



# APACPH

## Newsletter September 2005

### *President's Welcome*



This will be the last newsletter in which I address you as President of APACPH, with a new President due to take over the at the next General Assembly meeting in Taipei this November.

The last 2 years have been very exciting and challenging for me personally. With the secretariat located down under in Brisbane, the President in Kuala Lumpur and members of the executive committee scattered all over the Pacific Rim, getting across to each other in different time zones provided a slightly different kind of collegiality. Fortunately for us, technology has been kind but we have not exploited that to the fullest. I do hope in the near future the secretariat will be better funded to provide a more sophisticated system. Auditory and visual images will naturally be more pleasing to all those attending the frequent teleconferences.

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I am most pleased and honoured to be in the President's seat at the very time when APACPH was undergoing metamorphosis. It was not smooth going and far from simple. Obviously there were grave concerns by members who thought that APACPH may be dominated by members from the country where the consortium is incorporated. On the other hand there were also fears that if APACPH persist as an informal association of member institutions, in future it will not be able to compete for international funding and recognition. We are likely to be superseded by much newer NGO's with similar academic public health emphasis but better constituted. We have gone through all the debates and we should now concentrate on the tasks ahead of us.

As a group we are well endowed with real talents, expertise and intellectual resources that, in my opinion, have not been exploited to the fullest. Yes, we have created our own networks individually, but we are yet to be able to prove to the relevant international forum our cohesive and collective efforts in engaging regional health related crises or disasters or even research projects, be it academic in nature or otherwise. However, of late we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. It may take the Tsunami and Katrina crises to test our newly incorporated APACPH to show its credibility as a group. I must take this opportunity to congratulate all members of the executive committee for their efforts to put up a research program for the Tsunami disaster and who managed to visit Sri Lanka to assess the problem first hand. Such efforts mark a new era in the operational activities of APACPH.

APACPH has given me a lot of wisdom in dealing with international issues. It would have not been possible if I did not get the fullest support and understanding from my fellow colleagues. Sonja Firth, Colin McInnes and Brian Oldenburg at the secretariat were marvellous and dealt with all the matters very professionally. The constitution, management processes and procedures were some of the issues related to governance of APACPH that became our preoccupation. I am sure the hours of hard physical labour, emotional stress and sharing of the thinking hats will be well rewarded. We hope to see this in Taipei.

See you all there!

Prof Anuar Zaini  
President, APACPH

## *Background: The Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health*

APACPH is a consortium of over 50 public health institutions in 18 countries across the Region. The Vision of the Consortium is to achieve the highest possible level of health of all the people of the nations of the Asia-Pacific region. APACPH aims to enhance Regional capacity to improve the quality of life and to address major public health challenges through the delivery of education, research and population health services by member institutions.

APACPH supports activities that forward its five main objectives:

- (i) To enhance the quality and relevance of educational and training programs in public health;
- (ii) To expand knowledge, improve skills and demonstrate effective interventions;
- (iii) To raise awareness of current, emerging, and re-emerging public health issues and develop programs of action for their resolution;
- (iv) To enhance the capacity and sustainability of public health systems;
- (v) To assist in policy and leadership development for health;

APACPH has five Regional Offices, holds an Annual conference on a topical public health issue and publishes the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, the only English language journal of its type in the Region.

## *APACPH Member Reminders*

- **APACPH General Assembly Meeting - 20th November 2005**  
Please contact the APACPH Secretariat regarding your availability for this meeting or to nominate a representative.
- **APACPH Conference 2005 - 19th-23rd November 2005**  
Register at [www.apacph2005.org](http://www.apacph2005.org)
- **Subscription Payments**  
Please process your 2005 subscription payment as soon as possible.
- **Member Update forms**  
Please complete the 'Member Update form' for your institution and return to the Secretariat Office for inclusion on your Member Institution page on the website.

