



MINATO

みなとユネスコ 会報

Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

ISSUED BY / MINATO UNESCO ASSN. 16-3, SHIMBASHI 3-CHOME MINATO-KU TOKYO 105-0004 / HIROSHI NAGANO PRES.
発行所 / 港ユネスコ協会 〒105-0004 東京都港区新橋3-16-3 Tel: 03-3434-2300 Fax: 03-3434-2233 発行人 / 田部換一郎
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No. 168: September 1, 2022

Inaugural Address

TANABE Kiichiro, President of the Minato UNESCO Association



I have the great honor of being appointed as the President of MUA. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for your assistance in advance.

The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declares that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". I strongly believe that now is the time we have to take this statement very seriously.

MUA has provided a wide range of events for 40 years since its foundation. I would express my respect to many MUA members who extended the invaluable contributions to the realization of all those events. I do expect to attain further development based on the firm foundation built to date.

I believe that people enjoy the extended interactions with other people and deepen their understanding on various fields by participating in those events, and this can only be realized under the peaceful status of our country. While I may have spent my life without noticing the value of peace, I now strongly recognize it under the recent threatening situation of the world.

Any one of MUA's events may not be a big deal that constructs the defences of peace in the mind of men. However, people may feel the joy, touch on various kinds of culture, recognize a wide range of problems in the world through participating in MUA's events, and eventually understand the importance of peace and its value as well. I believe it's wonderful if the circle of people who highly respect the importance of peace expands. I am determined to work with all the members and, thereby, contribute to the development of MUA for the future.

Biography of Mr. TANABE:

1957 graduated from Eiko Gakuen High School in Kanagawa Prefecture

1959 transferred to MIT Chemical Engineering Department

1961 graduated from MIT and joined Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation where he was responsible for business planning, alliance with foreign corporations, etc.

1970 -75 transferred to Mitsubishi Chemical's subsidiary in Germany

2002 retired from Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation; after retirement, devoted himself in holding many concerts with local chorus groups in Minato City

(Translated by SUDA Yasushi, the PR and Internet Committee Associate)

2022 MUA General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 6:00 – 8:00p.m.

Venue: Minato City Life-Long Learning Center Room 101

The 2022 General Meeting of MUA was kicked off by an opening remark of Mr. NAGANO, President, and the meeting with the participation of 22 members was chaired by Ms. OKUMURA Kazuko, Vice President.

We had the honor of having Mr. TAKEI Masaaki, Mayor of Minato City and Advisor of MUA, who attended the meeting despite his very tight schedule. He kindly gave a speech touching on his jobs as a staff of the city 40 years ago, his efforts as a city staff related to the launching of MUA at the early days and many other nostalgic episodes of those days. He then stated that he would maintain the close relationship with MUA toward the further development of Minato City, the international city.



Mayor Takei

Agendas:

- No.1: Report on the 2021 activities and introduction of new members
- No.2: Report on the 2021 Directors & Standing Directors Meetings
- No.3: Report on the 2021 Fiscal Settlements
- No.4: Report by the Auditor
- No.5: Report on the 2021 cooperation with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, and the plan on the 2022 cooperation
- No.6: Plan on the 2022 activities
- No.7: Budget for the 2022 activities
- No.8: Draft of the 2022 MUA Board Members

All of the above Agendas were unanimously approved. With respect to Agenda No.8, all the Board Members were renewed and their terms were decided to be until the time of 2024 General Meeting. The point worthy of special mention is that Mr. NAGANO Hiroshi stepped down as the President and was appointed to the Advisor, and Mr. TANABE Kiichiro succeeded the presidency from Mr. NAGANO.



