Proposal to host the

6th Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations (AFLAS) Congress 2014

at

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Executive Summary

The Laboratory Animal Science Association Malaysia (LASAM) with the support of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia, humbly proposed that the 6th Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations Congress to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2014. Malaysia has so much to offer to the Asian laboratory animal science fraternity conference, from strategic geographical location, excellent infrastructure, favourable weather to the ever hospitable, multicultural and multilingual Malaysians. By having AFLAS 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, this will also encourage potential memberships and participation from countries that are associated with Malaysia such as the Commonwealth and Organization of Islamic Conference countries. Hosting AFLAS 2014 is also inline with the increasing visibility and importance of laboratory animal research in Malaysia, which is critical to foster continuous science and technology development in the country. We firmly believed that with the support from the Malaysian government agencies and other stake holders for laboratory animal science in Malaysia, AFLAS 2014 will be a resounding success.

The proposed official logo
1.0 Preamble

The Laboratory Animal Science Association Malaysia (LASAM) was founded in 1994 and played pivotal role in the development of Laboratory Animal Science in Malaysia. This is best exemplified by the LASAM’s continuous effort in the codification and formalisation of the Malaysian Code for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for Scientific Purposes.

LASAM strives to embark on a greater role domestically and internationally, and LASAM members unanimously felt that it is time for LASAM to contribute actively to the field of laboratory animal science in the Asia. Therefore LASAM is offering itself as the organizer, and Malaysia as the host country for the 6th AFLAS Congress in 2014 (AFLAS 2014). This bid was made with the commitment and support from the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). MOSTI is the primary manager and funding agency for scientific research in Malaysia, while the UPM has the only Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Malaysia. The support from these two entities is important as they had worked closely with LASAM to advance Laboratory Animal Science development in Malaysia. Therefore, a successful bid to host the 2014 conference would be a significant milestone to further upgrade the practice of Laboratory Animal Science in this country.
2.0 Why Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia?

Encourage continuous & greater role and development of laboratory animal science in the South-East Asia region.

With a combined population of more than 550 million and rapid economic transformation, the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries within the South East Asia region has immense potential and opportunity for future growth. Having AFLAS 2014 in this region would further increase the awareness and practices in the advancement of laboratory animal science. This also enabled increased participation from neighbouring non-member country, such as Vietnam, Brunei et cetera. This will be in addition to participants from existing member countries such as the Phillipines, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. The congress will also build upon the regional momentum generated following AFLAS 2012 in Thailand.

Strategic geographic location and favourable visa entry requirements.

Malaysia will be most ideal as host because of its strategic location in the southernmost point of the Asian continent – at the cross road of Asia, straddling east and west Asia, thus minimizing travel time and expenses for all participants. In addition, being an ASEAN member and the British Commonwealth, participants from these countries (9 of 10 ASEAN member nations and 52 out of 56 Commonwealth countries) can enter Malaysia without any visa for short stays. The same rules also apply for more than 50 countries in West Asia (Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Syria et cetera) and East Asia (Japan and South Korea), All European Union members and the Americas (USA). This convenience would greatly facilitate entry and participation of more potential member nations in the region, as well as facilitate invitation of speakers from these countries for AFLAS 2014.

Multilingual Malaysia facilitates event organization & welcoming of foreign delegates.

The internationalisation and globalisation of laboratory animal research meant the expert communities are becoming more diverse and internationalised. Malaysians are generally multilingual, the general population has good command of English and the national language, Bahasa Malaysia. Bahasa Malaysia closely resembles the Indonesian language and this is a welcome plus to increase participation from Indonesia. Major Chinese dialects (Cantonese, Ming-nan and Hakka) are spoken alongside Mandarin Chinese, while several Indian dialects (such as Tamil, Malayali and Urdu) are also widely used in Malaysia.
Multicultural & multifaith Malaysia increase the appeal of AFLAS membership and potential congress participation from more non-member countries.

