

Welcome to the Moodle community

The place to get support, ask and answer questions and contribute to the open source learning platform, Moodle LMS.

Get involved →



46,618,644+
Courses



168,499+
Sites



242+
Countries

Community-driven Moodle LMS Development:

The Role and Operation of an R&D Committee (PAG)

The Moodle Community in 2024: From MUA to Global PAG and national PAG/Moot Networks

Hiroyuki Harada, Marie Achour, Don Hinkelman

Question 1: **Where should MAJ send its Global R&D funds?**

Question 2: **How should MAJ remake R&D for 2024?**

Old to New Moodle.org

Evolution of the Moodle Community—globally and in Japan:

- 2002: Forums: volunteer user-to-user exchange, including Japanese language forums
- 2002: Translations: volunteer translators including Japanese language (Mistek)
- 2004: Fund-raising by Harashima/Hinkelman—gifting buttons “I support Moodle” to donors
- 2008: Moodle Association of Japan (first not-for-profit organization for Moodle)
- 2008: MAJ Constitution: 90% post-conference budget for R&D (50% global, 40% domestic)
- 2009: Annual Domestic R&D grants, Best Innovation Awards, Best Open Courseware
- 2010: MAJ protects Martin’s trademark “moodle.jp”, MAJ uses Moodle trademark
- 2014: Moodle Users Association opens: Indiv-Bronze-Silver-Gold Membership
- 2023: Moodle Users Association closes: Merging into Moodle.org
- 2023: Moodle.org renewal: Product Advisory Group
- 2024: Moodle.org renewal: Community funding plan

Stages of New Moodle R&D

Stage 1: 2023

Product Advisory Group

Moodle.org community LMS PAG

Meets monthly

To sort priorities in the Tracker and proposals by various groups to improve Moodle

Facilitated by Brett Dalton

This group is volunteers who know and love Moodle, discussing in English with no fee to pay.



Stage 2: 2024

Community Funding

Moodle.org community funding group

Takes priorities by the global PAG and creates a funding campaign for member organizations and individuals to allocate their contributions.

Facilitated by Marie Achour

These funding campaigns may join with consortiums and national associations to collaborate on both urgent and long range needs.

Emergent Models of Moodle R&D

Consortium Model

Question Bank and Quiz Module Rebuilding
for Moodle 4.x

Added new features, new structure, new UI
to the question bank/quiz module for 4.0.
Implemented in stages for Moodle 4.0-4.4

Facilitated by Luca, Thomas, Tim Hunt

This group is composed of two universities'
representatives with major funding and
trusted programmers of HQ such as Catalyst.

National Association Model

Moodle Academic Cooperation (MAC)
Facilitated by Thomas Neidemeier and team

Six universities in Vienna and Graz, Austria
combined their IT development to fund plugin
development of common needs. Eleven custom
plugins are maintained year to year, and nearly ten
other programming projects have been nominated
and accepted for Moodle LMS core.

National associations in Germany, Japan, Finland
and elsewhere could follow this model.

Past MAJ Moodle R&D

(MAJ Constitution: 90% of post-conference budget)

Global R&D: 50%

2008-2012: HQ Donation

Calculated 50% of budget after conference expenses paid. Sent 100-200万 directly to Moodle HQ, in addition to paying travel and accommodation expenses of Moodle HQ representative at the MoodleMoot Japan.

2013-2022: MUA Donation

Martin asked MAJ to be founding member of Moodle Users Association. Sent 10,000+AUD per year as Gold Member. MUA closes in 2022-23.

Domestic R&D: 40%

- 1. R&D Grants:** open application by members for programming grants for new plugins up to 200,000 yen
- 2. Training Workshops:** Sent Harashima sensei to Hokkaido Moodle Summer Workshop 3 or 4 times.
- 3. Best Open Courseware/Best Innovation Website:** Supported Showcase and MoodleNet servers with grants

MAJ Moodle R&D History Report

(Rough estimates of data)

Global R&D History

2008: no funds sent
2009: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2010: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2011: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2012: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2013: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2014: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2015: ~1,500,000 yen to HQ
2016: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2017: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2018: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2019: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2020: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2021: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2022: 10,000 AUD to MUA
2023: no funds sent

Domestic R&D History Estimates

2008: no funds spent
2009: 600~1,000,000 yen spent on 2-6 grants
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2017: 600~1,000,000 yen spent on 2-6 grants
2018: 600~1,000,000 yen spent on 2-6 grants
2019: exact data--814,000 yen spent on 5 grants
2020: 600~1,000,000 yen spent on 2-6 grants
2021: 600~1,000,000 yen spent on 2-6 grants
2022: no domestic grants
2023: no domestic grants

2019 MAJ Domestic R&D Report

(Sample of one year's results found on MAJ R&D webpage, other years are not complete)

Five grants administered for programming costs: **814,000 yen Total**

1. Internship Database Module: Ponlawat Weerapanpisit 65,000 yen

Internships, study abroad trips, domestic work/study programs, and teaching practice periods all require a journal be written for students to receive university credit. Four new fields were programmed and contributed to github.