(Written by SHIMPUKU S., Secretary General, and Translated by SUDA Y., the PR and Internet Committee Associate)

MUA Officers, Directors, Auditors, Advisors and Counselors for 2022

President	Tanabe, Kiichiro	Former Board Director, Mitsubishi Petrochemical (today Mitsubishi Chemical Corp.)
Vice President	Isobe, Toyoko	
Vice President	Imamura, Takako	Member, the Circulo Internacional de Cultura Hispanoamerica (CICHA)
Vice President	Kobayashi, Takayuki	
Vice President	Mineo, Shigekatsu	Representative Director, The FP Consulting Co., Ltd.
Vice President	Morimura, Shunsuke	Corporate Advisor, Morimura Bros, Inc.
Standing Director	Akiyama, Masayo	
Standing Director	Ishii, Yoshiaki	
Standing Director	Okumura, Kazuko	
Standing Director	Kasahara, Masako	Director, Ura-senke Tea Ceremony Class
Standing Director	Sato, Ritsuko	
Standing Director	Tagawa, Junko	Japanese Language Instructor
Standing Director	Furuichi, Yoko	
Standing Director	Matsuzaki, Kazuko	Medical Doctor
Standing Director	Miyashita, Yukari	
Director	Sasaki, Takeshi	Professor, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology
Director	Shibuya, Megumi	Professor, Meiji Gakuin University
Director	Suzuki, Harumi	
Director	Newell-Tsuboya, Ikuko	CEO, Tokyo International School
Director	Togo, Kazuhiko	Former Ambassador to the Netherlands
Director	Tomogane, Mamoru	Former Supervising Instructor, Social Education, Minato City
Director	Nagai, Michiko	Councilor, Kashiyama Scholarship Foundation
Director	Nagato, Yoshiko	President, Inter-Cultural Community Life Association; President, Utsunomiya UNESCO Association
Director	Nakamae, Yuki	Minato City Assembly Member
Director	Hirakata, Kazuyo	Former member of Yokohama Housing Policy Committee
Director	Miwa, Emiko	
Director	Yamada, Setsuko	Attorney
Auditor	Tanahashi, Seiichi	Vice President, Hino-Redlands Sister City Association
Auditor	Nakagawa, Norio	Special Member of Junior Chamber International Tokyo
Honorary President	Miwa, Kimitada	Professor Emeritus of Sophia University
Advisor	Akashi, Yasushi	Honorary Advisor, International House of Japan
Advisor	Ito, Kohei	President, Keio University
Advisor	Takai, Mitsuko	Former MUA President
Advisor	Takei, Masaaki	Mayor, Minato City
Advisor	Nagano, Hiroshi	Latest MUA President; VP of Tokyo Council of UNESCO Associations

Advisor	Mikami, Yoichiro	President, Institute of Sounds Arts
Counselor	Kikuchi, Kensuke	Latest VP of MUA; CEO, Fuse Limited Liability Company
Counselor	Kiso, Isao	President, Chiba Institute of Science; Former Ambassador, Permanent Delegation of Japan to UNESCO

Greetings from New Board Members

Ishii Yoshiaki, New Standing Director



Although I am new to my post, I have attended MUA English Class for 21 years. After working at Fire Department for 37 years, followed by 6 years at Tokyo Disaster Prevention & Emergency Medical Service Association, I am now serving as a consultant at a life insurance company. Knowing that a Standing Director assumes a heavy responsibility, I would like to do my best and live up to the expectations of Mr. Nagano, the former President of MUA.

Furuichi Yoko, New Standing Director



As I assume duties of Standing Director, it would be my greatest joy if I could contribute even a little to the realization of high ideal based on the UNESCO spirit. I think it is also important to increase the MUA membership, thereby ensuring stable activities looking forward.

Shibuya Megumi, New Director (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University)



I am greatly honored to be able to take part in MUA activities as a new Director. Currently I teach lessons on multi-cultural education and comparative education in Department of Education and Child Development, Faculty of Psychology. Having participated in the Japanese Speech Contest and other MUA events, jointly with my students, I realized again the importance of cultural interaction and international understanding in local communities. I would like to serve as a Director, within the scope of my ability, and learn various things on the way.

(Written by SHIMPUKU S., Secretary General, and translated by MIYASHITA Y., Standing Director)

The 40th MUA Anniversary Celebration

Date: April 20, 2022

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

The Minato UNESCO Association observed the 40th anniversary of its foundation in October 2021. To commemorate the milestone, MUA held a celebration gathering in the evening of Wednesday, April 20 in Room 101 of Minato City Life-long Learning Center.

