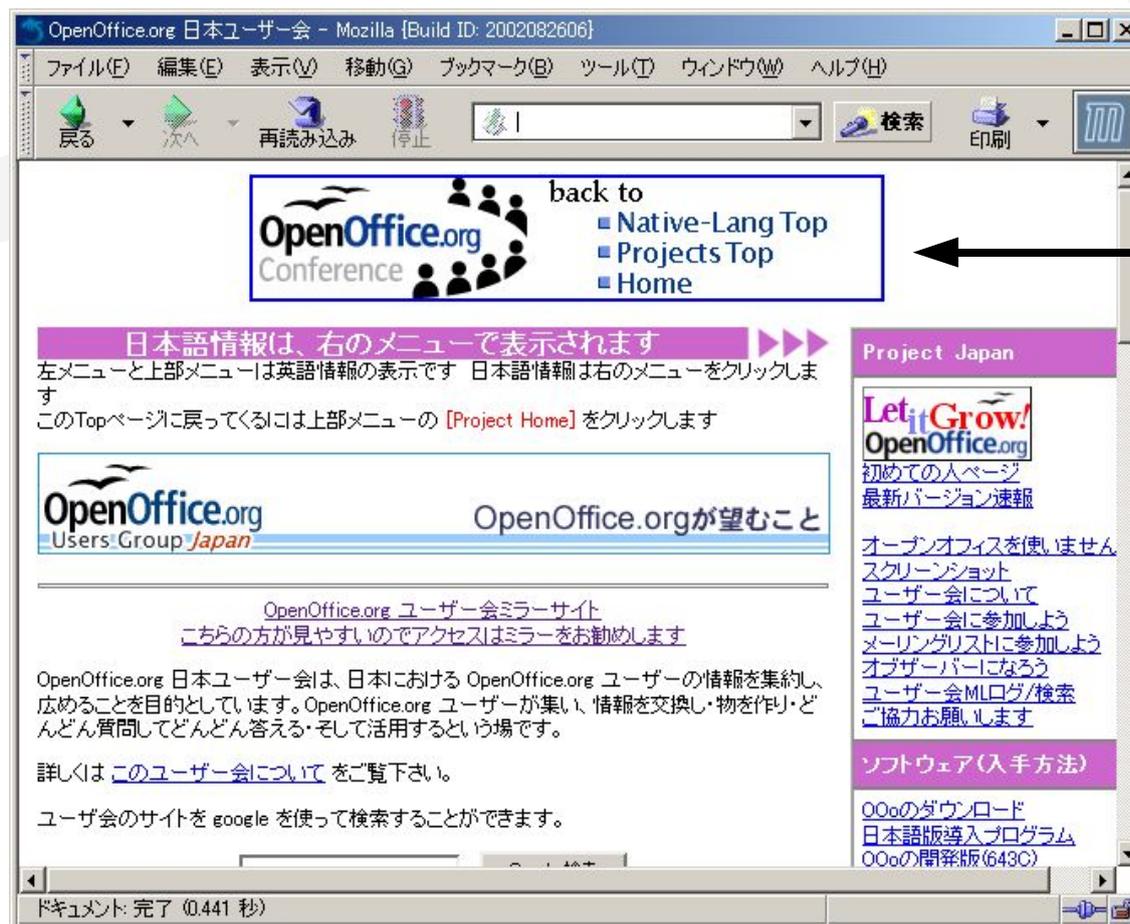
## • Solution C : Using small navigation bar

### Pros

- ◆ Improves usability and efficiency of communication
- ◆ Easy to find informations for casual users
- ◆ Indicates location of N-L project page in OpenOffice.org

