

APRICOT 2026

Fellowship Report



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Participation in the Practical Virtualization with Hybrid Strategies Workshop and Fellows Skills Development Programme

As a representative of Sri Lanka I started my participation in the Fellowship Programme at APRICOT 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4 February 2026. Day one included registration,



coordination of fellowship, and visiting my fellow participants from Asia Pacific countries of the region, and understanding the expectations and format of the April MasterClass sessions, before the formal technical portion of the meeting. The Fellowship programme consists of a diverse cohort of participants from within the Asia Pacific region, and it was very motivating to see participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka all represented in my cohort of fellows. The three participants from Sri Lanka include; the University of Moratuwa, the Lanka Education and Research Network (LEARN), and the LK Domain Registry. The interaction and networking with professionals involved in the

research and education networks, ISP's, universities, government agencies, and cloud service providers created a very collaborative and dynamic atmosphere leading up to the technical programming portion.

On February 5th of 2026, I participated in the APRICOT 2026 Practical Virtualization with Hybrid Strategies Workshop that was facilitated by a group of outstanding instructors from all over the world: Hervey Allen (from Network Startup Resource Center, USA), Carlos Armas (from Network Startup Resource Center, Canada), Brian Candler (from Network Startup Resource Center, United Kingdom), Patrick Okui (from Network Startup Resource Center, Uganda) and Paul Ooi Cong Jen (from Takizo Solutions Sdn



Bhd, Malaysia). The workshop began with a welcome session provided by Hervey Allen, followed by the start of the technical instruction with Brian Candler providing the first of the technical sessions on Cloud Services that included an AWS Virtual Machine Lab for hands-on experience deploying and managing cloud-based virtual machines. Next was Carlos Armas delivering Cloud Security, followed by an AWS Cloud Security Lab where we focussed on best practices for securing the cloud infrastructure. This was followed by SSH Key Management by Hervey Allen, and lastly Terraform by Paul Ooi Cong Jen. The Terraform lab included an introduction to Infrastructure as Code through the use of Terraform and discussed concepts of automating Infrastructure. Each of the technical sessions re-enforced the importance of securely deploying to the cloud, and automation, and offered valuable tools for managing and scaling Cloud-based Infrastructure programmatically.



The workshop reached 6 February 2026, explore deeper into virtualization Technologies and Storage. Beginning of the day had VMs and Hypervisors through presentation from Paul Ooi Cong Jen with second part lab for Proxmox VM where we configured Virtual Machines (VMs) to build and deploy into a test environment. Then

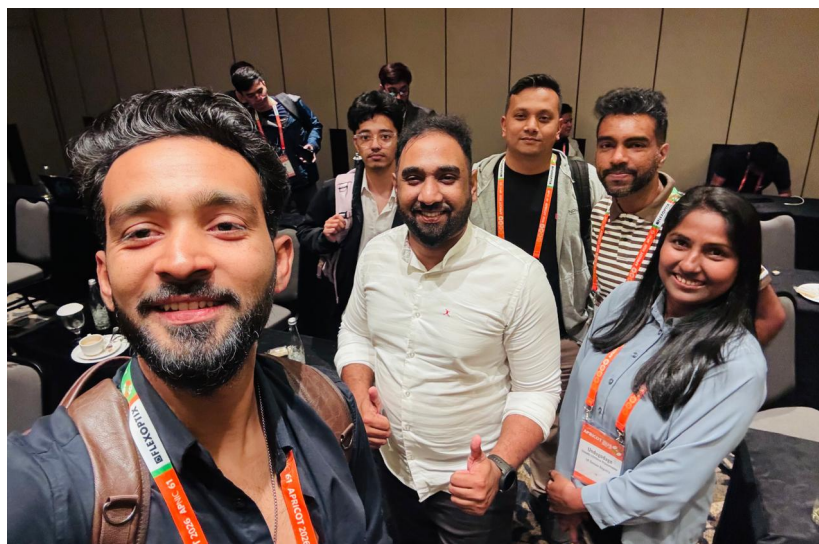
followed was a presentation by Patrick Okui on Cloud-Init, both the Proxmox Cloud-Init and AWS Cloud-Init labs for showing automation in creating instances. Brian Candler then provided VM Migration and Clustering with a Proxmox cluster lab demonstrating high availability and load balance. Following was a focus on Storage Technologies beginning with Networked Storage by Brian Candler then LVM presented by Hervey Allen where he provided a practical application through an LVM lab. The completion of the day ended with Linstor presented by Patrick Okui along with a practical application through a Linstor Lab of distributed block storage management. Overall this day greatly improved my knowledge base of Hypervisor, Automation in Provisioning, Clustering, and Managing Storage in a production environment.

