

Feedback Report for APRICOT 2025

I had the privilege of attending the APRICOT 2025 Fellowship, which provided an enriching learning experience in virtualization and cloud technologies. The program was well-organized, featuring insightful masterclasses, expert-led discussions, and hands-on training sessions that significantly enhanced my knowledge and practical skills. There was also a skill-building session that enhanced my public speaking skills and taught me new techniques to grab the attention of my listeners.

I attended the masterclass track session: **“Practical Virtualisation with Hybrid Strategies”**. The contents of the masterclass were very much aligned with my day-to-day job and helped me a lot. Firstly, there was a session on the introduction to cloud and virtualization, followed by a hands-on account setup in AWS. Another session focused on Docker and containerization, where the instructor gave a basic demo of Docker containers. This was followed by a hands-on lab where participants had to deploy a Zabbix Monitoring Server using Docker. The next session covered Infrastructure as Code (IaC) with Terraform, demonstrating how to spin up resources in AWS and other cloud services using code-based tools. Following this, there was an in-depth lecture on on-premises virtualization, covering components of virtualization and platforms such as KVM, Xen, VirtualBox, OpenStack, and Proxmox. This was followed by a hands-on introductory lab. Lastly, several sessions focused on storage technology and choosing the right storage and virtualization platform.

On February 24, 2025, we had the **“APRICOT Fellows Skills Workshop”**. This was primarily focused on public speaking skills and interpersonal skill-building sessions. Fellows were placed into different groups and asked to give group presentations and speeches. This session fostered strong bonds between participants, allowing them to understand each other's strengths and weaknesses. The day-long skill-building workshop was full of energy, fun, and laughter.

My key takeaways from attending APRICOT 2025 included engaging with professionals and industry leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region, expanding my professional network, and gaining insights into real-world challenges and solutions. I made friends from different countries who work in similar roles and face similar challenges. I had insightful conversations with my masterclass instructors on topics such as Proxmox setup and using Incus for personal research. I also shared how I use Terragrunt to keep my Terraform codes reusable. After returning to my country, I discussed Incus with my manager, and he found it very interesting; we may soon use it for our personal test servers.

While the overall experience was excellent, I believe there are some areas for improvement. Some course content was very basic and could have been shared with participants beforehand through YouTube videos. This would allow more advanced topics to be covered during the sessions. For example, setting up an AWS account and launching an EC2 instance, basic Docker commands, and coding a Dockerfile could be provided as pre-learning materials. Additionally, I believe the skill-building session would have been more effective if scheduled on the first day rather than the last day. This would have encouraged greater interaction among

participants from different countries right from the beginning. So that during the classes, we can feel more connected with one another.

Attending APRICOT 2025 was an invaluable opportunity to enhance my technical expertise, expand my professional network, and engage with the wider internet community. I sincerely appreciate the organizers, instructors, and fellow participants for making this event a success. I look forward to applying the knowledge gained in my professional work and contributing to future APRICOT initiatives.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

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