Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs

- Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Career (BYAAC)
- Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation (BCHP)
- Bureau of Palau National Archives and Research (BPNAR)
- Bureau of Aging, Disability and Gender (BADG)

Partnership with Commissions and NGO's

- Belau National Museum
- Palau National Olympic Committee
- National Housing Commission
- Hall of Fame Committee
- Kramers Committee

The Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs continues to prioritize programs for the Youth, Aged and Vulnerable Populations of Palau, in addition to the preservation and promotion of Palau's traditions and cultural heritage. The Ministry is responsible for the acknowledgement and recognizing the need for sustainability for preserving, protecting, maintaining, and promoting Palau's Traditional and Cultural Heritage. The management action of the Ministry is to enhance the wellbeing of our people and our community, through the preservation and maintaining our traditions and cultural heritage through partnerships with the community integrations of activities for continues learning, protecting, collecting, and disseminating, administering cultural and national information for sustainable economy, healthy social well-being and responsible and sustainable culture.

Activities and Management

- Shall continue to work in partnership with all national and state government/agencies, including traditional based and non-traditional based organizations in implementing the Ministry's mission and responsibilities;
- Regularly conduct a comprehensive review of the functions of the ministry to ensure that ongoing programs and services complement and do not duplicate other programs or services administered by other governmental agencies;
- Based on the comprehensive review of the functions of the ministry, undertake a review of the organizational structure of the ministry to ensure clear functional direction and reduced long-term operations costs;
- In line with recommended organizational structure, evaluate staff and staffing requirements including space requirements to ensure that programs and services are administered effectively;
- Work with traditional and state leaders, on an on-going basis, to insure the incorporation of traditional values into programs and services provided;

- Ongoing management of the implementation framework action plan of the Palau National Youth Policy (2016-2025) to ensure effective implementation of youth-related programs and services with key partner agencies in government and community;
- Working with local community artists and groups to strengthen laws aimed at protecting local artists and promoting the local arts industry, with key partners such as Belau National Museum, PVA and Senior citizens Center and youth center;
- In line with national youth policy, determine the feasibility of establishing a Youth Corps program that offers a structured and stable environment, employment and is conducive to learning fundamental life skills and provides educational and training opportunities to all youth including the establishment of a ROTC or similar program in secondary education;
- Providing Gender Statistics for the production, use and publicity of indicators for SDG Goal 5 as well as the disaggregation of all other SDG indicators relevant for gender statistics in Palau;
- Manage the Rules and Regulations and Standard Office Procedures (SOP) to Improve mandates of Disability Fund to assist and support individuals with disabilities; Review the financial standing of the Disability Fund and present recommendations for program improvements as necessary;
- Continue to work with PAN Office to establish a stronger cultural component into the protected areas network scheme;
- Implement the senior citizens discount program through formulation and promulgation of implementing regulations;
- Manage and Implement all national holiday sand national events in coordination with all Ministries, Office of President, Office of the Vice President, Council of Chiefs, OEK, States Governors, Mechesil Belau, Sponsors, Diplomatic Corps, and overall community partners
- Assist with administration and support with annual Mechesil Belau Conferences.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to secure the funding resources to enable the Archives Office to secure records and documents for archiving including the recruitment of additional staff required to ensure the proper appraisal and disposal of documents and records;
- Continue to improve the implementation of the National Youth Policy aimed at providing resources, support and services to our youth to enable them to fulfill their potentials and contribute to our cultural and economic growth;
- Through the National Housing Commission, continue to collaborate with the Palau Housing Authority and the National Development Bank of Palau to mobilize funding to expand affordable housing to families in need particularly for Babeldaob;
- In cooperation with the Palau Visitors Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism to develop family-oriented recreational and natural parks for our people and visitors to enjoy;
- In cooperation with the Palau National Olympic Committee, determine the feasibility of designing and constructing a modern Sports Training Facility to support health and healthy lifestyles as well tourism product diversification policies; and
- Consistent with national youth policy, create diverse incentive programs for our youth in sports and academics emphasizing achievement and awards in cooperation with the Palau National Olympic Committee, the Ministry of Education and the Palau Community College.
- The Family Protection Act (FPA) of 2012 went through a full review process involving all stakeholders implementing the Act/
- The Palau Severely Disabled Assistance Funds has 265 recipients that receive the monthly assistance funds to support them and their families with the high cost of living.