For more information, contact Sonja Firth at the APACPH Secretariat Office - Email: [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)

## *APACPH Becomes Registered Not-For-Profit Organisation*

As of 6th September 2005, APACPH officially became a not-for-profit organisation registered in Australia. The incorporation completes a process that has taken almost three years and that has had significant input from APACPH Members as well as the APACPH elected Executive Board.

One result of the incorporation will see a higher level of transparency and accountability in the operations of APACPH. Whilst Members may not notice a great difference in the running of the organisation, there will be a need for them to become more involved in some of the processes of the organisation, for example the election of Office Bearers and amendments to the constitution. Members will also be required to pay their annual subscription which has been scaled to take into account ability to pay. Many APACPH Members are now required to pay only 25%-50% of the previous annual subscription dues of US\$2000.

APACPH's new status, combined with an increase in activities and collaboration, will give the organisation greater recognition in the international community and increase its potential to source funding to further its aims and objectives.

For a copy of APACPH's legal constitution, visit the 'Members Only' section of the website ([www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org)). If you have forgotten the password, please contact [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org). A copy of the draft ByLaws and Official Information Sheet (to be read in conjunction with the constitution) can also be found in this section of the website.

For clarification of any points regarding APACPH's registration, please contact Sonja Firth - [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)

## 37th APACPH Conference Update

The plans for the 37th APACPH Conference 'Health Security and Emerging Disasters in the Asia-Pacific Region' (19th - 23rd November 2005) in Taiwan are in the final stages. The conference main theme will see experts in all aspects of Disaster Management come together to discuss this very important public health topic.

### Saturday 19th November

APACPH Executive Board Meeting  
 APACPH Early Career Professionals Workshop  
 Disaster Management Workshop

### Sunday 20th November

APACPH General Assembly Meeting  
 Research Paper Writing Workshop

### Monday 21st November - Wednesday 23rd November

Conference Program

Keynote speakers include Prof Ronald Edward LaPorte, whose public health Supercourse website ([www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/)) has expanded to 'Just in Time' lectures (JIT) responding to disasters such as SARS, the Tsunami, and Hurricane Katrina. Other keynote speakers are Dr Palitha Abeykoon, Sri Lanka (International Health Assistance in Disasters), Dr Jung der Wang, Taiwan (Survival & Quality of Life for Outcome Evaluation), Prof Anthony Zwi, Australia (Man-made Disaster: Conflict and Forced Migration) and Dr John Menzies, Australia (Quality in Disaster Management - why it is difficult)

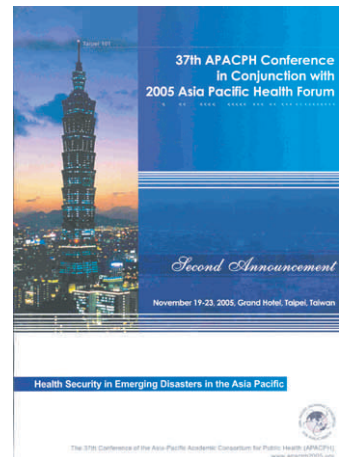
As well as keynote lectures the conference program includes plenary, concurrent and poster sessions and pre-conference workshops. The conference is open to APACPH Members and non-members alike and is hosted by the Taiwan Epidemiology Association at Taipei's premier hotel, the Grand Hotel. Delegates can get updates on the program and register via the conference website [www.apacph2005.org](http://www.apacph2005.org). Please direct enquiries regarding the conference to the Conference Secretariat:

We Plan PCO

9F, No. 57, Sec. 2, Yung-Ho Rd., Yung-Ho City, Taipei County 234, Taiwan

Tel: +886-2-2927-5500 Fax: +886-2-2924-5511

Email: [service@apacph2005.org](mailto:service@apacph2005.org) Website: [www.apacph2005.org](http://www.apacph2005.org)



## Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health Looks to the Future

Members of the Working Committee tasked with improving the profile of APACPH's Journal - the **Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health** - are looking at some options regarding its publication and distribution.

At a recent meeting of the committee it was decided to pursue negotiations with international publishing houses who would be better placed to market, distribute and produce the Journal on the scale envisaged. The need for electronic publishing (whilst maintaining the hard copy production), increasing the number of issues to four per year and a heightened profile were all cited as reasons for engaging an external agency.

