

I am very much thankful to APRICOT and APNIC for coming together with the Masterclass, and extending the fellowship award to myself. This has brought validation that the back-end service we do for the Internet community in the Philippines requires constant upskilling as well as networking with other stakeholders.

In the Philippines, I have been active in PhNOG through my organization, [unconnected.org](https://unconnected.org). In fact, in APRICOT 2026, our efforts of bridging the digital divide in rural and remote parts of the country was highlighted as a local community effort through our joint partnership with DOST ASTI, the operator of PhOpenIX.

I was joined by colleagues who are active in the internet governance space, who were also prime movers of various organizations within and outside the Philippines, such as ISOC.

My participation has been very much enriched through new friendships formed while together we actively participated in the Masterclass.

Those 3 days were very informative, and Advanced BGP is a topic that can be taught to various operators in the Philippines to advance peering and advocate for technical solutions to help build resilience of the Philippine internet infrastructure.

The instructors were clear and on-point, and have been very helpful and encouraging. I would say that being awarded by a badge was a highlight given that it made me want to share my knowledge more with the community. Should this be offered locally, I am willing to extend my assistance to help facilitate learning outcomes especially if it will benefit small operators and local players.

A complementary soft skills workshop was well appreciated as it's not always innate to individuals, and leadership in the community requires effort to build for trust to be earned in return. Being technically good goes a long way, but being a contributing member of society goes even further.

To me, APRICOT 2026 went well. As a first-time attendee, having previously supported its organization and conduct in the Philippines, the workshops really were very important learning opportunities.

The attendee demographics also was particularly well spread and I was able to secure potential collaborators for future projects of [unconnected.org](https://unconnected.org) as well as its expansion in Asia Pacific.

Given the diverse backgrounds of APRICOT attendees from the telecommunications industry, network operators, research and development sector, academic and literary science, and others, there is plenty of opportunity to establish potential collaborations and partnerships.

While I had limited time attending the conference, the profiles of attendees were very much mixed as expected. This brings to mind that operations of the Internet relies heavily on collaboration among various stakeholders and we each play our role to ensure that the Internet remains open and accessible to all.

With new colleagues from Asia Pacific, such as from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia and Vietnam, I now have more things to look forward to in terms of collaborative engagements related to internet operations.

This fellowship is a unique opportunity for a first-timer like me, to see how the Internet works beyond borders and how stakeholders come together under a key mission to ensure that the next generation has better circumstances in accessing the Internet.

Because of this, I am more determined to assist PhNOG and [unconnected.org](http://unconnected.org) in reaching out to hyperlocal operators, providing them training on various topics, and acknowledging their role in making the networking relevant to the users of connectivity. After all, the value of the Internet is derived from how the users are able to make it a meaningful tool in their lives.

I will commit to spreading awareness about these kinds of engagements, and continue to advocate for the Internet, just as my colleagues have been very much engaged in fields of technology, policy and development.



*With co-fellows and Sir Achie from PhNOG*



*The Ph-team attended and completed master classes in different courses with Miss Shane from APNIC (credits to the APRICOT)*



*Received the certificate of completion and Badge with the BGP Instructor (credits to the APRICOT)*



*Masterclass Advance BGP (Credits to the APRICOT)*



*With the co-fellows and John*