

Mohammed Tasdir Ahmmed APRICOT 61/2026 FELLOW | BANGLADESH

Cybersecurity Track

Introduction

I am Tasdir Ahmmed, a proud fellow of APRICOT 61/2026 from Bangladesh, and I was fortunate to attend a **three-day Cybersecurity Masterclass and a one-day Soft Skills Workshop** in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In my masterclass all instructors are highly experienced, and incredibly down to earth. I am grateful to the best of the best **Philip Paeps, Tashi Phuntsho, and Warren Finch**. What amazed me most was not only the depth of their knowledge but also how they deliver complex concepts in clear and easy ways.



Three-Day Cybersecurity Masterclass Experience

My masterclass track was **Practical Cybersecurity for Internet Operators**. In short, the three-day masterclass was intense, practical, and deeply insightful. At times, it felt a bit overwhelming because my background is primarily in **application security and malware analysis**. However, this challenge helped me step outside my comfort zone and pushed me to learn new concepts and approaches.

My masterclass group was incredibly supportive. Our team of four included **Andre Sutiono (Indonesia), Teo Wei How (Singapore), Nicolao Lemos da Silva (Timor-Leste), and myself from Bangladesh**. Meeting and collaborating with such amazing peers from different parts of the world was one of the best aspects of this masterclass.

What Differentiates This Masterclass from Other Workshops

For me, what truly sets this masterclass apart is **perspective**.

Technical knowledge can be learned from books, online courses. But what cannot be easily learned is **experience-driven thinking** that how senior professionals observe, analyze, and approach real security challenges.

This masterclass fundamentally changed how I look at cybersecurity. It reshaped my mindset from simply learning tools and techniques to understanding **why systems behave the way they do**, how real-world threats evolve, and how security decisions are made strategically.

One-Day Soft Skills Workshop Experience

The soft skills workshop was one of the most engaging and enjoyable parts of the fellowship.

The first session, conducted by **William Stockbridge**, focused on communication — particularly how to speak effectively in English, identify problems clearly, and develop structured solutions. This session highlighted that technical expertise alone is not enough; the ability to communicate risks and solutions clearly is equally critical in cybersecurity.

The second session by **Terry Sweetser** focused on leadership. It explored how professionals can guide teams, make responsible decisions, and build trust in collaborative environments.



The most engaging part of the day was the **team-based drafting policy**. My team number was 5, and my teammates were **Chiranjivi Shah (Nepal)**, **Som Sodana (Cambodia)**, **Batmagnai Erdene (Mongolia)**, **Randika Pathirana (Sri Lanka)**, and myself (**Bangladesh**).

Our team's topic was **Managing Content Blocking & Network Integrity**. This exercise simulated real-world policy development, combining technical understanding, legal awareness, teamwork, and structured decision-making. It was both challenging and exciting.

We had very limited time and faced several challenges, such as developing a generalized policy that could work across different countries and addressing technical implementation limitations. Because of these constraints, we were not fully able to present a complete solution. However, **Aftab Siddiqui**, our instructor, guided us and explained that sometimes the best approach is to step back and discuss feasibility with policymakers. If a solution is not practical, it is important to communicate that clearly and work collaboratively toward realistic alternatives.

Conclusion

This fellowship was more than just a training program, it was an experience. It connected me with brilliant people around the world, and enriched my technical perspective.

I am truly grateful to the APRICOT fellowship committee for selecting me. I am especially thankful to John Rattray for his limitless support, as well as to all the instructors, and the dedicated people behind APRICOT 61. My sincere thanks also go to APNIC, ISOC, and NSCR for making this possible.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of **APRICOT61/2026**, and I carry forward not only knowledge, but also inspiration, motivation, and a strong global professional network.