

I am truly honored to have participated as a Fellow in the workshop and Conference at APRICOT 2025 in Malaysia. This journey has been a wonderful opportunity to upgrade my technical knowledge, Active learning and connect with the global networking community. The entire experience was not only about technical knowledge but also about building relationships, sharing experiences and contributing to the global internet community.

APNIC Rules and Policies

One of the important pieces of information from APRICOT 2025 was understanding APNIC Rules and Policies. The sessions provided good knowledge of Autonomous System (AS) Management, IP address allocation and the importance of managing internet resources effectively. It was interesting to learn how the policies are designed to ensure the equal distribution of resources while maintaining the security and stability of the Internet.

The discussions on AS Number (ASN) Assignments helped me understand how ASNs are assigned, the process of requesting them and the responsibilities associated with managing them. The importance of maintaining updated records in the APNIC Whois database and following APNIC policies was the best lesson. Additionally,

Advanced BGP Routing and Security

The Advanced BGP Routing and Security sessions were one of the most valuable parts of the workshop. The detailed explanations of BGP Policy Attributes such as Local Preference, MED, and AS Path Prepending provided a solid foundation for optimizing traffic flow and ensuring reliable routing. Understanding the role of the BGP Community in route tagging and traffic engineering was particularly insightful.

One of the critical topics discussed was Route Hijack Prevention. The instructors explained how attackers can hijack IP prefixes and disrupt internet traffic. The implementation of RPKI emerged as the best solution to this problem. Learning how RPKI validates route origins and helps prevent hijacks was an eye-opening experience. The practical examples and real-world case studies reinforced the importance of deploying RPKI across networks.

BGP & RPKI Lab Sessions

The BGP & RPKI Lab Sessions were the highlight of the workshop. These workshop sessions allowed me to configure Route Maps, BGP Communities, and RPKI validation in a simulated network environment. The practical approach made the theoretical concepts much clearer and easier to apply in real network scenarios.

Working through different scenarios, I learned how to filter routes, set local preference values, and implement AS Path Filtering. The lab sessions also show how to configure RPKI validators and enable BGP Origin Validation on routers. These exercises not only enhanced my technical skills but also improved my confidence in applying these concepts in my professional work.

Quiz Session

The Quiz Session at the end of the workshop was both exciting and memorable. Even though I didn't win, the interactive session tested our knowledge and supported the basic concepts we had learned. The quiz format encouraged active participation and made the learning process more engaging. It was a great way to wrap up the workshop with a sense of accomplishment and fellowship among participants.

Soft Skills Sessions

The Soft Skills Sessions were a refreshing addition to the technical sessions. These sessions play up the importance of communication, leadership, and teamwork in the networking industry. The trainers highlighted how effective communication and collaboration can increase project outcomes and help a positive working environment.

Through interactive activities and group discussions, I gained valuable insights into conflict resolution, presentation skills, and building professional relationships. These skills are essential for career growth and for contributing to the community effectively.

Routing Security in Conference

During the conference, one of the standout sessions was the Routing Security Panel. This panel brought together leading experts to discuss the latest challenges and solutions in securing internet routing. The discussions focused on the importance of deploying RPKI, BGP Filtering Policies, and MANRS.

The speaker shared their insights on how collaborative efforts and best practices can improve the security and stability of the global internet. The session emphasized the need for operators to adopt routing security measures and work collectively to mitigate threats such as Route Hijacks and Prefix Leaks. It was inspiring to hear from experts who are driving positive changes in the industry.

Social Dinner and Networking

One of the most memorable moments of APRICOT 2025 was the Social Dinner. The dinner provided a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to connect with industry experts, mentors, and fellow participants. Sharing experiences and ideas over delicious food helped strengthen the bonds within the APRICOT community.

Networking with professionals from different countries gave me a broader perspective on the challenges and innovations in the networking industry. The diverse backgrounds and experiences of the participants made the conversations even more enriching. It was inspiring to meet passionate individuals who are dedicated to building a secure and resilient internet.

Special Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to the APRICOT Fellowship Program team, trainers, and mentors for their constant guidance and support. Special thanks to JOHN, Terry, Aftab Siddique, Mark Duffell, Phil Mawson, Tashi Phuntsho, and the APNIC team for sharing their knowledge and making this experience truly unforgettable. Their dedication and expertise inspired me to continue learning and contributing to the networking community.

Conclusion

Participating in APRICOT 2025 as a fellow has been an unforgettable experience. The technical knowledge, hands-on practice and community engagement have provided me with the skills and confidence to contribute to a more secure and reliable internet. This fellowship has not only upgraded my technical expertise but also increased my perspective on the importance of collaboration and community involvement.

I am excited to apply the knowledge and skills that I have gained in my professional journey and to actively contribute to the global networking community. This experience has ignited a passion for continuous learning and inspired me to support secure and reliable Internet practices.

Thank you to everyone who made this journey possible. I am looking forward to staying connected and making a positive impact on the internet community.

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