

COFFEE TABLE BOOK

# A STUDENT LIFE AT INTI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

THROUGH THE EYES OF PAST INTIMA PRESIDENTS

Vol. 1

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Pro Vice Chancellor, INTI International University.

"A Student Life at INTI International University Through the Eyes of Past INTIMA Presidents"

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## **Forewords**

**INTI International University** has always believed in fostering within our students the kind of mind, intelligence, and character which they will value for the rest of their lives. Additionally, we strive to instill ideals such as empathy, self-improvement, and societal objectives.

The moment a student enrolls at our University, their life experiences a significant turning point, entering an environment within which they will be raised to become young and responsible adults.

They develop lifelong memories and experiences as they advance through their studies at INTI International University. During this time, they start to make new acquaintances, become inspired to give back to society, and begin to assume leadership roles. It's a perfect time for them to learn, while taking their interest and cultural development into consideration. In essence, this is the setting that will ultimately mould the future and broaden the minds of our students.

INTI International University is a place not just to obtain a certificate, but where a person learns the tough skills of life: self-discipline, commitment, friendship, sincerity, and tenacity. Being able to enjoy the University life to its fullest, and yet continue to maintain the balance between studies and social lives is itself a skill that students learn, which will also prepare them for a life of work ahead.

Without doubt, students will have wonderful memories of their time at INTI International University. I am happy to share the wonderful memories of some of our previous INTIMA Presidents here in this book. May their memories and experiences be immortalised in this book for others inspiration towards success.

Song Kuok Thong

Pro Vice Chancellor Students Experience INTI International University

## Tafara Mudzengi

#### The 17th INTIMA President, 2013

I started my journey with INTI International University (INTI IU) when I pursued my degree in Quantity Surveying in 2010. I was fondly known among my peers and the management team of INTI IU as an exemplary to the university community as one of the outstanding leaders.

I was elected to be the President of the university's student body INTIMA were only excellent and deserving candidates are chosen and allowed to run for the student presidential race by the student-led election commission. Having won by a strong majority in the election strongly contested by other candidates. The appointment reflected my passion, commitment, and utmost responsibility in bringing positive changes to the students' experience.



Tafara standing on the far right during the Installation Night

I served with a most effective and supportive team which had high level of respect towards each other, student population, and the management team. We were constantly engaged in conversations with the students and the management team to work out difficult challenges affecting the overall students' experience.

Having a great team, I was able to exert among the teamwork efficiently and deliver the outcomes to meet the goals set. INTIMA enhanced my charisma as a leader among peers

and the INTI community. I believe the trust worthiness, sincerity, cultural sensitivity, loyalty, and commitment are among some of the positive attributes acquired during my tenure. Being an international student, I managed to break cultural barriers confronted in working with students of different nationalities in the local setting. INTIMA being the bridge for communication and understanding among the students and management our team were able to perceive issues from the perspective of students and the management team which helped the university community work out measures in improving the students' experience.



INTIMA no doubt doors opened of opportunity just to name a few, i was selected, among the thousands of candidates. to represent the INTI group of university and colleges as an anchorman in the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. USA.

Tafara with the INTIMA Exco during the 10th INTIMA Conference in Penang

However, some unfortunate technical flaws prevented him from fulfilling my responsibility. I was also hand-picked to represent the student population to be a panel member in the INTI group summit leadership sharing his experience on industrial placement and internship and the same increase network time among professionals.



Tafara with the INTIMA Exco during the 10<sup>th</sup> INTIMA Conference in Penang

#### **Kew Tat Lim**

#### The 19th INTIMA President, 2015

I am always proud to tell people that I was an INTIan and how much I have enjoyed my university life at INTI International University. Back then, I've started Ving Tsun Martial arts club during my foundation years at INTI when the movie IP Man became a hit. My adventurous journey started from there and that's when I get to meet a lot of inspirational people with different cultural and social backgrounds. In my 3rd year at INTI, I was chosen to be the 19<sup>th</sup> president.

It was an honourable opportunity to support more than 400 events a year held by different clubs and societies. There are all kinds of event being held such charity dinners, marathons, sports day and leadership camps etc. Everyone at INTI given was an opportunity to learn, organise and lead an event.