The event was facilitated by Vice President Ms. Okumura and kicked off by President Nagano's opening address, with a total of 26 attendees. From among the invited guests, Mr. URATA Mikio, head of Minato City Board of Education, gave a congratulatory speech, "We appreciate MUA's great contributions in promoting international exchanges, mutual understanding and people's goodwill." All of us at MUA were very grateful for his thoughtful message.



Mr. URATA Mikio, Director, Minato City Board of Education

Opening Address by President Nagano

In retrospect Minato UNESCO Association held its founding general meeting in October 1981 at the Shirokane Prince Geihinkan. Last October it observed the 40th anniversary of its foundation. MUA's development since the inception has been promoted by all its members under the leadership of the 1st President (Dr. TANGE Kenzo), 2nd President (Dr. MIWA Kimitada) and 3rd President (Ms. TAKAI Mitsuko). I'd like to extend my deepest appreciation to them all. I am also thankful for Minato City's consistent support to MUA, from its inception to the following years of expansion. In this connection we are honored and pleased today to have Mr. URATA Mikio, head of Minato City Board of Education, as our invited guest.

The origin of the UNESCO philosophy is said to have sprung from the proposal from leaders, including NITOBE Inazo who had played an active role as Deputy Secretary General in the League of Nations during the 1920's. Mr. MATSUMOTO Shigeharu, an influential founding member of MUA, was a close follower of Dr. Nitobe. Therefore, the mission expressed in MUA's foundation dates back to the very origin of UNESCO philosophy.

The grass-roots UNESCO activities in Japan was started by the Sendai UNESCO Association which was founded in 1947. Mr. UEDA Koichi, an officer at the Tohoku Post-war Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contributed greatly to the foundation of this Sendai association. Later he became an Acting Director of MUA and contributed an essay, titled "Don't forget your initial

commitment,” to MUA’s 15th anniversary commemorative booklet. He proposed “Peace movement” and “Goodwill activities” should be the two pillars in MUA.

Peace is an ideal proposed in the UNESCO Constitution. In the complex modern society, current acute global issues such as climate change, global environment, bio-diversity, race, gender, and energy demand & supply are definitely challenging and threatening this ideal. Facing this situation, MUA is operating based on three pillars; (1) Cross-cultural exchange and mutual understanding, (2) Delivery of information on the activities of UNESCO as an international organ, and (3) Promotion of interaction with younger generations. Russia’s invasion into Ukraine has enhanced the critical value of grass-roots UNESCO activities to a much higher level than before. I wish for further successful growth of MUA’s activities during the forthcoming decades.

Presentation of Merit Awards to those with 30-year membership

As a part of the 40th anniversary commemoration, MUA commended a total of 12 individuals (5 were absent) and a corporate member for their 30-year long membership. President Nagano presented certificates of merit award to those individuals.



IMAMURA Takako



Ms. UTSUNOMIYA Kazumi



Mr. NAKAGAWA Norio



Ms. HIRAKATA Kazuyo



Mr. MINEO Shigekatsu



Ms. MIYASHITA Yukari



Ms. WATABE Toshiko

Report on the publication of the 40th anniversary commemorative booklet

Ms. MIYASHITA Yukari, Vice President responsible for the publication, reported that the anniversary booklet was timely completed to mark MUA's milestone. Mr. TANAHASHI Seiichi, Auditor and editor-in-chief of the booklet, gave a speech on how he organized and produced the booklet into the final format, touching upon a few episodes experienced along the way.

The commemorative booklet was distributed to all the attendees present. For MUA members who were absent, and for those who contributed their articles to the booklet, a copy will be mailed out from MUA's secretariat office.