Linguistic advantages facilitate cross cultural interaction, increasing the appeal of AFLAS membership and participation for non-member countries in West Asia region such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, while attracting participation from other fellow Commonwealth countries in the region such as New Zealand and Oceania nations.

Malaysia’s extensive network in international organisations would further expand AFLAS membership coverage.

LASAM, UPM and Malaysia in general has a lot to offer in terms of networking, having access to network institution across 56 British Commonwealth countries in the form of Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA), and linkages to the Association of Tropical Veterinary Medicine (AITVM) based in Denmark, whose members include European members like Germany, France and the United Kingdom. Malaysia being a pivotal member of the International Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), would increase the appeal of AFLAS membership and participation to Islamic countries in Asia. We feel that having AFLAS 2014 will be in line with AFLAS aspiration to expand its sphere of membership westward in the future. To further improve the profile of the congress, it is LASAM’s aim to include expert speakers not only from member countries, but also from ICLAS, FELASA, ANZLAS and other relevant organizations to the congress.

Malaysia and UPM’s extensive experience as hosts to successful international events.

International events such as Conference of the Association for Tropical Medicine (CAITVM) in 2004, Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) in 2002, World Congress for Information Technology (WCIT) in 2008 and the upcoming International Conference On Thinking (ICOT) in June, 2009 just to name a few. Malaysians are known for their hospitality, attentiveness to details and professional organization. It is therefore our commitment and pledge to assure the AFLAS Council that AFLAS 2014 will be organised in the most successful manner.

Firm commitments and support from national agencies and bodies.

To further ensure the success of the event, the various government agencies such as the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), national universities and professional bodies has expressed support to ensure that AFLAS 2014 will be a success. The organisers will also be able to access secretarial and personnel resource from UPM, Tourism Malaysia and the National University Malaysia (UKM).
Excellent infrastructure and reasonable cost of living.

Malaysia is a rapidly developing Newly Industrialised Country (NIC) with excellent transportation, logistic and organizational infrastructural support. These are conducive in the organisation of both large scale and highly customised international conferences at very reasonable cost. This is critical to even out economic disparity between more and less economically-privileged nations, making AFLAS 2014 more accessible to more member and potential member nations.

Promoting the importance of Laboratory Animal Science in research in Malaysia as well as the region.

We believe with the undivided support of LASAM members, MOSTI and all relevant parties in Malaysia, AFLAS 2012 would serve to further promote the importance and visibility of laboratory animal science as a main engine in research, development and wealth creation in Malaysia, both to the relevant authorities and the Malaysian community in general.

Malaysia Truly Asia

Malaysia straddles the crossroad of continental Asia. It’s culture, food and practices are an infusion of essence from east and west of Asia. Tolerance, stability and harmony are Malaysia’s hallmark. Malaysia boast of many touristic and leisure venues, ideal for unwinding after a hectic conference.
3.0 Proposed Venue

Convention Centre - The award winning Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) (http://www.klccconventioncentre.com) is proposed to be the venue for AFLAS 2014. It is located in the heart of the city, within a beautifully landscaped recreational park and the awe-inspiring world famous Petronas Twin Towers. The convention centre is fully equipped with the latest state-of-the-art facilities to cater to all the needs of an international event. These include a plenary hall for 3,000 people, multiple cavernous halls that can accommodate up to 1500 delegates or more each, and an uninterrupted 1283 square metres of exhibition space. There will be sufficient space to cater for conference activities such as poster presentation, demonstrations, and enough lounge areas for relaxation while strolling around the many exhibits that cater to the different needs of the local and international delegates. The glass-walled convention centre is surrounded by lush and green environs of trees, turf and large fountain pools. This obviously provides a relaxing atmosphere for creative and scientific exchange.