- The Job Corps continue to work diligently in processing and following up young people's application to the Job Corps program in Hawaii. In 2018, for the first time, Job Corps offered the first deaf Pacific islander in the program coming from Palau.
- Summer Activities for Youth throughout Palau: Sports, Traditional Learning, Youth Entrepreneurship learning, Junior Anglers Fishing Tournament and Taro Learning
- Summer Youth Corps Program and Applied Learning through Competence Skill Learning Summer Employment Program (CSLSE) – Job opportunities for youth and adults
- Provides for Elders Health and wellbeing through meals/transportation services, health check, and related activities through Senior citizens Center.
- Provide Gender Mainstreaming Awareness. Awareness raising & skills development for key staff in each ministry for the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Policy
- Disability Policy endorsement with the Office of the President and Congress and implementation Framework
- Coordinate the action plan on the 125 UPR Recommendations and Palau next Reporting of UPR at UNHRC
- Coordinate with Kramers Committee and translation work with Belau National Museum
- Focal Point for Palau UNESCO Programs, Activities and Reporting, including World Heritage of RISL with Koror State Government
- Sports and Youth through the annual Belau National Games Preparation with partnership of PNOC
- Assess and Review Sports facilities management plan and make recommendations for improvement, including sports facilities in babeldaob and outer islands States.
- Sports outreach programs to all States, Sports and Health in the fight of NCD and Sports in school PE
- Review, Implement, Report and identify the benefits and implications for Palau various UN conventions such as CRC, CRPD, CEDAW and others.
- Managements and scheduling of Ernguul Park Activities with local vendors and other key community activities and events
- Management and maintain all sports facilities in partnership with Palau National Olympic Committee
- Cultural and Historical Preservation/Palau Historic Preservation Office is responsible for identifying, documenting, protecting, preserving, and managing all cultural and historical resources within the Republic.
- Receives funding allocations from the local government and U.S. Department of the Interior through the National Park Service mandated through the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.
- Through the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation/Palau Historic Preservation Office Palau is a member of various committees in the national, regional, and international level as technical expert and or advisor.
- The Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation/Palau Historic Preservation Office is the focal point through MCCA to SPC on program and development for the Festival of Pacific Arts.

The **Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation/Palau Historic Preservation Office** (the "Bureau") is one of the Bureaus of the Palau National Government under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs responsible for identifying, documenting, protecting, preserving, and managing all cultural and historical resources within the Republic.

Established in 1974 by the Historic Preservation Act (COM PL-3-34), its expansion and maintenance was authorized by the Historic Preservation Act of 1978 (PPL-6-6-19), later amended to RPPL 1-48 in 1982, also known as Title 19, Chapter 1 of the Palau National Code.

The mission of the Bureau is to protect and preserve all the Republic's cultural and historical resources to enhance, enrich, and foster the Palauan heritage now and into the future. To achieve this mission, the Bureau has four main goals:1) to preserve and foster cultural and historical resources for the benefit of Palauan people; 2) to preserve and educate Palauan traditions that are threatened with extinction; 3) to protect cultural and historical resources from destruction; and 4) to preserve culture and tradition in the face of inevitable increasing foreign contact and interaction.

The Bureau consists of five main sections, namely the Administration and Planning, Survey and Inventory/Archaeology, Oral History and Ethnography, Palau Register of Historic Places, and Public Education.

The Bureau receives funding and manages allocations from the local government and U.S. Department of the Interior through the National Park Service mandated through the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Bureau oversee and administer all program activities required by HPF Grant, continues to keep and maintain proper documents of all program activities **and** oversees and administer all program activities required by HPF Grant**,** maintain the close liaison with other affiliated partners in Historic Preservation (US National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation, and other similar agencies)**,** assist the states in the Republic to establish their local preservation programs**,** seek educational training and other related opportunities purposely to build staff capabilities and capacity in order to improve and increase the programs efficiency, Continues to safeguard the potentially eligible and registered properties of the nation and enhance the awareness and education of the public in historic preservation.

Bureau of Aging, Disability and Gender mission is direct and coordinate efforts in addressing the welfare of the community, in particular, the elderly, the disabled, and issues of gender equality**.** The Bureau strategic planning is based on the Palau National Medium-Term Development Strategy 2016 – 2020 and the Ministry Action Plans 2016 – 2020. The vision for vulnerable population is "life with dignity", supported by three goals: To ensure the basic needs of all residents are met**.** To reduce vulnerability by preserving and strengthening safety nets represented by: The Palauan ethic of 'sharing and caring' and Universal access to productive land and sea resources**.** Through five (5) strategies: Laying the policy foundation**,** Accessing basic services**,** Extending opportunities**,** Sustaining safety nets and Meeting basic needs. The Bureau including all divisions and sections to analyze and interpret sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, so that evidence-based gender analysis informs Bureau, national and sectoral projects, programs, policies, strategies and reports.

