My Experience as a fellow for APRICOT 2024 - Tenil Prabath Premathilaka

Introduction

I had the privilege to participate in APRICOT 2024 held in Bangkok, an event renowned for its extensive learning and networking opportunities in the field of internet and networking technologies. As an undergraduate student from the University of Vocational Technology, Sri Lanka, and a professional system engineer, my anticipation for this event was twofold: academic enrichment and professional development. I am grateful for the diverse and enriching experience APRICOT 2024 provided, surrounded by peers and experts passionate about technological advancements and their applications.

Learning from the Advanced Virtualization and Hybrid Cloud Strategies Workshop

At APRICOT 2024, I joined a special workshop about using advanced technology for cloud services and learning how to handle multiple computers using one system. I learned a lot about AWS Cloud, which helps you run your computer systems on the internet, and DevOps, which is a way to make software better and faster. I also learned about Proxmox, which is a way to control many virtual computers from one place. This knowledge is very useful for my job and my studies. Learning from experts from NSSC was a great experience and it motivated me to learn new technologies mainly involved with cloud concepts as well as devops related concepts.

Gaining from the Conference Week and Networking

The week was filled with meetings and talks from people working at big companies like Facebook, NSRC, VMware, and internet providers from Japan and Thailand. It was amazing to meet so many people who are experts in their fields. I learned a lot from them and got really inspired. The best part was I had motivation from APNIC members as well as networking experts. Learning about activities from different NOG (Network operation groups) makes me a more volunteer and excited person. The Core Skills workshop on Monday was also great. It taught me important basic skills that I need for my job. I learned a lot that day that will help me do my job better. The reason is as a systems engineer I am mainly working with virtualization technologies as well as open source technologies.

Finally Going to APRICOT 2024 was an amazing experience. It taught me so much, and I met so many interesting people. I would definitely recommend this event to others because you learn a lot and meet many people who can teach you new things. Not only professional everytime they have a funny time too.

Bringing the Experience Home

After coming back to Sri Lanka, I didn't just go back to my normal life. I started working with the Internet Society to organise sessions and teach others about what I learned. I volunteer to help my local community learn about new technologies. I'm also looking into more

open-source technology, which means software that anyone can use or change. I share what I learn with people I met and on LinkedIn.

In addition to this, I've been actively participating in online forums and discussions related to virtualization and cloud technologies. This has allowed me to stay connected with the global tech community and keep learning from others. I've also started a small project to implement some of the cloud strategies I learned at APRICOT (Proxmox platform) within my current job. It's a challenge, but it's exciting to see these technologies in action.

Furthermore, I plan to start a blog to document my journey of applying the knowledge gained from APRICOT 2024 however currently I have shared some of them through my youtube channel by using my local language. This will not only help me reflect on my learnings but also share my experiences with a broader audience who might be interested in these technologies.

This report is a simple summary of my time at APRICOT 2024 and what I've been doing since I got back. I hope it shows how valuable this experience was and encourages others to take part in APNIC events.