Entrance view of the KL Convention Centre
View of the Convention Centre (foreground) and Petronas Twin Towers at dusk

View of the Petronas Twin Towers from the Convention Centre.
View of the Convention Centre and the adjacent park from the Petronas Twin Towers

Other views of the KL Convention Centre
More views of the KL Convention Centre

**Accommodation Access** - Situated in the city centre and the Kuala Lumpur tourist district, the convention centre is within walking distance of major hotels and apartments, and numerous low to medium-cost accommodations. There are over 1500 four-star and five-star hotel rooms on site and over 11000 rooms within 10 minutes of walking distance. Rates are reasonable, ranging from 50 USD to 500 USD or higher (2010 rates)

**Transportation and security** – the convention centre is well served by a modern and efficient subway train system linking all major parts of the city. It is also within access of major highways traversing the Kuala Lumpur city. Being a tourist district, taxis are readily available at reasonable rates. The subway/light rail transit system links KLCC to KL Central, an ultra modern and conducive transportation hub for Kuala Lumpur city. From here travellers could check-in to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLCAT services), or switch to other commuter train, monorail, electric rail link (ERL to the Airport), bus and taxi services to various parts of Kuala Lumpur or Peninsula Malaysia. Part of the proposed Mass Rail Transit covering greater Kuala Lumpur region will be implemented by 2011 and expected to be ready by congress date. The world’s first and largest integrated low cost carrier airport (LCCA) will also be ready and functioning alongside Kuala Lumpur International Airport by 2013, equipped with high speed rail service to the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

The convention centre has a fully integrated security system and is manned 24-hours a day by trained and friendly security personnel. With over 200 close-circuit security
cameras throughout the centre, the building is one of the most secure centres in the city and had been used to host national and international events featuring royalties, presidents and high ranking government officials. Events held at the KLCC included ASEAN ministerial meetings, international meetings with participation of more than 8900 individuals and many more.

Proposed Date

LASAM is proposing that AFLAS 2014 be held during the month of November/December. However the date is still subject to further discussion and deliberation.

Projected number of delegates & potential exhibitors

The conservative estimate for the number of delegates coming to AFLAS 2012 is between 400 – 500. Potential exhibitors include local agents for international companies (Techniplas, Labquip, Sterling, BCRO, iDNA, GIFT, ERLA, Millipore lifesciences, Fischer, Interscience, Matachana, Teguh Pharma – ADI Instruments, Institutional Exhibitors), as well as international companies hoping to make a Malaysian presence.
3.1 Alternative convention venue : Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre

The Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre (http://www.sunwayhotels.com/) is located within a multiple hotel development situated within the integrated resort (IR) destination of Sunway Lagoon Resort. The 400 hectare “Resort-within-a-City” self-contained landmark comprises a collection of hotels, conference and convention centres, a Balinese-inspired spa, a theme park (88-acre Sunway Lagoon Theme park), a mega shopping and entertainment mall (Sunway Pyramid Mall http://www.sunwaypyramid.com/), medical centre (Sunway Medical Centre), educational facilities (Sunway University College & Monash University Malaysia Campus) and a multitude of distinctive convention, business and leisure facilities, such as the internationally acclaimed Subang Golf Club.

The convention centre is strategically located in a bustling suburb of Kuala Lumpur, about 45 km from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, and 20 km from the city centre. The Pyramid Tower Hotel and Sunway Hotel managed by Sunway International Hotels & Resorts offers more than 1,200 guestrooms, suites, villas and serviced-residences within the flagship Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, The Villas, The Duplex, Pyramid Tower Hotel and Pyramid Suites & Studios. The convention centre and hotel also feature over 10,000 square meters of world-class meeting space, making this one of Malaysia’s most versatile conventions and exhibitions venue. The convention centre’s classically designed ballroom is ideal for the most prestigious banquets of up to 2,200 persons. Twenty-five (25) state-of-the-art, column-free meeting and boardrooms measuring 84 to 192 square meters as well as two auditoriums are part of Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa’s inventory of function space, capable of providing flexibility to organisers of both large and small events. The convention centre is capable of accommodating up to 6,000 delegates. The Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, located next to the Pyramid Tower Hotel and Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, is connected to the Hotels by an air-conditioned passageway providing ideal accessibility for event delegates and organisers.

