

Date: 12 February 2026

Training Report

Program: APRICOT 2026 Fellowship

Workshop: Practical Cybersecurity for Internet Operators (05–07 February 2026)

Fellows Skills Workshop: 08 February 2026

Conference & AGM: 09–12 February 2026

Venue: Jakarta, Indonesia

Introduction

APRICOT 2026/APNIC 61 was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 04–12 February 2026. I was honored to participate as an APRICOT Fellow, attending the Masterclass, Fellows Skills Workshop, and the main conference including the AGM. The program provided a comprehensive blend of technical training, operational insight, and community engagement.

Practical Cybersecurity Masterclass (05–07 February 2026)

The “Practical Cybersecurity for Internet Operators” Masterclass focused on strengthening operational security capabilities through practical implementation and best practices.

Key topics included:

- Modern cybersecurity threats, mitigation strategies, and vulnerability management
- Securing network infrastructure using uRPF, RTBH, and RPKI
- Routing and BGP security best practices
- Layer 1–3 security practices, VLAN segmentation, L2 protection mechanisms, and L3 device security

The hands-on labs significantly enhanced my practical understanding of infrastructure protection, incident mitigation, and operational readiness.

Fellows Skills Workshop (08 February 2026)

The Fellows Skills Workshop focused on communication, presentation skills, leadership, and community engagement. The interactive format encouraged peer learning and strengthened essential soft skills required for active participation in technical communities and NOG leadership.

APRICOT Conference & AGM (09–12 February 2026)

During the conference, I attended sessions on network operations, network management, IPv6 deployment, security operations, and NOG development. Highlights included the Network Performance sessions, NOG Reports & Organisers BoF, technical security sessions, and Lightning Talks.

The event also provided valuable opportunities to engage with representatives from **APNIC, APNIC Foundation, NSRC, WITSA, RIPE, ICANN, ISOC**, and other stakeholders. Discussions centered on strengthening KPNOG, pilot initiatives, and regional capacity building. The AGM sessions enhanced my understanding of Internet governance and policy processes.

Relevance and Future Application

The knowledge gained is directly applicable to KPNOG initiatives, particularly in strengthening cybersecurity posture within public, private, and academic institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Exposure to regional NOG models and community leaders provided practical insights into sustainable NOG development and technical capacity building.

I plan to disseminate this knowledge through local technical sessions and collaborative initiatives to support the regional Internet operations ecosystem.

Appreciation

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the APRICOT Fellowship Team for making this valuable experience possible. I am especially honored to represent Pakistan as the only participant selected for the APRICOT 2026 Fellowship from my country.

Special thanks to Fellowship Coordinator Mr. John Rattaray and the Fellowship Support Team for their guidance, professionalism, and continuous support throughout the program.

I am also thankful to my fellow APRICOT Fellows for the collaboration, knowledge sharing, and inspiration. It has truly been an honor to be part of this journey, and I look forward to continuing our engagement in the future.

Thanks,

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