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1. News from the Campus

Machado and Silvetti selected as Designers of VGU’s New Campus

The famous architecture and design firm Machado and Silvetti Associates from Boston, USA, is the winner of the architectural design competition for VGU’s future campus, which will be built 50 km northwest of Ho Chi Minh City in the new urban area of My Phuoc in Thoi Hoa Commune, Ben Cat District in the Binh Duong Province. VGU’s President Prof. Jürgen Mallon has announced that the contract with the master planners was signed at the beginning of this year. Machado and Silvetti Associates will act as General Designers and work with the well-known engineering firm Arup, who is responsible for the structural design and engineering work, as well as with many other sub-consultants who complete the team. Construction is planned to start in 2016.

Machado and Silvetti are well-known for their work, including the Getty Villa in Los Angeles, USA, and the campus of the New York University, which was completed in January 2012. Their projects have won several renowned awards. One of Arup’s recent most famous projects was Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. Now these two leading firms and many others will shape VGU’s future home in Vietnam.

“The design proposal of Machado and Silvetti is very convincing”, says VGU’s President. “It is fascinating, how the designers made use of the property”, he stresses. All the buildings will be elevated, meaning they will stand on four meter high poles. The area below will be a “continuous garden”, as the designers call it, a common space for all VGU members. Pedestrians will be able to walk protected from sun and rain under the canopy of the buildings. Beside all necessary facilities, such as lecture halls, classrooms, library, laboratories and dormitories, the new campus will also contain a scientific park for research and an academic village with accommodations for guest lecturers. Apart from that, a ceremony hall with space for 1.000 people will be build. “We will have space for 5.000 students in the first construction phase of the campus”, says the President. The second construction phase will extend the capacity of the VGU to 12.000 students. The above picture displays the campus layout for 12.000 students.
As you might know, the architectural design competition for VGU’s new campus had been running since 2012. You could see all the campus models that took part in the competition in an exhibition at the Opening Ceremony of VGU in Binh Duong in September 2013. The World Bank has provided funding of 180 million US Dollars to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the construction of the campus and another 20 million US Dollars have been given by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mrs. Karina Scholz, PR-Officer

Labs oratories for Programs EEIT and MSST are Ready to Use

Seven laboratories for the study programs Electrical Engineering & Information Technology (EEIT) and Mechatronics & Sensor Systems Technology (MSST) are now fully equipped and ready to use in Binh Duong. They contain devices for conducting experiments in metrology (the science of measurement) and control engineering. Fifteen lab courses from Electronics to Automation will take place in these rooms allowing the lecturers of the two programs, EEIT and MSST, to combine theory with practical experience. These lab rooms will also help to support research work and are open for future programs that will be launched at VGU in the next years.

Prof. Dr. Joachim Lämmel, Academic Coordinator for M.Sc. Mechatronics & Sensor Systems Technology

Lasermarker Donated for EEIT and GPEM Students

The Students of Electrical Engineering & Information Technology (EEIT) and Global Production Engineering & Management (GPEM) will shortly be able to experiment with a special laser marker machine was previously used in the production of mobile phone microchips. This machine is a donation from Dr.-Ing. Udo Klein, the new Academic Coordinator and Senior Lecturer of EEIT.

He was given the equipment by his former company Sonion A/S, a global leader in the design of advanced miniature components and acoustic devices for hearing instruments and other applications, such as mobile phones. Sonion, located in the Saigon High-Tech Park, used this laser to individually mark high-end MEMS microphones for mobile phones for traceability.

VGU students now have the opportunity to study the technology behind this highly automated machine and to create new applications for the laser, says Udo Klein. “First of all, the students will have to reactivate the machine, it means, to reestablish the high-precision, vision-based automatic control system and to set up the equipment”, he explains. “This will be a good possibility for the students to train their troubleshooting and
problem solving skills in multiple engineering areas such as automatic control, image processing, and mechanical engineering”, he adds.

Later on, the students may create new ideas for practical applications of the laser for their own project, based on the lasers’ ability to engrave both alphanumeric and graphical markings down to line widths below 30 thousands of a millimeter and to precisely control the penetration depths in almost any kind of material. “This is a unique chance for our students to gain practical experience on a real mass production machine and to develop novel applications of this laser technology”, says Udo Klein.