The convention centre and hotel is also within easy access of the Sunway Lagoon Theme Paak & Pyramid Shopping Mall. The 88-acre Sunway Lagoon Theme Park lays claim to the world's largest manmade beach; the Sunway Surf Beach, an 18,000 square feet expanse of sandy beach recreated with 6,000 tons of sand, complemented by palm trees and huts. The 170-metre long Sunway Surf Beach is one of the world’s most unique entertainment venues. Located in the Sunway Lagoon Theme Park, the Surf Beach is able to generate waves up to five metres and has been an irresistible draw to events like X-Games Asia and Quiksilver Revolution Tour. MTV World Concert Tour in 2010. The Sunway Lagoon Theme Park features theme lands - Wild Wild West, World of Adventure and Waters of Africa. It also features an Extreme Park and an interactive zoo. The Sunway Pyramid located adjacent to the Hotel is home to over 700 specialty stores, food & beverage outlets, entertainment centres, and recreational facilities like an ice-skating rink, 48-lane bowling alley, a 10-screen Cineplex and more. Leisure facilities that are directly accessible from the Hotels include an oversized free-form landscaped swimming pool...
with cascading waterfall, a 24-hour fitness centre with an aerobics studio, the Balinese-inspired Mandara Spa, and a jogging track to enhance the leisure experience for travelers.

The environs of the convention centre are surrounded by no less than 30 budget to midrange hotels with ample number of rooms. The proposed convention centre is also aptly situated between several institutions of higher learning, namely the University of Malaya (10 km), Monash University Malaysia Campus (5 km), University Putra Malaysia (15 km), National University of Malaysia (UKM, 27 km).

Bird’s eye view of the Sunway Resort City at dusk. From left, the Sunway Pyramid Mall, Sunway Hotel & Convention Centre (centre), Pyramid Tower Hotels (right). Part of the Sunway Lagoon Theme Park with its artificial beaches are seen in the lower half of the photograph.

Night view of the Hotel Entrance
Alternative view to the Hotel Entrance

View of the small auditorium

Lobby of the convention centre
The convention hall

Lobby of the hotel’s ballrooms
One of the 25 smaller meeting rooms

Sunway Hotel Villas located within the resort city, perfected insulated from the busy town centres and highways traversing the environs of the convention centre and hotels
Entrance to the adjacent Sunway Pyramid Mall with Egyptian-theme decorations

View within the mall from the ice-rink!
Partial view of the Sunway Lagoon Theme Park from the sky bridge connecting the Convention Centre and the Sunway Pyramid Mall.
4.0 Benefits for AFLAS and the region

We believe that AFLAS 2014 would bring the following benefits to stakeholders in the region:

4.1 Increased awareness and visibility of roles and benefits of AFLAS to the laboratory animal science community in Asia, particularly in Malaysia. This is important for LASAM’s effort in advancing the practice of laboratory animal science, medicine and welfare in Malaysia, such as regulatory requirements.

4.2 Increase potential membership from existing non-member countries, particularly from those that has close links with Malaysia and LASAM.

