

Fellowship Experience Report - APRICOT 2026 Masterclass & Conference

Jakarta, Indonesia, February 4–12, 2026

Masterclass: Practical Virtualisation with Hybrid Strategies Workshop

I am deeply honored to have received the Fellowship Award from APRICOT to attend the APRICOT 2026 Masterclass and Conference held in Jakarta. This fellowship provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with global experts, network with professionals across the Asia-Pacific region, and gain hands-on exposure to modern infrastructure technologies. The workshop venue, Sheraton Grand Jakarta Gandaria City Hotel, offered an excellent environment conducive to intensive technical learning and collaboration.

Participating in the three-day “Practical Virtualisation with Hybrid Strategies” workshop was a transformative experience both professionally and personally. The sessions were carefully designed to bridge theory and real-world implementation, focusing on how organizations can strategically choose between on-premises, cloud, or hybrid virtualization solutions based on cost, scalability, security, and operational constraints.

The workshop stood out for its practical orientation. Instead of purely conceptual discussions, instructors guided participants through demonstrations and hands-on labs using a virtual training platform. This approach enabled participants to experiment with configurations, troubleshoot issues, and understand operational tradeoffs in a safe environment.

Equally valuable was the diversity of participants. Attendees represented universities, research networks, ISPs, government agencies, and private enterprises from multiple countries. This diversity fostered rich discussions about region-specific challenges such as limited connectivity, regulatory requirements, budget constraints, and disaster recovery needs.

The workshop provided in-depth exposure to modern hypervisor technologies, particularly Proxmox with KVM. Understanding how open-source virtualization stacks compare with proprietary solutions helped clarify cost-effective deployment strategies suitable for developing regions. The sessions emphasized performance tuning, high availability, and operational simplicity.

The distinction between system containers and application containers was explored. Hands-on labs demonstrated how containers enable lightweight, scalable deployment while reducing resource overhead compared to traditional virtual machines. This is particularly relevant for DevOps environments and microservices architectures.

Cloud platforms such as AWS, along with references to other providers, were discussed in the context of hybrid infrastructure. Topics included authentication, access control, IP management, and cost optimization. The instructors emphasized that cloud adoption is not an all-or-nothing decision, hybrid strategies often provide the best balance.

Practical demonstrations of configuration management and infrastructure-as-code tools such as Ansible, Terraform, and Kubernetes illustrated how modern infrastructure operations rely heavily on automation. These tools enable repeatable deployments, reduce human error, and support continuous integration and delivery pipelines.

Backup strategies, disaster recovery planning, monitoring, and security practices were discussed as essential components of any virtualization strategy. The sessions reinforced that technical performance alone is insufficient without robust resilience planning.

Beyond the Masterclass, the APRICOT conference provided exposure to cutting-edge developments in Internet infrastructure, AI, cybersecurity, routing, and network operations. Keynotes and technical sessions offered insights into emerging trends such as edge computing, IPv6 adoption, network automation, and resilience of digital infrastructure.

Networking opportunities were one of the most valuable aspects of the conference. Informal discussions with peers and experts enabled knowledge exchange on real operational challenges and solutions implemented across different countries.

While the program was highly effective, the following suggestions could further enhance future fellowships and workshops:

Pre-Workshop Orientation: Providing preparatory materials or recommended reading beforehand would help participants arrive with a more uniform baseline knowledge.

Extended Lab Time: Hands-on sessions were extremely valuable; additional time for experimentation would allow deeper exploration of complex topics.

Post-Workshop Support: Access to lab environments or recorded sessions after the event would help participants reinforce learning and implement solutions in their home organizations.

Regional Case Studies: Including more examples from developing economies would make the content even more relevant for participants facing similar constraints.

I strongly believe that the true impact of a fellowship lies in disseminating acquired knowledge. To maximize the benefits of this opportunity, I plan to:

Conduct internal presentations within my organization to share key insights on virtualization, cloud strategies, and automation.

Organize knowledge-sharing sessions or mini-workshops for colleagues and peers in the local technical community.

Prepare technical documentation summarizing best practices learned during the Masterclass.

Explore pilot projects implementing hybrid virtualization solutions tailored to local needs.

Encourage other professionals to participate in future APRICOT programs.

These initiatives will help multiply the value of the fellowship by extending its benefits beyond a single participant.

This experience significantly enhanced my understanding of modern infrastructure design and management. It broadened my perspective from isolated technologies to holistic system architecture, emphasizing how compute, storage, networking, security, and automation must work together.

Moreover, interacting with international experts boosted my confidence in engaging with global technical communities. The exposure to real-world deployments provided practical insights that cannot be gained solely from textbooks or online resources.

The APRICOT Fellowship provided an exceptional platform for professional growth, technical learning, and international collaboration. The Masterclass on Practical Virtualisation with Hybrid Strategies delivered highly relevant, hands-on knowledge that will directly influence future infrastructure decisions and implementations.

Beyond the technical sessions, the Fellowship Dinner and Closing Social were truly enjoyable experiences. They provided a great opportunity to connect with more brightest minds, exchange ideas in a relaxed setting, and strengthen professional relationships, making the conference even more memorable. In conclusion, APRICOT 2025 was a great success. I'd like to sincerely thank the organizing team for granting me the APRICOT 2025 Fellowship and their dedication in making this event a reality. A special thanks to Mr. John Rattray, the fellowship coordinator, for his support throughout the event, as well as to Mr. Rupesh Shrestha and Mr. Aftab A. Siddiqui for their guidance and inspiring leadership. I'm already excited about attending future APRICOT events and continuing to be part of this amazing and expanding community.

I sincerely appreciate APRICOT for offering this opportunity and for its commitment to strengthening technical capacity across the Asia-Pacific region. The knowledge, connections, and inspiration gained from this experience will continue to benefit both my organization and the broader community through ongoing sharing and collaboration.