Mrs. Karina Scholz, PR-Officer
Dr. Udo Klein, Academic Coordinator for B.Sc. Electrical Engineering & Information Technology

**Prof. Anderl, Prof. at TU Darmstadt and Chairman of the VGU Consortium visits VGU**

On November 28th 2013, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rainer Anderl of the Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany, visited the students of VGU’s new master program Global Production Engineering and Management (GPEM). The chairman of the VGU consortium held a speech about “Global Virtual Product Development - Chances and Challenges”. In his speech, he shared some of his experiences about creating and managing process-relevant, multi-disciplinary product data (CAX, DMU etc.,) throughout the product life cycle as well as information related to knowledge management. In addition, Prof. Anderl presented methods and tools for “Collaborative Engineering”.

He showed how he and his research team are using methods and tools for enabling location-spanning, internal as well as external communication and co-operation between enterprises. With the aid of so-called collaboration-enablers they offer a basis for ad-hoc collaboration.

Dr.-Ing. Carsten Reise, Academic Coordinator for M.Sc. Global Production Engineering and Management (GPEM) and the GPEM Students

**GPEM Students Visit Fischer Asia Company**

On December 11th 2013, the GPEM master students of intake 2013 visited the company Fischer Asia near Ho-Chi-Minh-City. Fischer is a leading manufacturer when it comes to punching and shaping tools. Based on customers’ requirements, the company designs appropriate tools to produce high quality punched parts. The GPEM students listened to a presentation about general information and the technology of Fischer Asia.

The representative of the company showed them particular products and machines in the workshop. He explained the theory behind the forming process: how to differentiate between blanking and punching and many more details. The visit was a good chance for the students to observe the operating of machines in real manufacturing environment and to have a social activity.

Dr.-Ing. Carsten Reise, Academic Coordinator for GPEM and the GPEM Students
CompEng Winter School in Germany
In November 2013, all 11 of the 2012 Computational Engineering (CompEng) students had the chance to visit the Ruhr-University Bochum for a four week Winter School with a DAAD scholarship that covered travel and living costs. In these four weeks the students could earn 10 credit points. Most important for them was the chance to use the laboratory facilities of the RUB for hands-on practical training, because these kind of laboratories are not yet available at VGU. Performing experiments provided them with a much deeper understanding of the theory and software that they had studied in Vietnam.

All of the students enjoyed the stay in Bochum very much, although getting used to the weather and German food was difficult for most of them. Thanks to the great support of Jörg Sahlmen’s Bochum’s CompEng Team, the Winter School was an unforgettable event for the students. Hopefully they will all pass their IELTS exam soon, so that they can apply for one of the possible DAAD scholarship to do their Master theses in Germany.

Dr. Jörg Franke, Academic Coordinator for M.Sc. Computational Engineering (CompEng) and the CompEng Students

New Offices in Binh Duong Equipped
The move of VGU’s administration departments to Binh Duong is getting closer. The conversion of the building is nearly finished, only some wiring work still needs to be done. The new furniture for the offices has been delivered and the offices are being fitted out now. As you can read in this newsletter, the laboratories for the study programs Electrical Engineering & Information Technology and Mechatronics & Sensor Systems Technology have also been equipped. The final move of all departments to Binh Duong should be done this spring.

Mrs. Silke Heimlicher, Head of Strategic University Development and Committee Office
2. News from Research, Conferences and Workshops

Presentations of Computational Engineering at Conferences
The team of VGU’s master study program Computational Engineering (CompEng) attended several conferences and one workshop in the past months. In October the 14th Asian Congress of Fluid Mechanics took place in Hanoi. The coordinator of CompEng, Dr. Jörg Franke, attended the conference and presented results on “Urban RANS flow validation against the Michelstadt case”, a joint work with Mrs. Aniko Rakai, a PhD student from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary. The conference provided a good overview of the current Vietnamese research in Fluid Mechanics and first contacts were made with Vietnamese colleagues from other universities.