4.3 Promotes networking between the industry and research communities across the region
5.0 Introduction to Malaysia & Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia is a uniquely diverse country with a multi-cultural population that will not fail to amaze. Geographically, Malaysia is divided into two regions, Peninsula Malaysia at the southern tip of the Asian continent, and East Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah on Borneo Island. Malaysia is naturally endowed with rich forest in Sabah, Sarawak and the East coast of Peninsula Malaysia. Malaysia also plays hosts to a wealth of exotic islands, such as Langkawi, Pangkor and Sipadan. These are natural havens of tranquillity offering snorkelling, scuba diving and ample sunshine apart from excellent golfing facilities. Kuala Lumpur, the economic capital of Malaysia, is one of Asia’s most thriving and prosperous cosmopolitan city. Here, traditional culture blends seamlessly with modern urbanization. From the rich forest to the cosmopolitan hustle bustle of her cities, Malaysia has something for everyone. Kuala Lumpur has an estimated population of 1.7 million people comprising distinct ethnic groups from multicultural Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur is served by an integrated transportation system, including the ultra-modern, award winning Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), located 65 km southwest of the city. Access to city centre is made fast and reliable by the high speed Electric Rail Link (ERL) trains, enabling visitors to arrive in downtown transportation hub of KL Sentral in just 28 minutes. From here visitors can get into the various rail and road transportation modes such as monorail, light rail transit system, trains, buses and taxis to reach anywhere in Kuala Lumpur and Peninsula Malaysia. Apart from the ERL, the KLIA is also connected to its surrounding cities and townships by excellent network of highway system. Kuala Lumpur is the home to the Petronas Twin Towers, one of the world’s most recognisable landmarks. Standing at 452 metres, the Petronas Twin
Towers are the tallest twin towers in the world and had become the international symbol synonymous with Malaysia. At the foot of the Twin Towers lies Suria KLCC, one of the city’s finest shopping centres. With an array of shopping malls, offering tax-free discounts to foreigners, Malaysia has proven to be a shopping paradise. Three hundred metres nearby, the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) offers spacious and conducive facilities for AFLAS 2012 congress. Kuala Lumpur also has restaurants, clubs and bars that offer a vibrant nightlife to locals and visitors alike. All types of cuisines are available in a variety of settings from fine dining to street stalls, air-conditioned splendour to al-fresco – there is something to meet everyone’s desires making it a veritable gourmet’s wonderland.

5.1 Weather
Malaysia enjoys tropical conditions throughout the year with temperatures hovering around 30 – 32 C. Scattered rain showers will offer respite from the humidity, leaving a fresh and crispy air.

5.2 Local time & business hours
Standard Malaysian time is GMT + 8:00. The business hours for shops are between 0900 – 2200 hours. Banking hours are between 0930 – 1630 hours. Government offices and banks are closed on weekends.

5.3 Currency
The Ringgit (RM) is the official currency in Malaysia.

5.4 Passport and visa requirements
All citizens require a valid passport to enter Malaysia with a validity period of six months beyond their length of stay. Citizens of most of the British Commonwealth, European, Asian and American countries are eligible for visa upon entry. However, please check with local Malaysian consulate to confirm visa requirements.

5.5 Credit cards
Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, shops and restaurants. Travellers cheques and foreign currency can be changed at hotels or banks.

5.6 Tax and tipping
Tipping is usually not customary in Malaysia. A 6 % government tax and 10 % service charge are added to rooms, meals and other related services. Sales tax (VAT) for items is included in prices quoted.

5.7 Taxis and public transportation
Taxis are relatively inexpensive and required to use meters when ferrying passengers. Public transportation is very convenient and relatively cheap.

5.8 Electrical supply and sockets
Type G (British 3 pin) and Type C (two pin) sockets with 220-240 V AC at 50 cycles per second are used.
6.0 Tours and excursions

The following tours will be made available to congress participants:

6.1 Half Day tours
i. City Tour (duration 3.5 hours). This interesting tour will unveil the beauty and charm of the old and new Kuala Lumpur. Includes the Petronas Twin Towers, The Royal Palace, National Museum, Sultan Abdul Samad Building, National Monument and National Mosque.

ii. Countryside & Batu Caves tour (duration 4 hours). Outskirts tour with stopover at the Royal Selangor Pewter, the largest and most modern pewter factory in the world, renowned for high quality products and exceptional craftsmanship. Batik factory stop and finally a stopover at the Hindu temple cave of Batu Caves.

iii. Putrajaya & Agricultural Heritage Park tour (duration 5 hours). Tour to the scenic and ultra modern purpose built Federal Administrative Capital of Malaysia, Putrajaya. Stops include the Agricultural Heritage Park, a resource centre and museum showcasing the history and glorious agriculture era, government administration centre, Putra square, Putra Mosque and the Putra Lake cruise.

iv. Kuala Lumpur By Night tour (duration 3.5 hours). This tour would unveil the magnificent night scene of Kuala Lumpur. From the open air bazaar of Chinatown
where it is liveliest in the evening, to the Sri Mariamman Hindu Temple, and ending with a sumptuous Malay dinner at a popular lake front restaurant. Guests could savour sumptuous buffet dinner from a wide array of local dishes while be entertained with cultural performances and dances.