The Division of Aging provides services to the Palauan elderly aged 55 and over including meals for elderly homebound and for those elderly who congregate at the Palau Old Age Center located in Koror. Services also include congregate transportation services and transmission of traditional cultural

arts skills and knowledge to the younger generation. The Aging Office additionally supports Palau's elderly citizens who receive no income or have low income through the distribution of assistive devices. The Aging Division organizes activities for senior citizens including, *Cultural* exchange with visiting groups from other countries**,** National holiday events including Senior Citizens Day (May 05)**,** Senior exercise program with partner agencies.

Palau National Elderly Policy: In March 2020, Senate Bill No. 10-126, SD1, HD3, CD1, PD1 was passed to amend and add a new chapter to Title 21 of the Palau National Code, Chapter 10: Aging Care. The intent of this bill is to create a national policy on care for the aging to provide essential support, create opportunities for the aging population, and help ensure that the aging in Palau are given the recognition and support needed to live their lives with the utmost dignity.

Palau Senior Citizens Center Renovation *OEK Appropriated Fund:* Pursuant to RPPL 10-42, the 10th Olbiil er a Kelulau allocated $75,000.00 for the purpose of renovating the Senior Citizens Center. Renovation began in August 2020 and will be completed in December 2020. *Through* ***Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects****:* The Bureau received a grant for the renovation construction of the office building. The amount of the grant received was $89,000. The renovation began in August 2020 and will be completed in December 2020.

Working the partners, the *Hinomaru Bento Project*, funded by the Asia Child Support, was launched in September 2019. Asia Child Support is a non-profit organization in Japan that often provides donations and contributions to the Senior Citizens. The total amount of the project is $21,000 annually. Along with the monetary contribution, Asia Child Support also donated a vehicle in support of the meal delivery.

Ormuul Giftshop, Inc. Plan. Ormuul Giftshop Inc. is a registered non- profit organization under the Division and governed by the Palau Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of the corporation is to provide a marketing and distribution system of senior citizens and other local arts and crafts to generate funds for senior citizen programs. The *Title V Employment Program*, under the Division, is for low income persons aged 55 years and older for part-time employment program to gather enough working days to receive their retirement days with a workable pension and social security aids. The senior citizens are employed as weavers and carvers, and their products are sold at the Ormuul Shop.

Division of Disability: The Division of Disability is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of disability programs in line with the disability strategies and programming guidelines. The Division additionally contributes to defining strategies in advancing disability work through research, partnership, alliance building and advocacy initiatives. ***Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD):*** Following Palau's participation at the Human Rights Council 18th Session Universal Periodic Review in September, 2011, Palau became a signatory to the core human rights conventions including the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. Palau ratified the CRPD and its optional protocol in June 2013 and is finalizing its initial report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Bureau is the national focal point for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

Palau National Disability Policy 2017 – 2020 The purpose of the Palau National Disability Policy is to provide a framework for addressing disability issues in Palau, develop a more equal and inclusive society, promote greater independence for awareness of the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

Division of Gender: The Division of Gender works with the various agencies in the National and State governments in addition to working with the private, non-profit and community-based organizations to create and implement policies that impact the general population. Gender work necessarily deals with the men, women, boys and girls, the elderly and people with disabilities and various subgroups for all of Palau.

Palau National Gender Mainstreaming Policy: The Palau National Gender Mainstreaming Policy was adopted in 2018 after a process of stakeholder and community consultations. The strategic objectives of the Policy are that all women and men, people with disabilities, youth, senior citizens, migrants, people living in hardship, and people living in remote areas with limited access to public services: Participate in decision making in all areas of life**,** Have the same opportunities to earn incomes and fulfil their needs**,** Are safe and protected in their homes, at school, in workplaces and all other private and public spaces**,** Have all the resources they need to be healthy and resilient and to support their well-being.

Partnership with MNRET for UNDP GEF 6: Integrating Biodiversity Safeguards and conservation into planning and development in Palau: This project is led by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism (MNRET) and with the objective of addressing impacts of unsustainable sector-led development practices on biodiversity-rich landscapes of Palau, including its productive coastal and marine ecosystems. The project considers climate change adaptation needs and inclusive and equitable social and economic development for dependent communities, as well as safeguarding against threats to biodiversity and the introduction and spread of Invasive Alien Species through the tourism and related sectors.