Also in October Dr. Franke attended the 13th Conference on Science and Technology at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology. He gave two presentations during the International Session on Aerospace and Naval Architecture & Marine Design: First a review of activities and achievements in “Validation of CFD Simulations for Flow and Dispersion in Urban and Industrial Areas”, followed by recent results of the “Numerical Simulation of the flow field in the generic city centre model Michelstadt”.

The second contribution was based on the Master thesis results of CompEng-student and co-author Mr Trần Huỳnh Trung Nam, and published in “Tạp chí KHCN Giao thông vận tải” (ISSN 1859-4263). Dr. Franke also acted as a reviewer for the publications from this session.

At the same conference but in another session, Mr. Nam gave his own presentation, entitled “Application of Richardson Extrapolation to the computation of the flow around a surface mounted cylinder”. This was the outcome of his case study, which he conducted under supervision of Mrs. Cornelia Kalender-Wevers, Ruhr-University Bochum, and Dr. Jörg Franke, both co-authors of the contribution.

The final presentation at this conference was given by Dr. Franke in the session "Universities - Patents - Companies", where he introduced "Computation and Simulation at VGU - Focus on CFD". The session was organized by Professor Nguyen Viet Hung from AdvanTech JSC, who is also the director of the International Institute for Computational Science & Engineering at Hanoi University of Science and Technology. Professor Hung invited Dr. Franke to this session at the 14th Asian Congress of Fluid Mechanics. The presentation was well received by the audience who had many questions on both the Computational Engineering program and about VGU.

In November the 11th National Conference on Solid Mechanics was held at Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City. Dr. Franke co-chaired one international session. In this session he and Mr. Nam again presented their contributions "Numerical Simulation of the flow field in the generic city centre model Michelstadt" and "Application of Richardson Extrapolation to the computation of the flow around a surface mounted cylinder".

In the afternoon Mrs. Nguyen Hai Van, RTA of CompEng, talked about her current results on "A Variational Approach to..."
Dynamic Recrystallization Using Probability Distributions”. For the CompEng-team, these conferences were an excellent opportunity to learn about the current research topics and problems in the field of computational engineering. They also provided an excellent opportunity to advertise VGU to a large audience. The many questions of students from the audience about enrollment procedures at the VGU will hopefully lead to an increase in the number of applicants for the Computational Engineering program

Dr. Jörg Franke, Academic Coordinator for M.Sc. Computational Engineering

Successful Presentation of VGU at Academic Fairs

In December, some of VGU’s staff members from the marketing department and the department for Strategic University Development took part at two fairs, named “Study in Germany” and “Research in Germany”. They were organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and were held in Hanoi and Ho-Chi-Minh-City.

At “Research in Germany”, graduate students, doctoral candidates, lecturers and researchers from Vietnam were able to get information about the German research sector and various funding opportunities for researchers in Germany. Several representatives from German universities and the DAAD were there to promote their institutions.

The VGU representatives were happy to answer many questions from graduate students, who are interested in either doing their PhD or working at VGU. There was also strong interest in the scholarships from the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), where 24 applicants applied for the 20 offered PhD-positions.

Mrs. Silke Heimlicher, Head of Strategic University Development and Committee Office
Mrs. Karina Scholz, PR-Officer
New Economic Research Project Started

In early January 2014 the first externally funded research project of the Economics Department at VGU started. Financed by the German Development Agency GIZ and in collaboration with researchers from Germany, the project aims to evaluate a governmental pilot program on aquaculture insurance in Ca Mau province, Vietnam.

The insurance program was run from late 2011 to 2013 and was designed to foster the development of intensive shrimp farming in the Mekong Delta by providing subsidized insurance schemes to farmers who face severe risks of income shortfalls from diseases and natural disasters. Anecdotal evidence had suggested major problems with the implementation of aquaculture insurance as the concept of insurance was hard to apply to the local conditions of Ca Mau and regulations lacked consistency and monitoring. Therefore, GIZ Ca Mau approached the Economics department of VGU to conduct a comprehensive research to evaluate the status of the pilot program and develop solutions to existing problems.