6.2 Full Day Tours (direct arrangement between congress participants and tour operator and subject to minimum tour group number of 20 pax, subject to change)

i. Malacca Historical City Tour (duration 8 hours)
Malacca is Malaysia’s historical state, with colonial legacies dating from the Malacca Sultanate (1403 – 1511), Portuguese (1511 – 1641), Dutch (1641 – 1824) and the British (1824 – 1957). There will be plenty to see and savour from the highly acclaimed Malay architecture of the Sultanate’s Palace replica, St Peter’s Church built in 1710, Chinese Hill which housed the largest Chinese Cemetery outside of China – a lasting legacy dating from the Ming dynasty to the signature red walls of the Stadhuys – or townhall built during the Dutch period and may more. Take a stroll down Jonker Street where past meets present.

Clockwise from left, A Famosa – the oldest surviving Portuguese era fort in Asia, the Stadhuys and Christ Church – the oldest Dutch buildings in Asia dated from 1783, the replica of the Malacca Sultanate Palace (dated 1430), bullock carts.

ii. KL Rainforest tour (duration 8 hours)
Located within the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur, this visit brings guest to the Aboriginal Museum north of Kuala Lumpur. Activities include jungle trekking, sight seeing and many other activities to connect you to the nature. Guests will also have the chance
to try out their skills with the blow pipe, bamboo pole fishing, or just relaxing in cold stream after the jungle trek.

6.3 KL Hop-On Hop-Off service
Designed for the tourist who loved to see KL at their convenience, the KL hop-on-hop off service (http://www.myhoponhopoff.com/services.html) offers value for money tours for visitors who are in KL for a short or long stay. This service covers the major attraction spots within KL and there will be plenty to see and savour for everyone, especially busy conference delegates who wished to spend their lunch break in the most fruitful manner. See map below for further information.

6.4 Golf packages (direct arrangement between congress participants and the golf course operator, subject to change)

Malaysia has more than 200 golf courses spread over West Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. Kuala Lumpur has many world class golf courses available at very reasonable rates. Being in the tropics, the golf courses remained evergreen and conducive for golfing throughout the year. Being a tropical country with plenty of rain and sunshine have enabled many greeneries to thrive, hence making golfing one of the sports activities that is played throughout the year. There are golfing environments within city limits where guests can choose to play while the family can go shopping or to the theme parks. There are also golf courses located within the cool and refreshing mountains such as those at Genting Highlands, Frasers Hills or Cameron Highlands. For those who liked the sea and the breeze of the wind, Damai Laut Golf & Country Club in Lumut is one of the good golf clubs available. Green fees often ranged from USD 70 – 120 for courses in the city, while clubs outside the city limits often charge lesser than USD 45. Buggy and caddy fees usually ranged between USD 10 – 30, depending on clubs.
Among the notable golf courses that are available include:


![Golf Course Images]

ii. Within 100 km of KL Convention Centre & Sunway Convention Centre Awana Genting Highlands Resort Golf Club, Seremban International Golf Club (within the town of Seremban, approximately 100 km from Kuala Lumpur) and many others.

iii. Within 150 km of KL Convention Centre & Sunway Convention Centre A Farmosa Golf Resort, Orna Golf & Country Club (both in the city of Malacca, about 150 km from Kuala Lumpur), and many others.
7.0 Summary

We believe that with the increasing importance of the Laboratory Animal Science in driving research throughout the region, and in Malaysia in particular, LASAM is ready to shoulder responsibility to organise AFLAS 2014. We firmly believe that the excellent infrastructure and support committed to this bid effort by the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and all other Malaysian & international partners of LASAM, AFLAS 2014 will be a resounding success.

Document prepared by

AFLAS 2014 MALAYSIA BIDDING COMMITTEE, LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION MALAYSIA (LASAM)
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