"Editorial control would remain with APACPH and the Journal would maintain all the qualities that make it unique in the Region. We urgently need to raise the quality of the production and profile of the Journal in order to compete in the market and the Editorial office at the University of Malaya does not have the capacity" noted APACPH President and Journal Editor-in-Chief, Prof Anuar Zaini,

The Working Committee for the Journal has begun tentative negotiations with appropriate publishers and will keep APACPH Members informed of any developments. In the meantime, Members are encouraged to submit articles and publicise the Journal to their faculty. The next Journal Vol 17:2 2005 will be published in November/December 2005. The focus of this edition is Nutrition with a Guest Editorial on 'Improving Nutrition Knowledge'.

Those wishing to submit articles should read the 'Instructions to Authors' (on the APJPH website - [www.apjph.org.my](http://www.apjph.org.my)) and send their submissions to:

Managing Editor, The Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health  
 Health Research Development Unit (HeRDU)  
 Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya  
 50603 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA Fax: +60 3 7967 5769

Enquiries can be made to [apjph@ummc.edu.my](mailto:apjph@ummc.edu.my) or Tel: +60 3 7967 5748

## Focus on Early Career Professionals



Michelle Wong (2nd from right front row) and fellow students and staff of USC at the East-West Conference

The Asia-Pacific Early Career Network in Public Health (APECNPH) is the brain-child of 2nd Year MPH student Michelle Wong and colleagues from the University of Southern California. Michelle and her colleagues identified a need for a network to support students and those at the early stages of their career to get a better awareness and understanding of global public health issues.

Michelle's experiences in China, where she assisted in pilot studies related to health behaviour, have helped her to understand that key partnerships and collaborations are essential to the success of any public health venture. She hopes that the network will provide a context in which peers and professionals all over the world can connect with one another, build new friendships and exchange knowledge, support, and resources.

'I discussed the idea for a network of early career professionals with APACPH Secretary-General, Dr Walter Patrick, at the East-West Conference in April and he saw how the APACPH membership might also benefit from this initiative. With the help of the APACPH Directorate Office, I have now set up a working committee consisting of students and early career faculty from APACPH member institutions to discuss how this network might function and some of the activities it should be involved with,' Michelle Wong remarked.

So far, there are 'early career' individuals involved from the Regional Center for PHC, Cholburi Province, Thailand; Dept of Internal Medicine, Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Malaysia; World Health Organisation, Sri Lanka; Kazakhstan School of Public Health, Kazakhstan; University of the Ryukyus, Japan; Center for Health Risk Assessment and Policy, National Taiwan University, Taiwan; Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University; School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology; School of Public Health, Sydney University, Australia; Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, USA.

The first activity of this network will be a **pre-conference workshop** in Taipei on Saturday 19th November aimed specifically at this group. The title of the workshop is **'Identifying and understanding the Region's major public health issues'** and participants will be encouraged to bring information on the major public health issues from their own countries in order to explore and understand the similarities and differences between countries and the implications these have for public health teaching and research programs throughout the Region.

Students and early career professionals attending the workshop and the conference will have the opportunity to meet and connect with experienced researchers and experts in their respective fields, meet students from all over the world, be part of the APECNPH development team and initiate research papers/topics with public health professionals from all over the world.

Those interested in hearing more about the Asia-Pacific Early Career Public Health Network or the Early Career Workshop at the Taipei Conference should contact Michelle Wong ([wongmich@usc.edu](mailto:wongmich@usc.edu)) or the APACPH Directorate Office ([sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org)). More details will also be available on the APACPH website [www.apacph.org](http://www.apacph.org) under 'APACPH Activities'.

## APACPH Website Update

The APACPH website is being re-worked and organised to reflect some of APACPH's growing activities and to provide more information to members.

By mid-October you will be able to see some changes which will include an improved 'Projects and Activities' section including bullet-in board, a 'Communication and Reports' section, which will include not only APACPH Reports but additional resources of use to Members and other enhanced features.