The final day of the MasterClass focused on five areas of Distributed Storage, Cost Management, Monitoring, Containers, and Strategic Decision-Making on February 7th, 2026. Brian Candler provided an in-depth session about Ceph that included a Ceph lab and a failure demonstration of



how distributed storage systems respond to node failures and ensure data persistence. Carlos Armas delivered a presentation on Cloud Cost Management with an AWS Cost Management lab that provided an opportunity for hands-on experience with monitoring and managing cloud costs. Paul Ooi Cong

Jen delivered a presentation on Cloud Data Risk Management with an AWS bucket replication lab that demonstrated strategies for data protection and redundancy. At one point in time, Brian Candler presented a session on Monitoring Using Prometheus and Grafana with a hands-on lab that demonstrated real-time performance monitoring and visualization of infrastructure metrics. There were later sessions presented by Brian Candler that included Proxmox Containers with a Proxmox lab that demonstrated lightweight container virtualization. The strategy workshop concluded with Hervey Allen's discussion of Choosing the Right Strategy. Participants learned how to evaluate potential technologies against their specific organization's requirements, including their costs, scalability, ability to operate long-term (Operational Sustainability). A comprehensive survey was distributed for all participants to complete at the conclusion of this three-day program. Having completed this program, I now have an extensive practical understanding of virtualization, cloud integration, storage systems, automation, monitoring, and infrastructure design, along with direct instruction from instructors who have experience working around the world.



I attended the APRICOT Fellows Skills Workshop on the 8 February 2026. It was a one-day course on professional development run by Aftab Siddiqui (Head of Stakeholder Relations at APNIC Foundation and a board member with APNOG), William Stockbridge (also a board member at APNOG), and Terry Sweetser (Principal Consultant with The Internet Engineering & Infrastructure Strategic Initiative). This workshop's focus was developing non-technical competencies that are important for network and systems engineers. The workshop consisted of four sessions,

1. Learning Presentation Skills - This session dealt with how to structure and deliver a technical talk.
2. Facing Public Facing Fear - This session dealt with overcoming public speaking anxiety.
3. Leadership in the Community - In this session we learned about our responsibility to actively engage and take responsibility within our technical communities.
4. Scenario Based Incident Management and Role Playing Show Leadership - In the last session, we participated in simulated incident scenarios to illustrate how to work as a team, make decisions, and show leadership under pressure.

These hands-on exercises helped to build my confidence as a communicator, enhanced my ability to present complicated technical topics in an easy-to-understand manner, and helped me understand the importance of leadership in developing and enhancing communities on the Internet.



After fulfilling my fellowship requirements with the end of February 8th 2026, I traveled back home to Sri Lanka on February 9th, 2026. My participation only consisted of the MasterClass and

the Fellowship Skills Workshop, but was still a very valuable experience for me! In particular, I greatly benefited from the combination of in-depth hands-on virtualization training delivered by world-renowned instructors, as well as participating in a professional development workshop which focused on leadership - both of these together created a well balanced and life-changing education opportunity for myself! The opportunity to connect with 37 other fellows, representing many different organisations throughout the Asia Pacific region helped to expand my existing professional network as well as provide me with a much better understanding of the operational issues faced by the region and how we can all work together to resolve some of those common issues as best practise. I was both proud and responsible to represent Sri Lanka at APRICOT 2026 and I have every intention of bringing back all of the advanced skills I acquired during my time in the programme with respect to Virtualisation, Cloud, Storage, Monitoring and Automation and apply them towards the continued strengthening of Sri Lanka's Internet Infrastructure and technical capacity development in Sri Lanka as well as sharing the leadership and communication strategies which I learned during the Fellowship Workshop to help support strengthening our Internet Infrastructure.