Kew Tat Lim standing second from right for the Ving Tsun Club practices with Sigung David Peterson and Sifu Carlos Mak in Seremban.

All the meetings and preparations for each event were full of joy and laughters, tears and sweats. I miss those good old times. Can you imagine how astonishing it was during my time at INTI? I really enjoyed talking to people as we share different views and ideas, influencing each other's life in a good way. By leading the student government, I also get to raise awareness on lifestyle medicine starting from my own team, which is the reason why I enrolled in Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) During my time at INTI, I came across with a few emergency incidents that requires basic life-saving skills and I was lucky to be able to apply with what I learnt from my degree. It did impact me until today, I have been taught to be more independent and vigilant when comes to treating patients. Other than being able to carry out services for my fellow INTlans, I was given the chance to carry out community services by joining more than hundreds of charity treatment at so many

places around Klang valley, Nilai, Seremban, Malacca and even Nepal! So it was really an important experience in order to become a well trained TCM practitioner. At INTI, I was guided by a group of professional lecturers and professors along the way. Their passions and commitments have shaped me with many life-saving skills and experiences which contributed to who I am today. Although I have left INTI for more than 4 years, but I am still very grateful to have my university life spent at INTI International University. Looking back now, my time at INTI was truly remarkable & inspiring.



Kew Tat Lim during the Installation of the 19<sup>th</sup> INTIMA top four.



International student week to embrace diversity and inclusion



A selfie photo of 19th INTIMA excos with Deputy minister of Education



Kew Tat Lim as the TCM Chairperson for 21st INTIMA Traditional Chinese Medicine Club



Local TCM charity treatment to repay to the society



Having final year TCM acupuncture examination, demonstrating on how to accurately perform acupuncture for lower back pain



International charity treatment in DCWC Community hospital, Nepal



Fun interaction with patient, she was acting not to smile!

## Jaiyakandan Tharumalingam

#### The 21st INTIMA President, 2017

What better way to start off besides fun facts right? And well, I have two points to share:
a) When I first joined INTI, I skipped my Orientation (How ironic could that be?)
b) Enrolled in INTI for my Pre-U in 2013 and I left to purse my degree elsewhere, but I came back in 2014 for a change of environment.

So why was the second point a fun fact? When I first joined INTI, I never knew what INTIMA was and I was just focused on going for classes and heading home with experiencing zero university life. INTI IU was well known for its events across many other universities and even within the INTI group (Imagine having >400 events in 1 calendar year and not being a part of

But fast forward a year later, when I enrolled back in INTI for my things degree, changed 180 degrees. attended one of Student Forum's that was organized by INTIMA. That was the first time I found about the student government, and it sparked my interest in wanting to learn more to what they did for the university. That



19th INTIMA Service Cell & 19th INTIMA.

also created that passion for events (be it joining them or wanting to be a part of the event committee)

And when I saw that INTIMA were looking for Service Cell, (who in simple words are the group of students who assist the student government in co-planning and executing all INTIMA related initiatives), I jumped right into it and joined them! Learning something from behind the scenes gave me amazing insights from how the EXCOs addressed student



Adventure Club's 20<sup>th</sup> General Committee Member

problems, came up with meaningful solutions to make students life better and also events!

After a year in Service Cell, I took another jump to broaden my experience, by joining Adventure Club (which at that time was one of the top 5 clubs in INTI IU) and applied for a club committee role, taking up their Public Relations Officer role. Part of why that role was because it was my Major for my degree, and I wanted to also apply part of what I studied (Phew thankfully I did pay attention in class).

But one key difference that I learned verv fast between Service Cell and being in a club is that you are on your own (Service cell, you had INTIMA Excos who will guide you if you mess up). And that brings the learning curve even steeper, to how you grow your club's presence, helping the team in events and even leading and running some of the club events. It was where I honed my leadership skill and event planning skills the most. On top of building all the other soft skills (communication, teamwork and



Awarded the best PRO during Installation Night

etc) and with my final year in university, that was the year I stepped into INTIMA office, as



The 21st INTIMA EXCO

the President in 2017. Tasked to govern the student experience alongside the Student



Affairs Office was not an easy task but safe to say, it was a worthwhile experience. One of the more meaningful tasks is when INTIMA is able to solve student's plights, that made it all more meaningful.

