I am honored to have been a fellow at APRICOT 2025, held in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, from February 19–27, 2025. During this incredible event, I participated in the APRICOT Masterclass: KINDNS - DNS & DNSSEC Operational Best Practices to Improve the DNS Ecosystem.

The masterclass was an enlightening deep dive into the critical role of DNS and DNSSEC in ensuring a secure, resilient, and efficient internet. It underscored the importance of adhering to KINDNS best practices guidelines crafted by DNS practitioners to enhance the reliability and security of DNS deployments of all sizes.

The Key Highlights from the Workshop:
1. DNS Fundamentals: A quick refresher on DNS protocols, including TTLs, signature algorithms
2. DNSSEC Best Practices: Hands-on sessions covering monitoring, capacity planning, key rollovers, and disaster recovery.
3. Improving DNS Operations: Practical exercises focused on real-world challenges, such as configuring DNSSEC and zone transfer, preventing and recovering from DNSSEC failures.

The workshop was not just about learning, it was about doing. Through hands-on exercises, we configured DNSSEC, planned key rollovers, and gained valuable insights into how to manage DNS servers effectively.

These practical sessions have equipped me with the skills and confidence to tackle DNS challenges, ensuring robust operations in my deployments.

In addition to the masterclass, I had the privilege of attending a day-long session focused on essential professional skills and leadership development. This session included:
1. Learning Presentation Skills: Enhancing communication and effectively delivering ideas.
2. Facing Public - Facing Fear: Building confidence to speak in public settings.
3. Leadership in the Community: Understanding the qualities of impactful leaders and how to apply them.
4. Scenario-Based Incident Management and Role Playing: Developing leadership through role-playing exercises and handling real-world incidents.

These sessions provided a comprehensive understanding of both technical and soft skills, vital for professional growth and community leadership.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to APRICOT and APNIC for organizing this world-class event and providing me with the opportunity to be part of it. The fellowship allowed me to connect with industry leaders, DNS experts, and fellow engineers, enriching my professional journey.

A special thanks to the hosts in Malaysia for their warmth and hospitality.

Participating in APRICOT 2025 has been an inspiring and impactful experience. I am excited to bring the knowledge and best practices from the masterclass and leadership sessions into action, contributing to a more secure and resilient DNS ecosystem.