

Huong Nguyen – Fellowship Report – APRICOT 2026

About the Training

I attended the Master Class on Virtualization and the Skills Workshop at APRICOT 2026. Together, the two workshops provided me with not just technical knowledge, but also valuable opportunities for developing professionally as a result of the experiences gained from attending the workshops.

The Virtualization Master Class was very meaningful to me. Through-out the Master Class sessions I had the opportunity to take all of the knowledge I already have about various technologies I use on a day-to-day basis. The topics we covered included Ceph, Cloud-init, Docker, and monitoring tools, among others, were all covered in a very practical manner which enabled me to link the theoretical concepts into tangible implementations.

As well as expanding upon the knowledge I currently have, the course introduced me to many new technologies. Most notably, I learned about Proxmox. Before attending APRICOT, I had never had the opportunity to investigate Proxmox in detail. The Master Class provided me with an introduction to Proxmox enabling me to develop a basic understanding of its potential applications and how it compares to other virtualization solutions(my company use another virtualization solution).

I believe the most important aspect of the Master Class was the delivery method of the instructors. They provided high quality, practical and easily understandable presentations. The instructors were knowledgeable, friendly and helpful. I arrived at APRICOT with a number of unanswered technical questions and operational issues related to work that my colleagues and I had struggled with. During the Master Class I had the opportunity to speak with the instructors regarding these issues and received excellent advice and recommendations. I want to specifically thank Mr. Paul for his assistance throughout the Master Class and for his willingness to explain things clearly and thoughtfully.

During the three days of the Master Class, I primarily communicated with fellow participants regarding their respective working environments and technical challenges. The Skills Workshop, however, required us to collaborate, create ideas, and engage in logical debate.

Collaborating with colleagues from various countries provided me with the opportunity to view the creative thinking, critical thinking and problem solving skills of the other participants. I was particularly impressed by their rapid creation of solutions and the logical reasoning. As a result of the collaborative experience, I developed greater confidence in communicating my ideas and improved my ability to analyze and evaluate a variety of solutions from multiple perspectives.

About Networking with Fellows and Other APRICOT Attendees

One of the most memorable aspects of APRICOT 2026 was the networking opportunities. Events such as the Gala Dinner created a relaxed and welcoming space where conversations could flow

naturally. These social gatherings became meaningful opportunities to connect with people from various countries and professional backgrounds.

Beyond professional topics, these interactions also offered cultural enrichment. Meeting attendees from different countries allowed me to appreciate the unique cultural identities within our regional community.

On a personal note, APRICOT 2026 also gave me the opportunity to reconnect with dear friends whom I had not seen for some time.

About Return Service

Upon returning from APRICOT 2026, I have made a commitment to pass on the knowledge and experience I obtained to my colleagues. Our organization has a tradition of knowledge-sharing through regular internal seminars on every Friday. I plan to utilize this opportunity to present the various technologies and concepts I researched during the Master Class.

I plan to hold an internal seminar on ProxMox, which is about details of its architecture, examples of where it may be deployed and comparisons to our current Virtualization solutions. In addition to presenting the course material from the Master Class to team members who wish to review the material further.

While I do not expect each new technology to be instantly integrated into our production systems, I firmly believe that exposure to new ideas is always beneficial. Technological transitions require careful evaluation and time, however, continued learning is required for all organizations to grow. Understanding new tools and developing familiarity with emerging solutions prepare organizations for future challenges and enhance their ability to innovate.

Conclusion

I want to express my sincere gratitude for being given the opportunity to attend APRICOT 2026. This was a great experience for me because not only did I gain a great deal of knowledge and expand my technical capabilities, but this experience reinforced my continued desire for ongoing learning and to contribute to the APRICOT community in the future. I hope to apply the knowledge I gained from attending APRICOT 2026, and to remain actively involved in the APRICOT community in the coming years.