Thanks to the financial and administrative support of GIZ, the team of researchers is applying state of the art methods by combining qualitative interview approaches with a broad household survey and economic experiments. The use of tablet computers for the survey allows for a reduction in paper waste and a more environmentally friendly project. The entire project is worth over $20,000 (US) and is financed by the GIZ. The team of researchers does not receive financial endowments but has copyrights for the collected data.

The project will run until late April 2014 and cover 390 households in three districts of Ca Mau province. The final results will be presented to communal and provincial leaders and the insurance company in May 2014. The academic aim is the publication of articles in international peer reviewed journals that will help to increase the visibility of VGU as a research university in Vietnam and South East Asia.
Workshop on Ventilation in Cities
On January 23 the first Workshop on Ventilation in Cities for planning strategies in air pollution and thermal comfort took place in Binh Duong. VGU welcomed eleven specialists from universities, companies and public authorities, as well as 20 students from different Master programs of the VGU.

As a collaboration between the Master's programs Computational Engineering and Sustainable Urban Development the workshop was organized by Dr. Jörg Franke (VGU) and Professor Lutz Katzschner (University of Kassel, Germany). The target of the workshop was to bring German and Vietnamese experts in the field of city ventilation together and to discuss possible research projects in Vietnam.

After a warm welcome by the VGU's president Professor Mallon, Professor Katzschner introduced the workshop topic. Due to rapid urbanization and the emergence of many mega cities, many environmental issues are being created that can be related to the reduced wind velocities in the cities as the high density of buildings blocks the flow of the wind. Together with the well known heat island phenomenon, that the temperature in cities is higher than in the rural hinterland, the low wind speeds have a negative impact on energy needs, thermal comfort and air pollution.

Professor Katzschner and his co-worker Mr. Burghardt showed that urban climate maps are a useful tool to assess these phenomena in urban planning. Then Dr Hồ Quôc Bằng, Institute of Environment and Resources of the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, introduced the current situation of air pollution in Ho Chi Minh City and discussed simulation based mitigation scenarios. An overview of the change of measured meteorological data, including temperature, humidity and wind in Ho Chi Minh City over the last thirty years was given by Dr Bảo Thành from Sihymete, Ho Chi Minh City.

After this, Dr Mai Văn Khiêm from the Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment in Hanoi showed numerical simulation results about the influence of urbanization on climate and air pollution for Tokyo, stating that he would like to perform similar simulations for Vietnamese cities but has at the moment there is insufficient input data for land use and topography, as well as computing resources here in Vietnam.

Professor Janet Barlow from the University of Reading, United Kingdom, presented results from measurements and numerical simulations of ventilation in London. Coming from a workshop from Hong Kong and heading towards New Zealand she had accepted the invitation by Professor Katzschner on short notice and appeared as a surprise guest at the workshop. The final talk was conveyed by Dr. Franke, who
stressed the need for a thorough quality assessment of numerical simulation models prior to their operational use. The discussions that occurred after the presentations have been summarized by Professor Katzschner. He drafted a research proposal on the investigation of ventilation at district level in HCMC by means of numerical simulation and measurements. Statements of interest to participate in this project are currently requested from all workshop participants.

Dr. Jörg Franke, Academic Coordinator for M.Sc. Computational Engineering

Workshop on Lecturer Recruitment Plan in Germany
The recruitment process for new full-time lecturers at VGU started very successfully in 2013 and to date VGU has recruited seven new full-time lecturers. The process is gathering speed and more than 20 job advertisements are planned in 2014. In order to enhance and synchronize the lecturer recruitment plan and process at VGU, directors and representatives of the current study programs at VGU met for a one day workshop on January 31st, 2014 at the DAAD in Bonn, Germany. Together with the executive committee of the VGU Consortium the current recruitment plan for the next five years was elaborated.

The participants worked on synergies and intersections between the planned full-time lecturer positions. In conclusion, several collaborations within the lecturer recruitment plan and a new schedule were achieved and documented.

Participants at the workshop in Bonn were Prof. Tomas Benz (UAS Heilbronn), Prof. Peter Mattheis (UAS Furtwangen), Prof. Utz Dornberger (U Leipzig), Leif Fornauf and Marisa Röder-Sorge (TU Darmstadt), André Gröger (U Frankfurt), Prof. Klaus Hackl and Jörg Sahlmen (U Bochum), Prof. Martin Kappes and Prof. Peter Nauth (UAS Frankfurt), Prof. Frieder Keller (UAS Karlsruhe) and Peter Stammnitz (TU Berlin).