We will also be improving our member pages. By filling in the MEMBER UPDATE FORM, members can make available much more information about their institution, the courses on offer, research priorities and other important details.

A copy of the MEMBER UPDATE FORM can be found on the 'Members Only' part of the website or contact Sonja Firth - Email: [sonja@apacph.org](mailto:sonja@apacph.org), Tel: +61 7 3864 3372 Fax: +61 7 3864 9693.

If you have any feedback on the website or would like to see other information included, please contact Sonja Firth.

## *Curriculum Development Project Starts with Undergraduate Survey*

Members of the **Undergraduate Curriculum Development Project** Working Group have been busy compiling a survey on undergraduate curricula in the Region.

Participants in the Working Group, chaired by Professor Ellie Nezami from the University of Southern California, include Dr. Joao Soares Martins, Universidade da Paz, Timor-Leste, Professor Alistair Woodwood, University of Auckland, New Zealand, A/Professor Oranut Pacheun, Mahidol University, Thailand and A/Professor Michael Dunne and Ms Melinda Messenger, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Key representatives at APACPH Institutions should already have received a communication by email asking them to complete the survey. If you are the Representative of an APACPH Member, a copy is also enclosed with this newsletter.

This is the first activity of the Curriculum Development project and aims to identify the current level of undergraduate public health education in the Region. It is hoped the survey will also identify APACPH Member institutions who might be interested in offering undergraduate programs in the future and how APACPH might be able to support them.

Participation in the survey and the project is not confined to APACPH institutions and APACPH Members are encouraged to forward this survey onto their colleagues at other institutions throughout the Region in order to gather the most comprehensive information.

The Undergraduate Curriculum Project aims to:

- define the competencies for undergraduate education in public health
- explore the relationship between graduate and undergraduate curricula in public health
- develop strategies to improve undergraduate curricula in public health

To receive an electronic version of this survey, to register your interest in being involved in this project or to nominate someone to be involved in a future network to discuss improvements in undergraduate curriculum development, please contact Rebecca Watson at the APACPH Directorate office on [rl.watson@qut.edu.au](mailto:rl.watson@qut.edu.au)

All survey responses should be returned to the APACPH Directorate Office by 28th October 2005:

Attn: Rebecca Watson  
 APACPH Undergraduate Curriculum Survey  
 c/o School of Public Health  
 Queensland University of Technology  
 Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove Qld 4059

## *China Meeting Strengthens Regional Focus on APACPH*



*Delegates at the Special China Regional Meeting of APACPH*

APACPH Regional Director Prof Brian Oldenburg recently co-chaired a Special China Regional meeting in Beijing with Prof Liming Lee, Immediate Past President, APACPH and Prof Hu Yonghua, Dean, Peking University and APACPH Regional Director, where they met with a number of other Public Health Deans from around China. Participants at the meeting included Prof Wenhua Ling, Dean, School of Public Health, Sun Yat-Sen University; Prof Hong Yan, Dean, School of Medicine, Xi'an Jiaotong University; Prof Wang Wei, Dean, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Capital University of Medical Sciences; Prof Wang Xiao-Min, Vice-President, Capital University of Medical Sciences and Prof Chen Kun, Dean, Zhejiang University School of Public Health.

Discussion at the meeting centred on the history of the APACPH organisation and how an APACPH Regional Network could be further strengthened in China in the future.

There were lots of excellent suggestions made regarding improvements to the APACPH Journal, the website and APACPH's other current activities. It was agreed that a further meeting will be organised later in the year at the time of the Beijing Forum and that all Schools of Public Health from throughout China will be invited to attend.

## Child Health Gets a Boost in the Region

The **Asia-Pacific Resiliency Project** explores the multiple paths children follow to health and wellbeing in diverse Asia-Pacific settings and examines the connection between social and environmental sources and resilience. At the core of this project is to establish, implement and evaluate resiliency enhancing initiatives/activities at school and community levels at key locations in Asia and the Pacific.