And one key thing INTIMA did was organize the Orientation (O.L.E) for new students. Remember the earlier fun fact? For someone who did not even join their own orientation, I wanted to ensure that every student

who joined enjoyed their experience. (Yeap by me making jokes. I promise I was funny)



INTIMA Conference – INTIMA Excos from all INTI campuses



21st INTIMA EXCO with Aland (SAO Manager) – Advisor



Putting all that learning aside, the biggest thing that I earned from all the events and experiences I had in university was gaining a good circle of friends, to whom I still hang out with. Be it friends from my Service Cell days or club days or even my INTIMA days, many of them are lifelong friendships that I cherish the most.

So, if you have the chance to go out there and participate in events, my advice? Go out there and have fun! I feel old saying this but hey, 5 years post university (that's where I am now haha), you would look bad at your university life and smile at all those good and bad memories!

### Melchizedek Nehemiah

The 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA President, 2018

What can I say? Just like many would testify, university life is one of the best times in one's life. Well, my university life was no different, probably just much better because it was at INTI!

I didn't start at INTI immediately after High School (SPM), as I had received a scholarship from another college for my achievements in sports; athletics to be precise. I had completed my Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at that university and was working part time while contemplating where I should further my studies to complete my bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. To be honest, I was so confused on which university I should choose, and all these MQA accreditations and university rankings were just doing my head in! After almost 8 months of tirelessly looking for the right university to go to, I chose INTI Nilai to be my new home and place to study. Looking back at the experience I had at INTI, it was best decision I made at that time.

I'll be honest with you, during my past life at my previous university, I indulged in bad habits and experiences which led me to drugs. I was an addict and a drug pusher back in the day



Melchizedek as the ICF Chairperson

and had to differ a semester after being admitted to a psychiatric hospital for bipolar disorder. During this unforgettable experience, I committed my life to God with the prayers of my family and church community that never gave up on me. My life was transformed with a complete and miraculous healing, and since then, I never relapsed to drugs. Due to this experience, I took my second chance in life much more seriously and excelled the last 2 semesters

in my previous university by achieving a 4.0 GPA and graduated with Merit. If it wasn't for God, my life would have ended in prison or worse, I would have been hung to death for the drug trafficking that I was involved in. I had to hit rock bottom before I could succeed in life.

INTI was gracious enough to grant me exemptions for some of the subjects that I had taken in my previous diploma course. I started my course at INTI with so many expectations and wishes not only in terms of education in classroom, but also looking forward to the extracurricular activities and life outside of the classroom. True enough, with no time wasted, during the first week at INTI, I made my way to the exhibition week, and I realized that this wasn't any usual university with just a few clubs and societies that you can count with your ten fingers. In fact, the whole MPH, "Multipurpose Hall" was filled to have about 50 – 60 booths from end to end. The sight of many students engaging, communicating and even performing was extremely joyous to see. This was an event to encourage the new and current students to choose a favourite club of their choice to be a part of. Soon enough, I found mine and I chose to join the INTI Christian Fellowship Club, ICF.



Melchizedek together with the ICF Club Committee

Coming from a childhood of living in the city of Kuala Lumpur, and spending my schooling days there, it was quite different to study at INTI Nilai. The first impressions of many were that this university was far from the city without much entertainment, night life and other that activities most college students would want. But the flip side of this was that because Nilai is situated at quite a distance from the city, students have more time to engage with club activities, sports meet, have a campus life and their own version of enjoyment and interaction. It was much more exciting because most of the students came from all around

Malaysia and international students from all around the globe and lived at INTI's unique landscape both on and off campus.

I started off my first year at INTI actively involved in the ICF club and was one of the committee members. We had a gathering almost every day of the week. On Mondays we had sports meet, captain ball or Frisbee, on Tuesdays it was prayer meetings, on Wednesdays it was CF gatherings, on Thursdays Cell Groups, and after every gathering we had a late night "mamak session" which just brought us much closer to one another. It was simply edifying for each of us who had participated in club events and activities as we learned various skills while joining or leading these events. Outside of the classroom, we developed our soft skills and social skills like leadership, teamwork, communication, public speaking, and event management.