Ms. Christine Maureder and Ms. Nicole Binder, Coordination Office of VGU consortium

Symposium on Intelligent Transport Systems
On 21st February, an international Symposium on intelligent transport systems took place at the Department of Transport in Ho Chi Minh City. The symposium was named “Intelligent Transport Systems – Applications and Architectures” and it was organized by the Vietnamese German Transport Research Center (VGTRC) and the Department of Transport (DOT). The patron was the Ministry of Transport Vietnam.

Large cities in Vietnam, particularly Ho Chi Minh City, have been facing serious urban transport problems, notably including traffic accidents, congestions, and pollutions. In enhancing urban transport and traffic management to deal with the problems, HCMC has been deploying a number of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) applications, such as electric toll collection (ETC), variable message signs (VMS), GPS-based bus tracking system, and user information provision at bus stop. Most recently, the city plans to develop a traffic control centre to further deploy and coordinate various ITS systems for a better traffic management. More ITS
applications and systems will be developed with various technologies. There will be likely issues and difficulties in integrating and coordinating the different systems, thereby risking the effectiveness of investments. Such a challenge strongly calls for in-depth studies on the demand for ITS applications and architectural framework for efficiently integrating the systems.

130 experts in the fields of traffic and transports discussed these challenges at the symposium. Twelve presentations were given, including two from Prof. Boltze and one from Dr Tuan.

The event received the attendance of key staff from the Ministry of Science and HCMC Departments (including Transport, Science and Technology, Urban Railways Management, Public Transport Operation and Management Centre). The Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Transport HCMC showed a strong interest in developing an architectural framework and standards for the ITS systems. They promised to support VGTRC research on this topic. In addition, the HCMC Department of Transport agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with VGU/VGTRC in the practical and scientific cooperation in a number of topics, including ITS development, Urban Traffic Management, and Road Safety Improvement. The Memorandum of Understanding will probably be signed this spring.

Dr. Vu Anh Tuan
Co-Director
Vietnamese-German Transport Research Center (VGTRC)
Vietnamese-German University (VGU)
3. Events

**VGU Teambuilding Trip 2013**

October 2013 marked the first staff holiday ever of VGU, after five years of establishment. The three-day vacation to the cities of Hue, Da Nang and the Cham islands was unforgettable for the staff members.

They could enjoy sightseeing in Hue and Danang, like visiting Hue citadel, Thien Mu pagoda and Linh Ung pagoda, swimming at Lang Co beach and coral diving at Cham island as well as join exciting team-building games on the beach, such as carrying sea water with a bottomless bucket, transferring a bucket full of water with strings and running inside a canvas line.

Consistent leadership, trust and cooperation between team members were key factors for victory. The activities required individuals to trust their team leader and cooperate with each other to work out the suitable strategy for each challenge. The teambuilding section ended with the Gala Dinner where everybody enjoyed the food and the music performances by VGU own staff.

The holiday contributed to the development of team spirit and teamwork among employees. It provided a clear view of the strength of unity that can also be applied in similar situations at work. Altogether, the staff members had an exciting and amusing time.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam,
Marketing Officer

Ms. Thao T.M. Nguyen,
Assistant to President
Binh Duong Student Football Cup

The VGU football team competed in the Binh Duong Student Football Cup 2013 last November. The players were happy to wear their new jerseys. The team defeated Kinh Te-Ki Thuat Binh Duong in first match. Although the opponent led 1-0 at the first leg, the whole team started to find their real power by delivering three heavy blows to the opposite goal to end the game. This was the first win, but our students could not make it to the next round. VGU’s team was defeated by Thu Dau Mot University and Thuy Loi University and was ranked third in the table, unqualified to the next round. However, VGU has formed a wonderful football team and we can look forward to new trophies in the future.