The MUA 40th Anniversary Booklet



Vice President Ms. Miyashita



Mr. Tanahashi, Editor-in-chief

Commendation for the publication of the 40th anniversary commemorative booklet

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Mr. TANAHASHI Seiichi for his comprehensive editorial efforts, and to Mr. YONEDA Yoshiaki for exerting his professional design & layout expertise, in the publication of the commemorative booklet.

(Written by SHIMPUKU Shoji, Secretary General, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

About the MUA 40th Anniversary Commemorative Publication

TANAHASHI Seiichi, Auditor, the PR & Internet Committee



In the past, MUA published four commemorative booklets at the 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th anniversary of its foundation. I participated in the editorial work of the 20th through 30th booklets. Therefore, it was a great pleasure to join the editorial team again in the 40th anniversary publication.

We set up an editorial committee in the spring of 2021. Through a series of discussions held thereafter, various opinions and suggestions were expressed and formulated into specific contents and pagination. By January 2022, a prototype of the booklet came into shape. It was then transferred to Mr. Yoneda, a competent professional graphic designer, who was expected to produce it into a visually attractive format. Utilizing a free software to handle heavy data, Mr. Yoneda and I repeatedly transmitted, back and forth, the proofread contents of the booklet until it was brushed up into an acceptable final version.

(To be continued on P. 8)

Retirement Message

NAGANO Hiroshi, former President of the Minato UNESCO Association



Six years flew by since I took over from Ms. TAKAI Mitsuko the position of MUA President back in 2016. Formerly, I did not have any experience in UNESCO activities. It was after the merger of the Science and Technology Agency of the Prime Minister's Office and the former Ministry of Education that unexpectedly I came to have involvement in UNESCO as one of my responsibilities. Thereafter I became aware of the importance of grass-roots UNESCO activities and started to support the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan. That's when I became acquainted with Ms. TAKAI and joined MUA at her recommendation. My original intention was just to make whatever possible contributions to a regional MUA activity but I ended up succeeding Ms. Takai as MUA president.

Taking this opportunity, I'd like to extend my hearty thanks to MUA Vice Presidents, MUA officers and members, secretariat staff, as well as the Minato City Board of Education for their consistent support during my 6-year tenure.

Without any doubt, the driving force of MUA resides in the highly motivated attitude of its members. As we can see from its event fliers, MUA, a group of all volunteers, has actively held an exceptionally wide range of programs over the years. Perhaps a weakness is in the insufficiency of young members. However, in recent years, MUA started to hold vibrant youth-oriented programs in cooperation with the Tokyo University of Maritime Science and Technology and sees a big potential in this direction.

To fulfill the ideal of peace proposed in the UNESCO Constitution, solidarity must be established among grass-roots people in different countries, based on mutual understanding as aptly expressed in the said constitution. In other words, peace treaties concluded between governments are not exempt from violation at any moment. Pursuit of peace is a complex challenge, intertwined with various issues such as global environment, food, energy, cities, religion and economic disparity.

Russian invasion into Ukraine awakened us to face a serious realistic issue, and demonstrated the said vulnerability of inter-governmental treaties. Now is the time for all UNESCO associations across Japan to strengthen their pursuit of the shared mission because we are into a new era where our commitment to peace is again challenged more than ever.

Mr. TANABE Kiichiro, my successor as MUA president, graduated from a renowned U. S. university in those days when only few Japanese students were present in American campuses. He has completed a successful business career in international fields. Not only has he shared the values required for thinking about what and how citizens should think and act in the coming era but also he has been actively involved in grass-roots activities. I trust that under his leadership MUA will accomplish still more advancement. Let me conclude with my best wishes for MUA.

(Translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P.7: About the MUA 40th Anniversary Commemorative Publication)

During the process, I was totally impressed with Mr. Yoneda's commitment to professionalism, as exemplified by his tireless search for photos with higher resolution and proactive efforts for visual improvements. I'm equally indebted to Ms. Miyashita, Vice President, and Mr. Shimpuku, Secretary General, for their consistent support. I also appreciated highly President Nagano's intensive cooperation in the final proofreading where he pointed out unnoticed errors at different places. Let me extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the editorial committee members whose support enabled the successful publication of the 40th anniversary booklet.

