

World Environment University: Institutional Structure, Organization and the Structure of the Academic Program

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Abstract

The University is to be established as an independent institution, with an appropriate status under the law of Korea. It will require such arrangements, incentives privileges and immunities as will facilitate the recruitment of international staff and the participation of faculty and students from all over the world. The University must be fully autonomous to ensure its intellectual and academic integrity and freedom from ideological constraints. The relationship with United Nations can be achieved without making the University an actual UN organization, through cooperation with UN agencies and organizations and participation of UN personnel in its faculty and programs. The core program centered at the University itself would be developed initially on the basis of the comparative advantage offered by its location in Jeju and the quality of faculty, full and part time, that could be recruited to the University. To reflect the complexity and range of issues in the field of sustainable development, it is planned that the academic program of the University should be organized from two mutually reinforcing perspectives, core competences underlying the whole program and specific areas of concentration.

Key words :

World Environment University. Institutional Structure. Organization. The Structure of the Academic.

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Legal Status and Structure²

The University is to be established as an independent institution, with an appropriate status under the law of Korea. It will require such arrangements, incentives privileges and immunities as will facilitate the recruitment of international staff and the participation of faculty and students from all over the world.

Structure

The University must be fully autonomous to ensure its intellectual and academic integrity and freedom from ideological constraints. The relationship with United Nations can be achieved without making the University an actual UN organization, through cooperation with UN agencies and organizations and participation of UN personnel in its faculty and programs.

More professional consultation and guidance will be required before a decision can be made as to where and how the WEU will be incorporated. Some of the most respected universities of ROK are private in nature and this prospect needs to be explored further. Another alternative would be to incorporate it through special legislation in the ROK which may in any event be necessary to accord the University the privileges, immunities and supporting measures required for its viability and success. Whatever forms of incorporation the University takes, its structure would include a Board reflecting both its international character and the supporting role the ROK and Jeju province as hosts, It would also have the Council of distinguished and experienced international personalities which would elect their own Chair person. An especially renowned and respected Rector would be appointed as Chief Executive Officer and a Chancellor who could also chair the Council.

Organization

A. It is proposed that the University be governed by an independent Council whose members will be

selected in a transparent manner on the basis of their academic credentials and practical experience in the fields which constitute the program of the University. The membership of the Council will be internationally based and the Government of South Korea and the UICWEP will be appropriately represented.

B. The selection of the initial Members of the Council of the University would be made by the Council with a broadly representative membership.

C. The Council would approve a Charter of the University defining its objectives, structure, organization and fields of activity. This Charter will be endorsed by the Government of South Korea and Jeju Island.

D. A Rector will be elected by the Council with clear responsibility and accountability, under the authority of the Council, for the development and implementation of the academic programme, and for the financial and administrative management and development of the University.

E. A Council of recognized scholars and experts will be established to advise on the academic quality and relevance of the program of the University. This Board will play an important role at an appropriate stage in the recommending of the University's academic programs.

F. The University will enter into an agreement with World Association for Island Studies, the Jeju National University, Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Government and Korean Ministry of Environment, defining the conditions and arrangements for cooperation and for the provision of services and facilities.

G. The faculty will be constituted by both resident faculty and visiting professors and researchers from all over the world. Arrangements will be made for the regular renewal of the resident faculty. The courses comprising the academic program of the University will be developed and taught on a multicultural basis, taking account of the diverse circumstances, views and aspirations in different parts of the world. This will allow the University to offer its students a remarkable breadth of perspectives and expertise on the critical issues of sustainable development.

H. The University will undertake collaborative teaching programs and the exchange of faculty and students with Korean universities and centers of learning and expertise across the world. I.

2) Maurice Strong talks about Institutional Structure and Organization in the Chapter 5. He mentions 5.1. Legal Status and 5.2. Structure (Chang Hoon Ko, Maurice Strong et. al. 2010. A Feasibility Study on the Establishment of the World Environment University in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, The Republic of Korea. pp. 193-194.

Specific arrangements would be made to establish a comprehensive and internet-based library and documentation center and to gain access to existing library resources in relevant institutions worldwide.

Faculty Board and Advisory and Council.