Besides our daily and weekly activities in our club, we formed event committees to host annual events for the club as well. These events were strongly supported by the 20th INTIMA Student Government at that time and the Students Affairs Office, SAO, also known as Student Services Division, SSD. They accepted our event proposals and approved our budgets as well as subsidized some of the finance needed to organise great student events both on and off campus. I remember the time I had the opportunity to be the Organizing Chairperson of the ICF Camp and how we grew as a team to organise such a wonderful 3day camp at Perak. We felt more than just students as we were given the opportunity to organise every detail of the camp, from booking the bus to travel at AFM, to logistics and equipment at the campsite, financial budget being approved by the auditors at INTIMA, safety and liability forms for the participants, printing event T-shirts, getting sponsorships, event planning, games and food, you name it, we did it all from A to Z. All these experiences indeed, have made us individuals who are able to shine out in the society and our workplace today. These were the skills that we could not learn from just attending classes from 8 to 5, this was something beyond the ordinary, which has come along with each one of us even in our careers right now.

My participation and leadership at ICF was quickly recognised and I was elected to be the 21<sup>st</sup> ICF Club Chairperson for that year. Things in my life got much more eventful since then, I began to grow spiritually, mentally, and emotionally and on how to connect with the committee to organise more and more wonderful events, interact with the fellow club members and giving feedbacks to our backbone INTIMA, during Council Members meetings and frequently meeting INTIMA EXCO's and SAO staff to ensure all facilities and events were brought to the INTI community in a whole.

During this year I obviously did not abandon my studies and activities at class. My engineering lecturers were just outstanding with full on interaction and blended learning. I would dare to say that my classmates and I were loved by all our lecturers no matter what the subject was both in class and at the lab. Labs were just so fun to have, and INTI kept giving us more and more to experience hands on with 3D printing, engineering workshops and fancy equipment. I mean, obviously there were the times where we found it hard to get through a subject and it was just too difficult to excel when it kept getting more challenging year after year and semester after semester. Sometimes you could get in the dean's list and as years went by, we failed to get into that list continuously. Looking back, it was all just a delightful experience to excel in our academics with a world class education given to us and we had all that in a super fun campus environment. If I remember correctly, this was the

year that the new sports facility was opened with futsal, basketball courts and an artificial grass turf. With all the fun that we already had, this new sport facility was gifted to all students, and we fully utilised them to the best we could. I cannot forget the times we would always book the court a week earlier as it was always at the highest demand possible. Our Student Services Division was always occupied, giving the best they could for the students.

Soon, the time had come for me at the end of my term as the ICF Club Chairperson. This time, it was at a council meeting where the Independent Election Committee, IEC had announced that they would be electing the next terms' INTIMA Student Government, and



Melchizedek delivering his speech during the Installation Night

the candidate application was and open, they were conducting interviews to filter the suitable candidates. I felt challenged submit to my application as I knew I had grown so much, and here was INTI, blessing me with yet another opportunity to showcase my talents, learn even more and achieve greater heights. I didn't back down and took the opportunity and was ready to serve at INTIMA with a great burden on my shoulders.

The main reason I felt the need to do this was because I was surrounded with friends and course mates who would always point fingers and say how the leaders should be doing their job and how INTI can be improved further, but no one stood up to take the responsibility to make that happen. I saw myself inside that circle instead of the person outside that circle pointing inwards. I wanted to challenge myself to take that pressure and challenge myself to see how I can change INTI for the better and if I would fail, I wanted to fail trying. This time round, it wasn't so straight forward. After a series of interviews held by the IEC on the presidential candidates, the two shortlisted candidates were put up for a presidential election to win the hearts of the students. This obviously created a healthy competition and a chance for the students to cast their votes and choose their preferred leader as the 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA President.