So far five cities (Beijing, Nanjing, Hefei, Shen Zhen, Shen Yang) in China and Hong Kong have participated in the study which involved over 16,000 primary school children and their parents and 2000 school staff across the five cities.

Institutions involved with the study are:

- Capital Institute of Pediatrics, Beijing
- Jiang Su Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Nanjing, Jiang Su Province
- An Hui Medical University, Hefei, An Hui Province
- Shen Zhen Institute of Health Education, Shen Zhen, Guang Dong Province
- Shen Yang Normal University, Shen Yang, Liao Ning Province.
- Health Education and Health Promotion Foundation (HEP), Hong Kong
- Centre for Health Education and Health Promotion, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)



Clockwise from top left: Mr Michael Hardie (QUT), Ms Pei-hua Wang and Mr Ming Wu (Jiangsu CDC), Dr Jing Sun (QUT), Prof. Xiaoshu Hu (Jiangsu CDC) and A/Prof Don Stewart (QUT)

The Asia-Pacific Resilience project is led by A/Prof. Donald Stewart and Dr. Jing Sun of Queensland University of Technology who are keen to extend the project to other parts of the Region. The Asia-Pacific Resiliency Project can assist with training, technical advice, research skills and project development. Necessary funding would need to be obtained on a project by project basis.

Those interested in receiving more information about this project should contact A/Prof Don Stewart [de.stewart@qut.edu.au](mailto:de.stewart@qut.edu.au) or Dr Jing Sun [s.jing@qut.edu.au](mailto:s.jing@qut.edu.au)

## Cyber University Students Praise Spring Semester Program

Biostatistics, Occupational Health, Injury Prevention, Public Health Nutrition, International Child Health, Consumer Health Informatics, Systems Analysis & Design in Healthcare and Health Research Methods were successfully taken by more than 240 students in the last spring semester of the **International Cyber University for Health (ICUH)**. The students created partnerships and communicated with the others (students and lecturers) for support.

Students who had completed the Spring program were keen to enrol for the Fall program. Odongua Nemekhee, one of ICUH students taking Health research methods course of Spring semester said

*"I really enjoyed taking this subject. Especially, I learnt different research methods used in the health sciences, with an emphasis on selecting and applying appropriate research designs. During the course, I also figured out how to undertake research in an appropriate way and to read and interpret research findings in any of the health science disciplines."*

ICUH Fall program - The following are donated and opened for the Fall program (September 1 to November 30) :

- Introduction to Health Informatics (Prof. Young Moon Chae)
- Genetic Epidemiology (Prof. Sun Ha Jee)
- Introduction to Health Ethics (Prof. IS Hyun)
- Disaster Management (Prof. Walter Patrick)
- Introduction to Public Health Nursing (Prof. GS Oh)
- Health planning and economic evaluation (Prof. HY Kang)

We welcome APACPH members who wish to donate additional courses to the ICUH.

Please visit <http://icuh.yonsei.ac.kr/index.asp> for more information on the International Cyber University for Health.

## *Farewell to Colin McInnes*



APACPH's Executive Officer, Colin McInnes left the organisation this July following almost three years of service. Colin was brought in to assist with the reform of APACPH, with a brief to turn a successful but informal network into a robust and thriving organisation, globally recognised and respected.

Colin McInnes was largely responsible for the reform process that finally led to the incorporation of APACPH as a not-for-profit organisation. He fostered many links internationally, establishing a cooperative partnership with APACPH's sister organisation in Europe, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), representing APACPH at international forums and maintaining dialogue with international funding agencies. He also assisted the Executive Board with advice on legal and organisational matters.

Colin, who went part-time at the beginning of 2005, has left APACPH to devote more time to the family business that he has set up in Brisbane with wife Nicol. The Executive Board wish to thank him for all his hard work for APACPH and wish him well with his future endeavours.