A. A meeting of a small core group to review and refine the feasibility study will be convened consisting of some 12–15 international experts and their Korean counterparts whose opinions, advice and support would contribute significantly to plans for establishing the University. It will be desirable for such a meeting to occur on or before December of 2010. The international persons to be invited to this meeting would be chosen from amongst those in the attached list includes key individuals who could be invited to serve the University on its faculty and the Council.

The Academic Programs³

The core program centered at the University itself would be developed initially on the basis of the comparative advantage offered by its location in Jeju and the quality of faculty, full and part time, that could be recruited to the University. This Foundation integrated course of three months includes:

A. The history and development of the international environmental and related sustainable development movements for which the extensive of study of the Foreign Ministry of Sweden, would be the principal source of reference. Ambassador Lars Göran Engfeldt, author of this report, would be the logical person to take the lead in developing this course.

B. Climate change, the principal global and environmental issue affects all countries and particularly small island states. This must be an important priority for the University focusing particularly on the vulnerabilities and role of small island states as well as on the means by which carbon emission reductions can produce benefits to small island states and other developing countries, providing resources to support their sustainable

senior official of UNCTAD, and continues to be a world leader in the field, would be interested in developing and conducting this program. Through this intensive and integrated courses, the University can provide certificate to students.

C. Environmental governance – the role of United Nations Environment Program, other UN organizations and agencies, the International Union for the Conservation for Nature and Natural Resources(IUCN), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other organizations. The report of the global Environmental Governance Project headed by Mr. Maria Ivanova of the Yale University Center for Environment Law and Policy would provide an important reference document for this. Maurice Strong would take initial responsibility for organization of the above program. International agreements, conventions and treaties, their administration, effectiveness and prospects would be an important component of this.

D. Biodiversity – its indispensable role in sustaining life on Earth, the risks and consequences of extinction of endangered species and resources required to avoid them. This is a central theme of IUCN which would be best able to design and undertake the program of WEU in this most important work.

E. The role of citizens as expressed in the growing influence of the multiplicity of Non-governmental and Civil Society Organizations (NGO's), and protest movements. The World Citizens Organization headed by its founder the distinguished Korean Dr. YoungHoon Kwaak, who is highly esteemed and influential internationally is in a position to establish and lead a World Citizens Institute as an autonomous component of the University and World Center for the Organization. He could assume responsibility for the development of the Institute which would be designed to advocate, train and prepare people for leadership in civil society organizations and movements which are the source of growing initiative and influence.

F. The environment and tourism is an especially and appropriate program for Jeju which is already established as a very important and growing tourism destination. A World Tourism Institute would be as an autonomous component of WEU. Dr. Geoffrey Lipman, a world leader in the industry, formally head of the World Tourism and Travel Council and Assistant Director-General of the World

3) Maurice Strong writes about 6-2 Cooperative and Extension Programs of the Structure of the Academic Program.(Chang Hoon Ko, Maurice Strong et. al. 2010. A Feasibility Study on the Establishment of the World Environment University in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, The Republic of Korea. pp. 198-204.

Tourist Organization is prepared to take the lead in developing this. An important component, for which Mr. Lipman is the leading advocate, would be the emerging concept of "sustainable mobility".

G. The Earth Restoration Corps has for several years been running a very effective program of training of young people, and instructors to restore environmentally damaged sites, revitalize their ecological integrity and productivity and provide constructive and educational work for young people. Mrs. Hanne Strong, who head the organization, is prepared to move its headquarters to Jeju as an autonomous institute of the University.

H. The Province of Jeju wants to become one of world leaders and models of environmentally sound and sustainable development. It is especially suited to this both in the way in which has cared for its own uniquely attractive environment which will host the World Conservation Congress as well as the University. Its World Heritage status and the facilities it has already established contribute significantly to its prospects for such leadership. The location and the well developed academic programs and physical facilities of Jeju National University place it in a position to work closely in the development of the World Environment University. Indeed, some of its existing programs and faculty are already involved in programs which can contribute immediately to the cooperative development of the University. Its cooperation and leadership in the establishing the University is highly advantageous to the prospect for its success. It will also very much facilitate cooperation with the National University system and other universities and institutes in the ROK. Each of these programs would require a core faculty at the WEU in Jeju which could draw on other universities and institutes to contribute to its programs and provide visiting faculty.