Mr. Nguyễn Hoàng Thiên Thư, Student Affairs Officer

Christmas Parties and Baking Contest 2013

In December 2013, both the VGU students and the university’s staff had their own Christmas Parties. The Christmas Party for the students took place at the campus in Binh Duong. As every year, it was organized by the students themselves. “Christmas” was also the topic of the VGU Baking Contest, an important part of the Party. This year the students were happy to welcome the honor juror Ms. Nguyen Thi Cam Duyen, a cake specialist from the five star Renaissance Hotel. Ms Duyen showed the students how to decorate a Christmas cake and shared the story of her career. All teams were inspired by her story and her outstanding baking skills.

20 teams participated in the contest. Each team was truly talented by giving the audiences a feast of scent and flavor. The Binh Duong Campus was filled with a warm and cozy atmosphere; many foreign teachers said that the scent of cakes reminded them of Christmas at their country. After two hours, the winner was declared. All the cakes were shared to the audiences to enjoy together. Everyone was happy with the contest and look forward to next year’s competition.

Mr. Nguyễn Hoàng Thiên Thư, Student Affairs Officer
The **Staff Christmas Party** took place at the VGU building in Thu Duc. Like every year, the lights of the Christmas tree and the scent of the German Christmas wine, called Glühwein, made everyone feel “christmasy”. VGU’s President, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mallon, gave a speech in which he looked back at the year 2013. VGU mastered lots of challenges on the way to become one of South East Asia’s best universities, he said. The first teambuilding trip in VGU’s history also was one of the milestones in 2013. The president wished everyone a very merry Christmas with time to relax and enjoy some family time.

The staff enjoyed good food at the party and were surprised of Santa Clause’s visit. He came with presents for the VGU leaders, but also with a rod from Santa’s little helper. The night finished with the tradition of exchanging Christmas gifts under the tree and singing Christmas carols together to the guitar sounds of our Head of Marketing, Mr. Thai. Everybody truly enjoyed the nice evening.

Mrs. Karina Scholz, PR-Officer

**Halloween Party**

The Halloween Party is organized by VGU’s students annually. In 2013, with the support of VGU, the party was held imposingly with the participation of over 300 students. At 6pm October 29th 2013, all students arrived at VGU’s Campus, took pictures, enjoyed beverage at the food stands and each student was given a random number for The Big Game. The campus was decorated with spider webs, spider-simulated models; paper ghosts, spiders and bats to create a mysterious and haunted atmosphere.

At 7.15pm, the hosts introduced The Big Game: All students were divided into ten groups based on the numbers which were randomly given before. Each team had about 25-30 members and was led by a dementor. All teams had to participate in three game stations to get the clues from the organizers. Besides, there were two other clues that were hidden in the campus with limited hints given. All the clues helped each team to find the Mascot. The first team finding the Mascot won The Big Game.

The final event was the Costume Contest. Five candidates were selected by the dementors to compete for the prize "Ghost of the Night". After dancing and answering questions of the hosts, Ms. Ngo Ngoc Anh Thu won with the costume of a pirate. Then the hosts said goodbye and thanks to all students for participating. The Party ended leaving all who participated with a lot of beautiful memories.

Mr. Nguyễn Hoàng Thiên Thư, Student Affairs Officer
4. Staff News

Sad News
The VGU staff very sadly said farewell to Mr. Dam, our former Deputy Head of the Facility Management Department. He passed away in January after his serious traffic accident on 23rd December 2013. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family.

Welcoming New Staff
Since November, several positions were filled:
Mr. Tran Duc Khanh, Senior Lecturer and Academic Coordinator for Business Information Systems (BIS)
Mr. Tran Duc Han, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Academic Coordinator for Computational Engineering (CompEng)
Mrs. Pham Thi Thu Huong, English Translator cum Interpreter
Mr. Tran Ngoc Cuong, Lab Engineer for Mechatronics and Sensor System Technology (MSST)
Mr. Pham Thai Son, Academic Coordinator for Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)
Dr. Nguyen Le Hung, Vice President for Research
Dr. Le Cong Tru, Dean of the Economics and Management Faculty
Dr. Nguyen Anh Thi, Dean of the Engineering Faculty

We wish all newcomers a warm welcome to VGU!

Mrs. Karina Scholz, PR-Officer

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