Melchizedek during the Presidential Election for the 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA

Till now, this election period still gives me goosebumps. Both candidates had presidential forums where we got the chance to present our missions, visions, slogans and plans for our year in office and convincing the students to cast their votes for us. It was a very different experience we had at INTI, not only the candidates, but even the students who were voting for us. Eventually, it was Election Day, and from morning till afternoon, students for all programs and disciplines were casting their votes. It was an enjoyable day for me as both international and local students were all participating, interacting and voting. That evening the ballot papers were counted and the President elect was announced to INTI. I can remember the scene clearly, addressing the students for the first time as the 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA President right outside INTIMA office facing the INTI bridge, pleasantly concealing the army of students standing right at the mouth of that bridge.

My journey began, with the Top 4 of the Student Government elected, we then interviewed

the remaining candidates to take up the other roles as the EXCOs of the student body. After successfully choosing our team, we were installed as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Term at the 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA Installation & Awards Night. Installations nights are one of the best nights at INTI as this is where the previous term steps down and the new term steps up to take on the responsibility. The baton is passed on, not only for the student government, but also for all the clubs and societies committee members. To add on to that enjoyment, there are also awards prepared for all the categories for the clubs and societies to compete and the Best Club of the year is then crowned with a trophy. The atmosphere at this



Melchizedek as the 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA President

awards night is just truly mind blowing and the amount of energy in that hall lasts through that whole night.

"Impelling Momentum, Cultivating Opportunities", that was our mission at INTIMA. I must testify that my whole term at INTIMA was the best year I had there. We had organised and planned countless events and activities with our Service Cells and EXCOs, ranging from Orientation week, OLE, Exhibition Week, Sports Fiesta, Leadership Training Camp, Service Cell Camp, Student Forum, INTIMA Week, INTI Ball, and Installation & Awards Night. Not forgetting our monthly council meetings and interaction at all events held by other clubs and

societies under the umbrella of the 22<sup>nd</sup> INTIMA Affiliates. I can even write up on the experiences we gained during each of the events we had organized as it is still so fresh in my memory. Unknowingly, we all realised that we had grown so much as we constantly had engagements and events being the voice of the students. We functioned as a bridge the INTI to ШJ management, and a channel where students may raise their concerns and issues to be resolved. Dialogues, forums, and meetings were held to ensure satisfaction from both students and management. We represented the student community and tried our best to



Melchizedek with the INTIMA EXCOs during a club event

portray what we thought was best for the students and how the management could help us achieve that.

During this time, I was given the opportunity to represent Malaysia at the 2018 YIE Taipei as an Asia-Pacific Delegate. Taiwan Ministry of Education has fully sponsored delegates around the world to attend an Asia-Pacific Youth Forum on Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The motive of the forum was to build capacity and collaborative connectivity for young entrepreneurs. These delegates chosen from 30 over were countries with an average of three candidates per country. I was blessed to be one of the three Malaysians who had attended this wonderful forum experience.



Melchizedek with other representatives in the 2018 YIE Taipei

Eventually, the time came for me to step down as the President, and to be honest, it was the hardest thing for me to do. I was just too emotionally attached with all my EXCOs and Service Cells as we had worked so closely and was at the office almost every single day of



Melchizedek receiving the IEM old Medal Award 2018

the year. I remember delivering a 20minute outgoing speech the at installation night ceremony and that was one of the most emotional speeches I have delivered to date. Later that year, I completed my Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering. While waiting for my graduation the following year, I started my career at PCA Group as a Design Engineer. My love for engineering was always there, but my love for management, leadership and teamwork still took precedence over engineering. Thanks to the support of my lecturers and my faculty, the Institute of Engineers Malaysia, IEM had decided to choose me as one of the students to receive the IEM Gold Medal Award 2018 as the Best Final Year Engineering Student. I received this award along with a few other students from renowned

universities in Malaysia. It was indeed a proud moment for INTI to have a student to receive an award at that event.

At my convocation, I graduated with First Class Honours and was awarded as the Valedictorian for the class of 2018. I also received an Industry Award for Best Overall Achievement in Mechanical Engineering final year from the company that I completed my final year project. This day was the happiest day for my parents; they truly felt proud and had succeeded as my parents. I was glad to see the tears of joy on my parents' faces as I delivered the valedictorian speech. This is my final memory of INTI as a student and indeed it is a lasting one.