Cooperative and Extension Programs⁴

A. In addition to, and in some cases integrated with, each core program will be programs carried out by cooperating universities or organizations which would earn appropriate credits at the WEU. Reciprocal credits would be accorded by cooperating

universities/organizations for courses to which WEU contributes.

B. Extensive use would be made of modern ICT methods to provide multimedia programs and materials to, and also from, partner organizations to make WEU and related programs available to large numbers of people throughout the world, to ensure their universal accessibility.

C. An active program of research including practical experimentation will be developed together with policy research closely related to and supportive of the academic programs of the University.

D. Environmental peace– Competition for water and scarce resources has always been a major source of conflict and has now reached the point where it constitutes one of the main threats to peace. There is an intrinsic relationship between the environment and peace which would form the basis for an important core program of WEU. There will also be a special focus on the environmental aspects of peace on the Korean peninsula.

E. The Asian dimension – its contributions to environmental deterioration and its risks and to the prospects of their resolution. This will focus particularly on China's role in protecting its environment and its impacts on the global environment. Professor C. S. Kiang, one of the world leading academics and experts in the environment field, with a distinguished career in the United States, including the Georgia Institute of Technology (USA) and founding Dean of Peking College of Environmental Sciences(China), would be eminently qualified to take the lead in developing this program as one member of the Council.

F. Ethics and social responsibility – Recognizing that response to the environmental crisis must be rooted in higher standard of ethics and social responsibility for individuals, business and governments, a program in this area would be developed under the leadership of Dr. Fred Dubeé (Canada). He has been a leader in the field as Senior Advisor to the Secretary–General of United Nations. The Earth Charter will provide a very important reference document for this program.

G. Nature of courses to be offered – It is proposed that the WEU concentrate on programs at the Master's level and gradually a few at the Doctor level. It would be expected to offer short specialize courses for which certificates will be awarded. In many cases these can be provided to meet

4) Maurice Strong speaks about 6–3 Substantive Themes of the Structure of the Academic Program. *idid*. pp. 204–205

the requirements of sponsoring organizations which would in effect contract with WEU for such courses. H. A number of specific suggestions have been made during the consultations of issues and themes which should be integrated into the program of the University. The proposals contained in this memorandum will be circulated to scholars, experts and practitioners in different regions of the world for peer review. On this basis, the objectives, methodology and content of the academic programme of the University will be clarified.

I. It is envisaged that the University will complete the first, five-year phase of its development by June 2015. It is planned _ subject to further consideration _ that the University will then be teaching around 225 international students at the Master's level on nine Master's programs. Each Master's program will enable rigorous and coherent learning on a particular topic in the broad area of sustainable development to ensure that each student acquires a deep knowledge and the necessary skills. The academic program will be organized to include a foundation course for all students and a number of electives so that they can pursue their special interests.

J. The World Environment and Peace Summer School (WEPSS) will be convened every summer in cooperation with the WEU of Jeju National University, Hiroshima University, University of Tasmania of AU, National Chen Kung University of Taiwan, Suffolk University of Boston, USA and other interested institutions. It will provide opportunities for young students and activists to take courses in the WEPSS. Through these activities, we can think about how to institutionalize a combined system of Environment Issues and Climate Change, Peace Studies and Marine Tourism Studies programs in all participating institutes. It will increase the opportunities to link joint research programs to collaborative educational programs with other universities. It also provides opportunities for students to increase their intercultural/ international experience through the 2010 educational program.

K. Additional students will be engaged in short courses and exchange_ programs and there will be a substantial research program, closely coordinated with the teaching program.

L. This scale of operations will provide the students with an interesting, multicultural experience. The contacts and exchange of ideas between the students from different backgrounds and cultures

are a valuable part of the experience they will acquire during their attendance at the University. It also ensures a critical mass of intellectual activities and it can support a strong permanent faculty and be attractive and challenging to visiting professors. It encourages multidisciplinary approaches. And it provides a strong base for an innovative research program and the capability to provide useful research and training services to key partners.

M. Within its academic program, the University will undertake a range of activities including:

Teaching Academic education at the Master's level. This will make it possible to build a respectable and coherent academic reputation over the first five years. This graduate programme will create a sound academic base. It can lead at a later stage to Doctoral programs but only once a high quality faculty is in place.

