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Country of Origin: **Philippines**

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## **Fellowship Report**

### **Apricot 2026 Fellowship Experience:**

I have heard of APRICOT for a long time now, but only recently did I truly understand more about what it really means, and how impactful this event is to the whole network industry and APNIC Community. I have been in the Industry for more than 10 years now, but only last year that I have been transferred to IP Network and Infrastructure department, So being part of upcoming Apricot 61 will be a big opportunity to me, after I heard about the fellowship they are organizing in Jakarta Indonesia on February 9 – 12, 2026, I did not hesitate to try and apply to be a fellow. It was on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 that I received a very unexpected email from Apricot Fellowship Chairs, it says that my application was successful, I don't know how I would react, to be honest I did not expect to be selected, I just know that I really want to part of it, so I gladly accepted the invitation. Since then, I had allotted a lot of time understanding APNIC and APRICOT to prepare myself for the upcoming big event.

After a few weeks of preparation, APRICOT 61 finally began. I arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia not knowing anyone and without any expectations. It did not take long before I met some of the other fellows. We explored the area together, shared meals, and talked about our different backgrounds and experiences.

The three-day masterclass was both challenging and rewarding, with in-depth discussions on BGP, routing security, and operational best practices. The experience became more valuable through the combination of practical exercises and open knowledge-sharing activities. The first day of the masterclass was very exciting, I finally Met John Rattray, who was our organizer and the one who continuously supports us on all our concerns, then we Met with our instructors, as well as the other trainees on the BGP Masterclass.

Day 2 and Day 3 continued the masterclass with more in-depth discussions. The sessions were challenging and highly insightful, particularly the hands-on exercises that allowed us to put what we have learned into practice. On the evening of Day 2, after the masterclass, we had a fellowship dinner with all the participants, including fellows from Cambodia, Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Indonesia and other countries. It was during that dinner that I was finally able to meet everyone properly and connect with them even more. I especially valued the conversations I had with them about our own network experiences, this enabled us to learn together, and this created an even greater impact on our learning process.

On the evening of Day 3, we had our graduation ceremony. The moment we finished our masterclass as fellows was a proud experience, I am truly grateful to APRICOT for providing us this opportunity and acknowledging our efforts. The Opening Socials afterward gave us the chance to meet more members of the APRICOT community. It was inspiring to meet industry professionals and fellow participants, and it made me realize that this experience provided me with both technical development and professional relationship building opportunities.

After the masterclass, I attended the conference sessions and the AGM until February 12. The events of those days provided me with valuable knowledge through their presentations and discussions and their community activities which showed me the existing network industry challenges and ongoing network industry developments. I learned a lot about peering, interconnections, and how different NOGs from various countries collaborate to improve the efficiency of the global network infrastructure. The groups showed remarkable development throughout their history, and their ongoing work continues to create important benefits for the entire network community.

One of the most valuable aspects of APRICOT 61 for me was the opportunity to establish connections with professionals from different organizations who worked in various countries. We exchanged contact details, shared experiences, and discussed the similarities and differences in how we manage our networks. The discussions delivered direct knowledge about our network and peering methods while demonstrating how essential international partnerships and community development work together. The experience was both informative and motivating, and it allowed me to build meaningful, lasting connections that I hope to maintain even after APRICOT 61. Overall, the fellowship has been truly transformative through masterclass education and conference activities, which helped me gain technical expertise and understand how collaboration and community support power the network industry. My interactions with skilled professionals from various countries have motivated me to pursue continuous learning while I contribute to the APNIC community and develop my career through building relationships with mentors and peers.

### **Key Learnings and Takeaways:**

**Technical Growth and Practical Skills:** The masterclass and hands-on exercises helped me to better understand network operations together with routing protocols and BGP and peering strategies. My ability to handle complex networks together with operational problems improved through my practice of using theoretical concepts in real-world situations.

- **Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** The experience of working with other participants together with my discovery of different NOGs demonstrated the importance of sharing experiences to find solutions. The NOGs demonstrated to me how their international cooperation leads to shared learning which helps communities develop better resilience against network problems.
- **Networking and Community Impact:** My attendance at conference sessions together with the AGM and social events helped me to create valuable professional relationships with colleagues from different organizations and countries. The exchange of ideas together with insights and best practices showed how essential community involvement and international cooperation are to the development and sustainability of the network industry.

**Application of Learning to Professional Work and Network Community:**

As an IP Network Engineer working in a Network Service Provider, the knowledge and skills I gained from the masterclass, particularly in BGP, routing, peering, and network operations, would greatly enable me to improve network my performance. The hands-on exercises provided practical approaches that I can implement in my day-to-day work, while also improving efficiency and troubleshooting capabilities. The things I learned about different NOG Presentations revealed their international teamwork methods, which I now plan to use for building better knowledge-sharing relationships and collaborative efforts inside my network operations team. Engaging with professionals from diverse backgrounds and participating in community-focused discussions highlighted the importance of cross country collaboration in the Internet industry, and I plan to be more active in the APNIC community and local NOGs, contributing insights from my ISP work while learning from others, to support the growth, resilience, and impact of the broader network community.

**Conclusion:**

APRICOT 61 has brought me professional and personal growth through its value as an educational experience. The masterclass, conference sessions, AGM, and fellowship activities provided invaluable technical knowledge, practical skills, and insights into global network operations. The fellowship program taught us technical skills, but its focus was to show how people from various countries and organizations could work together and exchange knowledge and build communities. Interacting with diverse professionals and learning from the experiences of different NOGs has not only broadened my perspective but also inspired me to contribute more actively to my own organization and the wider network community. This experience has strengthened my confidence, expanded my professional network, and reinforced my commitment to continuous growth, collaboration, and innovation in the Internet and IP network industry.