

# APRICOT 2025/APNIC 59 FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Petaling Jaya, Malaysia (19-27, February 2025)

First, I am very grateful to have been selected as a fellow for APRICOT 2025/APNIC 59, hosted in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, in February 2025. It was a unique experience to go from the -30°C winds of the Mongolian steppe to Malaysia's hot, humid +30°C weather.

I participated in a 3-day "Advanced BGP" training with instructors Aftab Siddiqui (APNIC Foundation), Mark Duffell (Telstra), Phil Mawson (Vocus), and Tashi Phuntsho (FLEXOPTIX). Through this training, I gained deeper knowledge of BGP, learned about best practices, and exchanged experiences with other participants. The instructors were friendly and explained things I wasn't familiar with. From this training, I gained several best practices that I can apply in my organization to improve our BGP setup and network security, such as RPKI.

The Soft skills workshop lasted for one day and changed my perspective on leadership. I used to believe that focusing on technical skills was more important than developing leadership abilities, but my thinking has shifted. I realized that technical skills and soft skills, such as expressing yourself and leadership, go hand in hand in working successfully. During the Soft skills workshop, the fellows and I had fun doing tasks like making up stories and working on policies. I'm truly grateful for the inspiration it gave me on how to express myself better, grow my career, and work towards becoming a leader. After the Soft skills workshop, all fellows had a meal at Copper Chimney Indian Food restaurant, where we had interesting conversations about our own country and others with the other fellows.

The next 3 days were spent at the conference. I spent one day having meetings with my company's partners. On the other days, I networked with new people, visited booths to meet others, and attended sessions that interested me. I was especially interested in the sessions on IPv6 and routing security.

Overall, receiving the APRICOT fellowship has been a great contribution to my personal views, career, and technical skills. It was also an unforgettable experience to share my thoughts and experiences with amazing people from other countries. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend the Opening social party because the tickets were all gone. However, I was really happy that I was able to attend the closing party. I would like to thank Tashi Phuntsho, who encouraged me to apply for this fellowship during MNNOG6. Lastly, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to John Rattray, the fellowship coordinator, and the entire APRICOT fellowship team.

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