"Bonsai" a Traditional Japanese Culture
-Demonstration and Experience-
(Co-sponsored by the Minato City Board of Education)

Date: Sunday, March 6, 2022

Venue: Minato City Lifelong Learning Center,
Room 305

For this workshop, we welcomed Mr. KAWAKAMI Yoshiki (a certified Bonsai instructor of SEIKOEN) and 35 participants and collectively shared the traditional charm of Bonsai.

Program contents:

Lecture of the History of Bonsai, Demonstration of creating Bonsai by the instructor, and Create-your-own Bonsai exercise (using a small cherry tree).

Comments from the attendees:

- I had great time with Bonsai!
- I look forward to seeing my own Bonsai -cherry tree blossom.
- KAWAKAMI-sensei's instructions were skillful and easy to understand.
- I look forward to finding moss, grown in the shade, along the street when I take a walk.



A comment from MUA staff:

We'd like to extend our hearty thanks to the Bonsai instructor and assistants from the SEIKOEN, which was founded in Taito-ku during the late Edo-era.

Bonsai has been one of the most popular workshops held by the Minato UNESCO Association. Because more than 70 people applied for the 30-seat limit, we had to decide the participants by lottery. We are planning two additional Bonsai workshops during Fiscal 2022, one in December (pine tree for the New Year-decoration) and the other in next March (cherry tree). Please apply for these events if you are interested.



(Written by HIRAKATA K., the Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee, and translated by KODAMA K., the PR & Internet Committee)

Minato UNESCO Salon for SDGs “Report on Rome, a fascinating historical capital”

Date: Friday, March 9, 2022

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center



We had the pleasure of having Mr. TARUMI Shuji who has led an exceptionally Rome-centric business career. This gathering started with the opening address of President Nagano of MUA. It was followed by a silent mourning & prayer by all attendees for the Ukrainian citizens who were victimized by Russia’s invasion into their homeland. A total of ¥17,750 donation was raised from the attendees as relief for refugee Ukrainians, which was passed on to the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan.

Mr. Tarumi’s audio-visual presentation included slides after slides of famous scenic spots in Rome, of which he gave most interesting historical and cultural explanations. The followings are a brief bio of Mr. TARUMI and an edited summary of highlight episodes:

Mr. TARUMI’s business career:

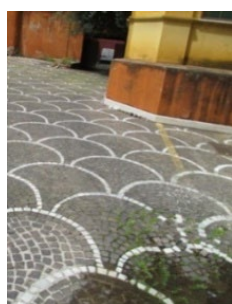
In 1974 he joined Mitsukoshi, a prestigious leading department store in Japan, and started to work for its Nihonbashi head store. Following his stint in Singapore Mitsukoshi, Mr. Tarumi received another expat assignment in April 1992 to work at Rome Mitsukoshi in Italy. He worked there for almost six years until February 1998. In March 2011, he completed a life-time employment with Mitsukoshi and retired.



However, in July of the same year, he was employed again to work for Rome Mitsukoshi. His second assignment in Rome lasted almost five years until January 2016. After his return to Japan, he joined NYK Cruises Co., Ltd., which operates a large-size “Asuka II” cruising vessel, and started a new career as a concierge. Rome Mitsukoshi closed in July 2021.

Highlight episodes during Mr. Tarumi’s expat career in Rome

In 1994, there arose a kind of “Italy Boom” in Japan and a large number of tourists came to Rome Mitsukoshi for shopping. One of the driving forces behind the tourist boom was the appreciation of the Japanese yen.



From 2011 to 2013, an increasing number of tourists from mainland China, Taiwan and South Korea came to Rome Mitsukoshi. In response, the staff at the Roman branch started to learn additional five foreign languages on top of Italian and Japanese to express welcome greetings and hospitality.

In Rome, tourists will see stone-paved streets (left photo). The surface is often referred to as “Blue Ocean Waves” but local people describe it as a design of “Tail Feathers of Peacock.” There is a historical theory that the design travelled to Japan from Persia via the Silk Road.