### Cons

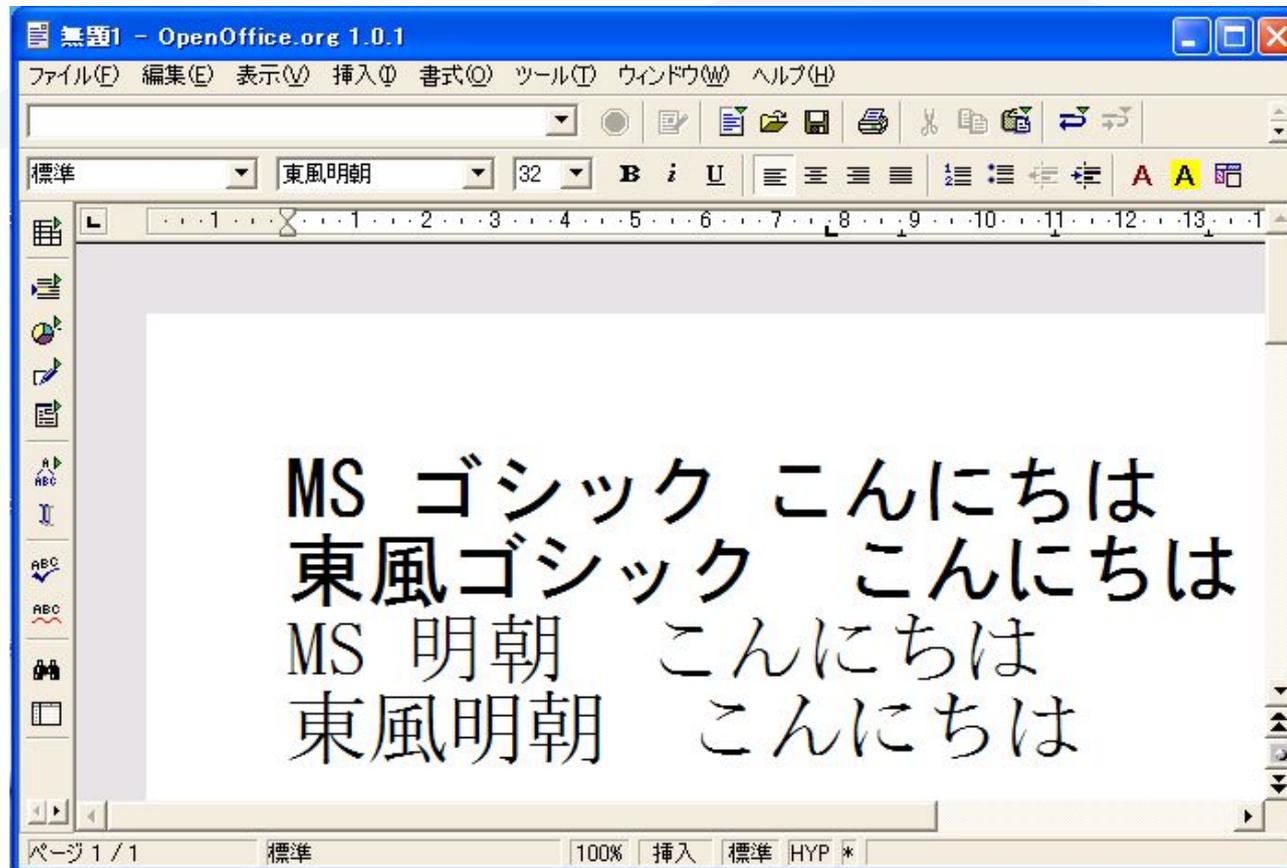
- ◆ Has no direct hyperlinks to another category



Small navigation bar

# Asian Font Problem (1)

- There are few free outline fonts available for Japanese
- Font family: Kochi (Mincho and Gothic)
  - The sole free TrueType font family
  - Quality is not good enough for publishing
- Windows-bundled fonts
  - Not free
  - High quality



# Asian Font Problem (2)

- Available fonts are platform dependent
  - Page layout will be changed if fonts are substituted
    - Using Latin font have exactly same problem
  - Typesetting with virtual fonts will solve this problem
- Typesetting with PostScript font is better solution
  - Typesetting with AFM(Adobe Font Metrics)
  - Font metrics are freely available (no licensing problems)
  - Virtual font scheme works well
  - Can do Desktop publishing!
  - **Never** change layout
- Other Asian projects might have same problems, too.
  - Chinese, Korean, Indian (Hindi, Tamil, ...) and Thai
  - Licensing problems (Too expensive)
  - **Urgent need for standard fonts for every language**

# Localization of IssueZilla

- **Difficulty** with reporting Japanese specific issues in English
  - Issues are reported and discussed over the ML and BBS.
- Every N-L project should have a localized IssueZilla
  - Discussion over the localized tools
- Critical issues should be translated
  - The number of IZ tickets will reduce
- Setting up a bug tracking system **locally**
  - 影舞 (Kagemai); good solution for Japanese  
<http://oooug.jp/issues/html/guest.cgi>
  - Other N-L projects might have similar problems

- Introduction of our activity
  - Active 9 projects
- Language and culture barriers in OO.o web site:
  - Multi-byte encoding
  - Friendly web design for non-latin users (no English)
  - L10n'ed mailing list
  - Non availability of standard fonts
  - Local sites:
    - Brazilian: <http://www.openoffice.org.br/>
    - Japan: <http://oooug.jp/> also India, Thai sites...
- Encourage other N-L projects!
  - It is necessary to have flexibilities on OpenOffice.org site to integrate N-L project informations
  - Our effort/know-hows will help other N-L's (especially Asian projects)
  - Make a global community successfully !

- <http://ja.openoffice.org>
  - Official site but unfriendly for Japanese casual users
- <http://oooug.jp>
  - Many freedoms (CGI and sendmail..etc), act as mirror site
  - Work space for subprojects
  - Bug Tracking Systems, BBS
  - E-mail accounts ( [xyz@oooug.jp](mailto:xyz@oooug.jp) ) available for contributors
- <http://sourceforge.jp/projects/openoffice-docj>
  - Working space for subprojects
  - Distribute Japanese Configuration Program (JCP)
  - Distribute unofficial (not QA'ed/development version) binaries

- 荒牧万作 Support project
- あわしろいくや <http://oooug.jp>, marketing project
- 可知豊 Marketing project
- 加藤要介 Translation project
- 小浦寛裕 Web design project
- 近藤昌貴 QA project
- 七海健太郎 Web design project
- ぽち@ Editor of our official guidebook (in printing)
- 巳鳴愁 Documentation project

- Dr. Louis Suárez-Potts
- BharateeyaOO.o Team
  - Bhupesh Koli      bhupesh@ncb.ernet.in
  - Shikha G Pillai      shikha@ncb.ernet.in
  - Velmani N      velmani@ncb.ernet.in
- Sun Microsystems K.K.
- National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)
- Members of OpenOffice.org Users group Japan