

APRICOT 2026 Fellowship Report

Name: Sodana Som

Event: APRICOT 2026 / APNIC 61, Jakarta, Indonesia

Fellowship Awarded By: APRICOT

Program Attended: Master Class Advance BGP Training

I am honored to have been selected as an APRICOT Fellow to attend **APRICOT 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia**. This opportunity allowed me to enhance my technical knowledge, engage with the regional Internet community, and build meaningful professional connections with participants from across the Asia-Pacific region.

During the event, I participated in the **Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Master Class**, which provided both theoretical knowledge and hands-on operational experience.

Through this training, I gained:

- A stronger understanding of how BGP operates in real-world network environments
- Insight into routing relationships between Autonomous Systems (AS)
- Practical experience configuring and troubleshooting BGP using FRRouting (FRR)
- Skills to analyze routing behavior, diagnose session states, and resolve policy-related issues
- Awareness of routing security and best practices for maintaining a stable Internet infrastructure
- Improved my troubleshooting skills by resolving configuration mistakes, especially issues involving loopback interfaces and BGP sessions.

The lab sessions were especially valuable, allowing me to directly apply configurations and troubleshoot scenarios similar to real operational networks. I would also like to sincerely thank my instructors, **Mr. Aftab, Mr. Mark, and Mr. Phill**, for their guidance, patience, and support throughout the Master Class. Their insights, explanations, and encouragement greatly enhanced my learning experience and helped me gain both technical skills and confidence.

In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to **Mr. John** for his support and coordination, which contributed to a smooth and meaningful fellowship experience.

This fellowship significantly improved my:

- **Technical Competence:** Hands-on ability to configure, monitor, and troubleshoot BGP in practical lab environments
- **Operational Understanding:** Knowledge of how network operators manage routing and maintain stability at scale
- **Analytical Skills:** Stronger problem-solving approach when identifying and resolving routing misconfigurations
- **Communication Skills:** Gained confidence through the public speaking workshop, learning how to explain technical problems clearly and present solutions in a way that others can easily understand
- **Professional Confidence:** Greater readiness to apply both technical and communication skills in my daily work and collaborate more effectively with peers

APRICOT 2026 - APNIC 61 provided a unique platform to connect with fellows and professionals from many countries, including Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and others.

These interactions encouraged collaboration, exchange of operational experiences, and a deeper appreciation of the shared responsibility in maintaining the global Internet.

The knowledge and experience gained will directly support my continued work in networking and Internet infrastructure. I plan to:

- Apply BGP operational best practices in my professional environment
- Share knowledge with colleagues and the local technical community
- Continue learning about routing security and Internet governance
- Stay engaged with the APRICOT and Network Operator Group communities

Attending APRICOT 2026 - APNIC 61 as an APRICOT Fellow was an enriching and memorable experience. The combination of technical training, international collaboration, and community engagement has contributed greatly to my professional growth. I sincerely appreciate APRICOT for supporting my participation and development.

Thank you to APRICOT for this valuable opportunity.