In March 2012, Rome Mitsukoshi held a charity concert (right photo), in an effort to provide relief fund to the Japanese citizens who were victimized by the Great East Japan Earthquake. More than 700 people, including Japan’s ambassador to Italy and the head of the Japanese cultural facility in Rome, attended the charity event. The proceeds (¥300,000), along with DVD & CD copies of the concert, were donated to Fukushima City, Ishinomaki City and Sendai City in Tohoku.





During the Christmas season, a beautiful event called “Illumination Festa” (left photo) takes place on a street called Via del Corso where the Goethe House is located (left photo). In 2016, before his return to Japan, Mr. Tarumi could experience what local people call the “Holy Year” when those, who make a pilgrimage to Rome, are expected to receive a special pardon from heaven. It is based on a Catholic belief which originated back in 1300.

Slides of major spots of scenic beauty or historical interest included the following :
(Cathedrals) S. Giovanni in Laterano, S. Maria Maggiore, S. Paolo fuori le Mura, and S. Pietro

(Hills) Aventine, Campidoglio, Celian, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal, and Viminale

(Fountains) Barcaccia, Naiadi, Toritone, and Trevi

(Movie “Roman Holiday”-related locations)

Barberini Palace, Bocca della Verita, Colonna Palace, Foro Romano, Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza di Spagna, Tevere River



At the end of Mr. Tarumi’s presentation, all of us expressed our hearty thanks with a big applause.

(Written by KOBAYASHI T., Vice President, the Membership Committee, and edited/translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 12: UNESCO Press Release - Culture of Ukrainian borscht)

international cooperation and assistance to develop and implement a dedicated safeguarding action plan.

In its decision, the Intergovernmental Committee’s noted that “the armed conflict has threatened the viability of the element. The displacement of people and bearers threatens the element, as people are unable not only to cook or grow local vegetables for borscht, but also to come together to practice the element, which undermines the social and cultural well-being of communities.”

A traditional popular dish

The culture of borscht cooking has long been practiced and celebrated in all regions of Ukraine, with communities, families and restaurants developing their own versions of this traditional and popular dish, which is based on beetroot. It reflects local characteristics and products depending on the region. Variations of borscht can include mushrooms, fish or sweet peppers. Whether as part of a wedding meal, the focus of food-related competitions or as a driver of tourism, borscht is considered part of the fabric of Ukrainian society, cultural heritage, identity and tradition.

Borscht cooking is also practiced in communities in the broader region, and whilst the inscription recognizes the social and cultural importance of Borscht cooking amongst Ukrainians, an inscription of an element of intangible cultural heritage on a list of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage does not imply exclusivity, nor ownership, of the heritage concerned. (Excerpted from the original)

From the UNESCO Press Release

Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

July 1, 2022 (Last update: July 7, 2022)

Culture of Ukrainian borscht cooking was today inscribed on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, composed of representatives of the States Parties to the UNESCO Convention.



Orest lyzhechka/Shutterstock

Ukrainian borscht - national version of borscht consumed in several countries of the region - is an integral part of Ukrainian family and community life. Festivals and cultural events are dedicated to it. In 2020, it was included in the national list of elements of intangible cultural heritage of Ukraine and was to be considered for inscription on the Representative List in the Committee's 2023 cycle.

Due to the ongoing war and its negative impact on this tradition, Ukraine asked the Member States of the Committee to fast-track the examination of the nomination file for borscht to be inscribed on the List of Urgent Safeguarding as a case of extreme urgency, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Convention. The Committee today approved this listing.

Mobilize attention and international cooperation

The List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding aims at mobilizing attention in order to safeguard intangible cultural heritage whose viability is at risk despite the best efforts of the community or the State party. Inscribing an element helps stakeholders to undertake

(To be continued on P. 11)

Minato UNESCO Association is a citizens' voluntary membership organization that promotes Japanese traditional culture, holds cross-cultural workshops and presents multicultural events and international symposia for world peace. For any questions or comments about our articles, please contact our secretariat office at:

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