
OVERVIEW

APRICOT 2024/APNIC 57 convened from February 21st to March 1st, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand, hosted at the prestigious Anthenee Hotel, centrally located and offering modern conveniences. The event provided a structured platform for participants to engage with industry experts, forge business connections, and establish global partnerships. Featuring a diverse program, the event comprised three main components: a three-day Technical Workshop, a one-day Soft Skills Workshop, and a four-day Conference, attracting over 1000 attendees from around the world.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

Three technical workshops were held simultaneously over three days, each led by highly skilled experts in the field of ICT. Opting for the "Advanced BGP" workshop, I delved into the complexities of the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP), where participants were immersed in hands-on exercises covering detailed configurations and operational mechanisms. Guided by instructors well-versed in BGP, the workshop provided an extensive exploration of advanced scaling techniques, BGP traffic engineering, automation, multi-homing, and effective load balancing strategies. Given the critical role of my company as an Internet Service Provider (ISP), ensuring the provision of reliable, redundant, and resilient services to our customers is imperative. This objective necessitates advanced training initiatives such as the "Advanced BGP" workshop offered by APRICOT, where participants acquire comprehensive insights into BGP functionality. As a result of attending the workshop, I have gained enhanced confidence and expertise in managing multi-homing and optimizing traffic load using BGP attributes.

SOFT SKILLS WORKSHOP

The SOFT SKILLS workshop spanned a day, focusing on imparting crucial everyday skills to participants. Structured into four parts, the workshop covered Presentation Skills, techniques for overcoming fear, Community Leadership, and scenario-based incident management with role-playing exercises. Participants gained essential life skills necessary for daily responsibilities. The workshop fostered a supportive environment for participants to interact, present findings, engage in group discussions, and build confidence in facing audiences. Additionally, it equipped participants with skills for incident understanding and management through real-world scenarios, which could be directly applied to office work. This workshop was particularly significant for Network Engineers like me, who often prioritize technical knowledge over soft skills. Learning such skills

enhances presentation abilities, improves crowd interaction, and ultimately boosts confidence levels, contributing to overall performance.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

The conference workshop is different from the two workshops and held for four days. The conference took the participants to various aspects of program. Being responsible for overseeing my company's entire network connectivity, I immersed myself in engaging with internet partners worldwide during the conference, particularly focusing on Caches, Transit providers, IPLC providers, DATA Center services, Peering partners, and Software As A Service providers. This allowed me to connect with partners who were previously inaccessible, simplifying network engineering tasks and aiding decision-making, especially during periods of network expansion and traffic engineering. Moreover, it enabled me to explore the global internet market thoroughly and choose reliable transit providers for top-notch service.

The conference served as an invaluable platform for learning about internet developments through Technical and Operational talks (APOPS) delivered by esteemed experts. These sessions provided insights into internet history, past incidents, best practices, and various network security measures in place for securing the network. Additionally, the conference facilitated exploration of services offered by various countries through the peering forum and NOG reports, where each country showcased its progress, offering valuable insights into international networking landscapes.

Simultaneously, other sessions relevant to network professionals took place during the conference, allowing attendees to choose those most relevant to their interests. As a network engineer, I primarily focused on technical discussions and sessions, including Open Policy Meetings and APNIC Global reports. Overall, APRICOT proved to be an invaluable platform for networking, fostering partnerships, and expanding technical knowledge. It provided me with opportunities to enhance business partnerships and my capabilities in the realm of the internet.

I'm grateful to APRICOT 2024 & APNIC 57 for granting me the Fellowship opportunity. Beyond the financial support, it has been instrumental in enriching my technical expertise and connecting me with numerous peering partners globally. This experience will undoubtedly aid me in making informed decisions during network expansion and accelerate troubleshooting processes, thereby enhancing my proficiency in the field of networking.

Submitted:

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