## *Environmental Epi Network Up and Running*

The **Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology Network in the Asia-Pacific Region (EOENAPR)** was formed at the 36th APACPH Conference in Brisbane in December 2004. Co-Chaired by A/Prof Shilu Tong (QUT) and A/Prof Nipapun Kungskulniti (Mahidol University) the network aims to provide information of interest to researchers and practitioners of environmental and occupational epidemiology and to facilitate collaboration in research, education and training in the Region.

At the recent Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) A/Prof Tong met with some members of the network to discuss collaborative projects in the Region.

A recent newsletter circulated news, events, journal articles and websites of interest on this topic. A copy can be found on the APACPH website under 'APACPH Activities'.

Anyone interested in joining this network should email Secretary - Shelley Woods - [sd.woods@student.qut.edu.au](mailto:sd.woods@student.qut.edu.au)

## *APACPH Consolidates Relationship with ASPHER*

Following ASPHER participation in the 2004 APACPH Conference in Brisbane, Prof Brian Oldenburg has reciprocated by participating in a workshop at the ASPHER Conference in Armenia in September. The workshop explored possible collaborative opportunities and educational and research projects which could form the basis for cooperation between regional networks.

The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) is APACPH's closest 'sister' organisation in Europe. Prof Brian Oldenburg explained the similarities between the two organisations.

'It is fascinating how there is such commonality of issues between our respective organisations. The growth and development of Schools of Public Health in Europe over the past 5 years has been very impressive by any standards, particularly in the Central and Eastern European countries.' Prof Oldenburg noted.

APACPH recently signed an MOU with ASPHER and discussions are ongoing regarding the nature of the cooperation between the organisations.

More information on ASPHER can be found on their website - <http://www.aspher.org/>

## APACPH Member Updates

### Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Prof. Ishwar Bahadur Shrestha has taken over as Head of Department of Community Medicine and Family Health at the Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. You can contact Prof Shrestha at [ishwar\\_j@ntc.net.np](mailto:ishwar_j@ntc.net.np)

### Mahidol University Update

The Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, has established a Regional Tobacco Control Center to provide training, facilitate research work on tobacco and provide an information center with support from WHO and the Support Health Promotion Foundation.

On 15 July 2005, Dean Chalermchai Chaikittiporn of the Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University participated and gave a greeting note in Video Conference of Interuniversity Seminar Launch 2005 operated by The Center of Academic Resources (CAR) and the World Bank Institute (WBI) with the cooperation of the Tokyo Development Learning Center and the GDLN London Center.

## Calendar of Events

### 37th APACPH Conference 2005 - Health Securities in Emerging Disasters in the Asia-Pacific Region

Date: 19-23 November 2005 (including pre-conference workshops)

Location: The Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan

Conference Website: [www.apacph2005.org](http://www.apacph2005.org)

Disaster Management and Health Security is the key theme of this event which will also cover a wide range of other public health topics. Workshops, keynote lectures, plenary, concurrent and poster sessions make up the program for the 37th APACPH Conference.

### 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health (APCRSH)

Date: 17-21 November 2005

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Website: <http://www.3apcrsh.org/>

The theme for this upcoming conference is "Sexual and Reproductive Health For All By 2015". The conference will be a great opportunity for policy makers, program planners, program managers, service providers, GOs, NGOs, researchers, educators and funders to meet, discuss and share experiences, ideas as well as expertise with their counter-parts from Asia and the Pacific Region on important reproductive and sexual health issues.

### 11th National Public Health Conference: "Synergistic Diversity for Healthy Thailand"

Date: 19-21 December 2005

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Website: [http://www.ph.mahidol.ac.th/news/synergistic11/21\\_12\\_48.html](http://www.ph.mahidol.ac.th/news/synergistic11/21_12_48.html)

Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, WHO, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), Ministry of Public Health, and THAIPHEIN (Thailand Public Health Education Institutes Network) will organize the 11th National Public Health Conference: "Synergistic Diversity for Healthy Thailand" during 19 - 21 December, 2005 in Bangkok.

## Contact

For further information on any of the items mentioned in the newsletter, to include items for the next newsletter, or to enquire on any APACPH-related business, please contact:

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