2. Moodle MobileAppに対応した出欠Pluginの開発, Attendance Plugin for Moodle MobileApp

三浦 謙一. Kenichi Miura 200,000 yen

現在、MoodleにはMoodle MobileApp（スマホアプリ）がリリースされているが、このMoodle MobileAppでも動作するPluginを開発するには、非常に難しい技術が必要である。

3. Forum Module Improvements: Matt Cotter 200,000 yen

The goal of this project is to continue improving the forum module and the forum reporting block.

4. Bulk Course Reset: Adam Jenkins 200,000 yen

Winner of the 2019 Best Innovations Award. Developers: Ponlawat Weerapanpisit, Adam Jenkins

URL https://github.com/ponlawat-w/moodle-tool_bulkreset. This plugin is mainly for institutional Moodle administrators.

A second plugin to allow defaults for course resets to be pre-specified by the admin has also been developed. ↓

https://github.com/ponlawat-w/moodle-tool_resetsettings

5. MAJ Moodle Showcase Proposal: Don Hinkelman 149,000 yen

Showcase Programming blocks and MoodleNet Integration, plus Moodle 3.8 and 3.9 upgrade

Stages of a revived R&D Committee (案)

Stage 1: Form Japan Product Advisory Group

(案)

1. Committee (“PAG”) of institutional members or officers meets to choose priorities
2. Conducted in Japanese in order to increase participation with new members
3. Facilitated by an officer such as Hiroyuki Harada, who is also a university IT staff or engineer
4. This group can be institutional representatives or individual members who want to volunteer.

Stage 2a: Allocate Annual Japan Community Funding

(案)

1. **Global funding:** once a year, the Japan PAG holds a survey of members who select their priorities. The Japan PAG sorts these priorities and adds their own judgement according to admin needs.
2. **Domestic funding:** twice a year, the Japan PAG meets to select Japan needs for Moodle and allocates available funds. This could be like the former R&D grants.


Stages of a revived R&D Committee (案)

Stage 2b: Send undesignated funds to Moodle Pty. Ltd.

(案)

Return to the original system of sending 50% of post-conference membership income to Moodle HQ

1,000,000 - 2,000,000 yen per year



TAX INVOICE
Moodle Association of Japan

Invoice Date
31 Jan 2024

Invoice Number
INV-2565

Reference
Moodle Contribution

ABN
55 116 513 636

Moodle Pty Ltd
PO Box 303,
WEST PERTH WA 6872
AUSTRALIA

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount AUD
Annual Institutional Donation	1.00	10,000.00	GST Free	10,000.00
			Subtotal	10,000.00
			TOTAL AUD	10,000.00

Due Date: 1 Mar 2024
Paying by Bank Deposit/Wire Transfer
IBAN/SWIFT: CTBAAU2S
AUD Account Number: 10397760
Account Name: Moodle Pty Ltd
Branch Number: 066130
Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Branch Address: 1254 Hay Street West Perth WA 6005

Possible Next Steps

Step 1: Contact current institutional members

Step 2: Meet on Zoom with 3-5 institutional members to get to know each other and exchange how you modify Moodle to fit your university.

Step 3: Contact all Moodle-using universities in Japan with survey—what changes do you want in Moodle? Invite them to be MAJ members.

Step 4: Hold a vote in February after AGM, to select global community funding priorities, and send \$10,000 to Perth (or \$20,000 for 2 years).

Possible Next Steps

Step 5: Nominate new R&D Chair

Problem is good candidates have heavy work loads (Prof. Kita)

So limit the tasks to:

- 1) Approving the survey of Moodle-using universities
- 2) Leading a twice a year meeting on line to discuss survey results and recommend allocations to global community funding.
- 3) If limited tasks, Harada will ask SGU IT Committee for permission on 3/7)
- 4) Other officers who wish to be R&D Chair, of course are welcome for nominations

Step 6: Nominate two R&D Assistant Chairs

- 1) Prepare and distribute survey, contact universities
Document R&D activities and distribute results (Don)
- 2) Lead best innovation awards (David)