Professional training courses with partners and short academic courses. There is a substantial demand for such courses.

Training courses for negotiators and experts from developing countries so that they can more effectively participate in the on-going international negotiations on key issues and processes of sustainable development, for example on the post-Kyoto negotiations, CDM and emissions trading schemes.

Study abroad programs. It is customary for many undergraduate students, especially from the United States, to take a semester to study abroad.

Research

Academic research. A central purpose of the University is to contribute to understanding and knowledge in the broad field of sustainable development. High quality research will therefore be an integral part of the academic program. This will be a focus for cooperation with universities and research institutes throughout the world and it is important also to attract good faculty and to build the reputation of the University through publications etc.

Targeted research on specific issues with partners, such as the Korean, Korean Japanese, and Jeju Island major enterprises. This will provide useful outputs and valuable inputs to the teaching program and field experience for the students.

Dissemination of Knowledge Distance education and the dissemination of knowledge to partner universities in the form of packages of multimedia teaching materials. This will amplify the impacts

of the University itself by making it possible for universities across the world to have access to easily usable teaching materials reflecting the best international knowledge and practice. This aspect can be developed once the University has established a high-quality teaching program and tested its course methodologies and content through face-to-face teaching;

The creation of an international data base and of a Documentation Center including publications, research in progress, experience and best practice etc., on key issues of sustainable development.

Publications and multimedia products: theses are vital components of the outreach of the University and of the sharing of knowledge. At a suitable stage, special content can be developed on key issues of sustainable development targeted at selected groups, such as legislators, administrators, decision makers and business executives.

Seminars, conferences and public promotional activities on key issues in the field of environment and sustainable development.

N. Principles for the Program of the University

The program of the University will be based on a number of principles which will be included in the Charter. At present the following seem appropriate:

-The University will enjoy full academic freedom in the development and implementation of its activities.

-The University will respect diversity of culture and opinions and develop its programs on an international and multi-cultural basis.

-The programs will reflect interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral Perspectives and will focus on critical issues while maintaining rigorous academic standards.

-The programs will be based on wide collaboration while maintaining the integrity and innovative character of the University.

-The organization and the programs of the University will reflect the importance of gender issues;

-The Program will take proper account of human rights and of the need to eradicate poverty and deprivation and to reduce inequality, insecurity and exclusion.

-The program will recognize the need to respond to present challenges of sustainable development while seeking to ensure good prospects for future generations.

O. It is particularly important to ensure, from the start, the rigor and quality of the academic teaching and research activities. This can be achieved through explicit and regular evaluations of the courses by professors and students, by independent peer review, and by the establishment of the International Academic Board of WEIS.

(12) eminent independent scholars and experts from different backgrounds and cultures.

P. An important issue to be resolved is that of the accreditation of the University's academic courses. Several arrangements are possible and this issue will be given serious attention.

Q. A number of arrangements will be made to promote the process of program development, including: collaboration with established universities in developing course materials, secondment of teaching staff or setting up of Dual or Joint Degree programs. Also, content will be developed and improved through internet-based, international peer review.

Substantive Themes of the Academic Program⁵

A. During the preparatory phase, extensive consultations will be carried out to define the areas of concentration into which the faculty, teaching and research will be organized. It is important that in selecting its priorities the University not try to do too much too soon and ensure that the capacities and resources are available in Jeju and/or partner organizations before launching a program. The suggestions which follow should be considered preliminary and subject to substantial revision.

B. There is no universally accepted definition of the term "sustainable development which is a concept evolving over time which has differing meaning in different cultures and contexts. Nevertheless, it is broadly understood that the present path of human development has many damaging ecological, environmental, ethical and social consequences. It is in short, unsustainable in the longer term. It is hoped that the work of the University will gradually help to clarify the concept of sustainable development, its cultural and historical content and its practical potential and implications.