If you have read this far, I would really like to encourage you through the story of my life at INTI. Every individual has a different destiny in life. I had a very difficult time during my diploma days, but God turned it all around and blessed me with an outstanding bunch of years at INTI. Everyone runs their own race. I started my life at INTI quite late due to unavoidable reasons, and at that time I was witnessing my peers graduating much earlier than me and starting their careers way before I graduated. So don't be discouraged if things don't go your way or as planned. Instead, work smarter and persevere until you achieve the goals you have set in your life. I am currently a Senior Key Account Sales Engineer and have advanced so quickly in my career because of the valuable experiences I gained from INTI. Don't be afraid to take risks in your life and don't let any opportunity slip by because it might not come again. All the best in whichever part of life you are in now, and if you are contemplating on which university to choose, don't wait any longer! INTI was the best choice that I had made, and I believe it is the choice you should make too.

I am now a proud Alumni of INTI and I'm always looking forward to serve and keep myself connected with INTI in the years moving forward. I once was an INTI student, and I will always be an INTI Alumni.

## **Danson Ng**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> INTIMA President, 2019

When I first stepped into the lobby of INTI International University, I was a young and shy kid who never was the first to initiate any conversations or joined any activities, let alone clubs or societies. I was reserved, and cautious, of everyone and everything. Being in this university for four years has showed me and I believe many others, that while being cautious is an important trait, keeping to oneself is not a way to grow and nurture yourself. That is no way to expand your horizon. Isn't that what university life is all about? To expand one's horizon and to allow for the constant stimulation of the mind, emotionally, socially and to try to find a sense of purpose before being flung out into the real world. Forget about the certificates, degrees, and educational red tape. While important, nothing screams excellence to future employers, nothing pushes one's self esteem to build something from nothing, to pursue whatever it is you want, like the experience I had in INTI. We've all heard the saying, "You are the average of the five people spend the most time with." Well here, I have spent my four years amongst leaders who contributed selflessly to their clubs and societies, the student government, for an experience few ever achieve in university. This culture has built an environment where the average fie people you meet here are leaders, and without a doubt will be leaders in whatever they do when they step foot outside to the real world.

My very first experience of this culture was during my orientation after my enrollment. Observe. Learn. Express. (OLE) was the coined term for INTI Nilai's orientation. While many other universities' orientation is run by staff or the faculty, here, the student government works hand in hand with the management to organize a 3-day event for new students, to get them accustomed to the culture and a head start before starting classes.



Whilst the orientation was still on going, student leaders from the student government were already looking to recruit the newcomers who could have potential to be the next leaders of the student council. This was where I was introduced to INTIMA. INTIMA is the student government of INTI International University and once I heard about what they do and the opportunities they had, was immediately hooked. That was when I joined INTIMA as a Service Cell, a sort of trainee organization under INTIMA where the current EXCOs would train the Service Cells to become future INTIMA EXCOs. The experience I had during my time as a Service Cell was like no other. It felt like an internship, National Service like experience all rolled into one. I had the best perspective of how the student council was run, how they spoke to the

management, how they solved students' problems in the community and how they led us.



One of the activities in OLE (Build and Race Challenge)



Danson as a facilitator in OLE



Student Forum Rehearsals



Meeting in the INTIMA Office

In 2018 and 2019 I then joined as one of the EXCOs in INTIMA. I was the Public Relations Officer in 2018, then the President in 2019. Words alone cannot describe the experience I had in these two years, hence here are pictures of what I have gone through in these two years before the pandemic hit.



INTIMA Conference 2018 (All INTI Campuses)



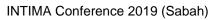
Group photo with all INTI Chief Executives and Vice Chancellor



Campfire in INTI Nilai during the conference

Dinner with EMC members with the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> INTIMA EXCOs







Trip to the cultural village in Sabah





INTIMA Presidents from all campuses during the INTIMA Conference 2019

All in all, I could not have asked for more from a university that has brought me countless experiences, met new people who have now become fast friends, and most importantly the lessons along the way. To whoever is reading this, especially if you are an INTIan, I wish you all the best in life, but before that, go have some fun in this university you now call home!



Trip to the Malaysian Embassy in Jakarta

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