C. It is widely acknowledged in countries ranging

⁵ Maurice Strong writes about 6-4 Organization of the academic program of the Structure of the Academic Program. *idid.* pp. 205-209.

from China and Germany to India and Brazil, that human progress must be re-oriented in practice onto a more sustainable path, towards more equitable and inclusive societies and greater harmony with nature. This is a fundamental intellectual and practical challenge to humanity if it is to achieve peace and sustain progress in the 21st Century. Drawing on a wide range of cultural and disciplinary insights, the program of the University will address these profound issues and will seek to increase our understanding of the practical strategies, policies and measures required to move towards sustainable development.

Organization of the academic program⁶

A. To reflect the complexity and range of issues in the field of sustainable development, it is planned that the academic program of the University should be organized from two mutually reinforcing perspectives, core competences underlying the whole program and specific areas of concentration.

(i). Core competences

B. Through the recruitment of its faculty and through on-going research and collaboration, the University will build up core competences in three underlying areas as the foundations for all its teaching programs. These would be:

1) The history, culture and values of the current economic system and barriers to the transition to sustainable development;

The path and priorities of development are driven by the values and choices made by society. This is especially true of the importance attached to economic and environmental issues at different stages of development. These values and choices are in turn a function of history and culture. Teaching and research on sustainable development must therefore be grounded on an appreciation of the history, culture and values of societies that have shaped the current economic model.

2) The application of Systems Thinking to sustainable development; The conception, analysis and management of the issues of sustainable development depend on a proper understanding of systems behavior. Systems thinking can provide the tools and methodology to address the complex, inter-related issues of sustainable development and

the longer-term consequences of their dynamic change over time.

3) The institutional and management issues of sustainable development. Management of the issues of sustainable development in practice raises complex issues of governance, institutional structures and the influence of special interests. Their adequate treatment often calls for reorganization and innovation in institutional competences and administration. The academic program of teaching and research will take account of these fundamental factors.

C. These three cross-cutting dimensions will underpin and support the teaching on the more specific themes of the teaching program on integrated way. The curricula of all Master's programs will reflect these three essential aspects of sustainable development.

(ii). Areas of Concentration

D. The academic program will be organized around a number of areas of concentration or themes which may ultimately become the basis of departments in the organizational structure of the University. These areas of concentration are not mutually exclusive but mutually reinforcing. A Master's program would draw on the different skills, teaching capabilities and knowledge in a number of these areas of concentration. Drawing on the consultations and research carried out so far, the following areas of concentration are under consideration.

(1) Global issues of Sustainable Development of World Environment.

Critical issues and crises of World Environment, Demographic growth, changing age structures and migration; poverty, food production and employment; alternative patterns of growth, production and consumption; environmental degradation, desertification; causes and consequences of climate change, adaptation and mitigation; environmental security; international law and governance; international negotiations on climate change, energy and resource issues etc.

(2) Environmental Philosophy for Sustainable Human Development Environmental Philosophy for sustainable development, the cultural and historical processes leading to the development of a contemporary approach to sustainability; poverty, culture and sustainable development; human rights, gender and sustainable development; human security and sustainable development;

6) idid. p. 205.

environmental health; urbanization and sustainable development; indigenous peoples and sustainable development; public motivation and participation.

(3) Culture, Architecture, and Heritage Studies

Environment and Cultural Heritage, Environment and Cultural Landscape, Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage, Understanding Island Traditional Architecture, city and environment, city and environmental culture, The Fundamentals and Comparison of East-Asian Traditional Architectural Culture, The cultural systems as a part of the world environment, environmental culture

(4) Energy, Natural Resources, and Climate Change. Environmental, energy and resource issues etc. Structures of demand and supply; peak oil and climate change; renewable and alternative energy sources; reducing the energy intensity of economic activities; energy conservation; the geography and politics of oil etc., natural resources and climate change

(5) Water Resources and Ocean Civilization Watershed management and ocean civilization; hydrology; marine and coastal resource management; preserving the integrity of the oceans and ocean life; fisheries; water conservation; managing demand and supply, privatization and pricing; institutional frameworks for water management; pollution control; new technologies; the prevention of conflict over competition for water resources.

(6) Ecology, Forests and Land Protecting and conserving biodiversity; understanding and averting ecological threats; conserving and extending forests; engaging local and indigenous groups in conservation; reducing the degradation of land, erosion and desertification; the impact of mega-projects on the environment.

(7) Economics and Environment

Articulating economic and environmental policies for sustainable development; Re-orienting economic growth and globalization onto a sustainable path; more sustainable patterns of consumption and production; environmental industries, goods and services; Corporate Social Responsibility in industry, commerce and finance; economic instruments and incentives; environmental economics and green accounting; emissions trading; the clean development mechanism climate change environmental education

(8) Conflict Resolution on Environmental and

Resource Issues, and International Governance. Tensions arising from competition, degradation and overuse of resources; environmental refugees, migration and conflict; concepts of environmental security; the management and prevention of environmental conflicts; legal and institutional processes to avert conflict etc. Governance for conflicts prevention, International governance to resolve resources and environmental issues

(9) Environment, Eco-Tourism, and Screen Studies Environmental studies, environmental movement, eco-tourism, culture tourism, island tourism, optimal tourism, dark tourism, Beyond Boundaries –Commoditization for Tourism in East Asia, Island Tourism: Opportunities and Constraints, Sustainable development processes in marine tourism, leisure and modern society, leisure and cruise tours, film making, as activism, and environmental peace film festivals. We can include studies on environmental policy and occupational health in Asia, meditation industry, civilization and meditation, environment, screen culture and ecology, and therapeutics,

Memorial conference of MFS on September 8 and November 10, 2020 at Jeju, South Korea⁷

Maurice Frederick Strong (April 29, 1929 – November 27, 2015) was a born Canadian. In the early 1970s, he was Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and then became the first executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. He was President of the Council of the University for Peace from 1998 to 2006, chair of the World Economic Forum and special advisor of the UN and the World Bank.

It was his wish to develop the “WORLD ENVIRONMENT UNIVERSITY” (WEU), an interconnected network of universities, institutions and partners that work together, exchange experiences and knowledge resulting in a new sustainable design for the world.

To date, there is not a lot celebrate. The COVID crisis obliged us to look at the wider picture.

⁷ Ignace Schops, President EUROPARC Federation- Director RLKM brings his keynote speech on September 8, 2020 at Jeju at memorial conference for MFS. He will also make his keynote speech on UN Remembering MFS conference on November 10, at Jeju, South Korea.

The scientific evidence was clear: the world community needed to adapt and change our lifestyles immediately. And we did. The draconian measures deemed impossible until recently have become a reality today. The impossible suddenly became possible.

Can we count on similar leadership and the same methods for saving Mother Earth and ourselves and can the WEU help us to achieve this objective? A vaccine alone will not tip the balance toward health because COVID19 is not a disease but a symptom of an exhausted planet. Because we “only have one earth” we cannot destroy what keeps us alive. The best vaccine can be found in the restoration of our natural ecosystems, become climate neutral before 2050 while implementing a circular economy that is socially embedded and inclusive.

Just take a glance at the last 50 years. With currently 7.8 billion people, the world’s population has doubled, the cultivated area on a global scale has increased by 22 million hectares, 230 million hectares of grassland have been added for cattle, and on top of that, an additional 160 million hectares for arable land. All the extra space was taken from the natural environment. Over one million species are the brink of extinction (Report IPBES). We were blind to the collapsing natural ecosystems that kept our climate stable, gave us healthy air

and drinkable water. We did not listen to the deafening last words of so many life forms on earth and there was certainly no stock market listing, nor value for a share of nature.

The consequences of an overpopulated world are overwhelming. Each person on this planet now emits on average 21% more CO₂ than 50 years ago and we all emit 47% more! These are the averages, but you need to know that only 10% of the world’s population is responsible for 50% of emissions. Per capita, we use 47 times more fossil fuels, consume 65% more meat, produce 447 per cent more plastic and our air travel has increased by 561%! Extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes, floods and extreme drought increased by 44% between 1980 and 2018.

The reset, the necessary sustainable transformation is slowly underway. The first signals of change become visible. The volume of solar energy has increased 400 times, 3.2 million square kilometres of forests have been restored and 27 million square kilometres of marine nature have been protected.

We are still far from reaching the agreed UN SDG objectives! We need to accelerate and speed up in the next 10 years. And we need everyone to help to turn the tide. The World Environment University can be an inspiration for many and one of the drivers for a global sustainable systemic transition.

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