Partnership with NEMO for UNDP: Disaster Risk Reduction – Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in Palau. The project aims to improve the capacity for preparedness and mitigation to man-made, geo-physical and climate- related hazards and to climate change impact.

Palau Country Plan with Department of Foreign Aid and Trade (DFAT) Australia 2020-2022. Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women) was announced by the Australian Government at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in August 2012. The program aims to improve opportunities for the political, economic and social advancement of Pacific women. The Palau Country Plan 2020-2022 (the Plan) was developed following a review of the 2015-2019 Country Plan in April 2019. The Plan builds on the achievements of and lessons learned from the first phase of implementation; changes in the context and policy area; and consultation and feedback from stakeholders. The Division of Gender organizes the annual International Women's Day (IWD) forum hosted by the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs (MCCA) for the past three years. The event has been supported by the Office of the President, Republic of Palau and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Family Protection Act Coordination*:* The Family Protection Act desk provides the necessary coordination of the FPA partner agencies in implementing the FPA and therefore providing awareness and access information including information relevant for victims of domestic violence. The *Palau Family Protection Act* (FPA) was passed in November 2012. It amended Title 21 of the Palau National Code entitled Domestic Relations to include a new chapter: *offences against the family and against incompetents*. This provides protections against: abuse of family or household members; harassment by stalking; sex crimes; harm to children (under the age of 18); and harm to people who are unable to look after themselves as a result of disease, disorder or defect. A *Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Palau FPA hereafter* (MoU) was signed in 2014 by the Office of the Attorney General; the Bureau of Public Safety; the Palau Judiciary; the Ministry of Health; and the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Child Protection Coordination. The Child Protection desk is critical for the overall achievement of the Ministry's mission and strategic goals. The CP desk coordinates the development and implementation of interagency plans, strategies, policies, and communication of the Palau child protection work. Facilitates strategic planning processes, policy and legislative analyses work related to child protection policy, and program management. It also coordinates and implements critical time-sensitive special projects, program alliances, and joint initiatives. The Child Protection desk works in accordance with the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Palau acceded on August 04, 1995. Palau submitted its second periodic report for the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on 25 January 2018. The Bureau of Aging, Disability and Gender (MCCA-BADG) houses the national Child Protection desk and is the current focal point for projects pertaining to the CRC and the development of Child Protection policies and the improvement of the existing Child Protection systems in Palau.

The Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts & Career develops and provides services to youth and the general public to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the people in Palau.

Olechotel Belau Fair: In the last four years, the Bureau has continued to be the lead office of the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs in planning, organizing the Olechotel Belau Fair with the sixteen states of the Republic of Palau with the support of the whole ministry. The true essence of the Olechotel Belau Fair is to instill, nurture and strengthen the Palauan pride in our people as Palau continues to develop in this modern era and seeing different ethnic groups' population growing within our community.

Competence Skill Learning Summer Employment The bureau in the last few years had partnered with Bureau of Public Service System, Bureau of Public Works and the Office of the President in organizing and hosting a Competence Skill Learning Summer Employment (CSLSE) program, to allow Palau citizens 14 years of age a and above the opportunity of employment during the summer month of July. This program provides employment for our young people; placing them with national governments agencies and state governments where they are introduced into the real workforce. The Summer Competence Employment program aims to instill the importance of the workforce in our economy and its contribution to the overall being of the nation regardless of one's job description. The program introduces an important aspect of what it takes to have a strong and healthy labor force and good work ethics. This program has grown from about two hundred when it first started and had grown steadily; just this summer, the program had over eight hundreds participants.

Implementation Framework of Youth Policy: The Bureau overseas the implementation framework of the Youth Policy and its integration at national, state, and community level action plans.

***Youth Forum/Conference*:** This forum or conference is usually held on the week of the Youth Day. Usually, State Governments have planned activities for their youths on the Youth Day, a legal holiday; hence, national government sponsored events are held on days prior to the Youth Day so as not to conflict with state governments. Forum or conference is usually focuses on issues and concerns that matters to the youths. And, it is through this forum that youths are given the privileges to voice their perspective or given this space and time to be heard.

Children Christmas Program This program has been ongoing for the last 26years. The event is a weeklong and usually held on the third week of December, the Holiday Season. A season for giving and to instill the Christian faith on the birth of Christ, our lord and our savior, good character building; a time to be humbled, to be compassion and to love and to be loved and to share, the very essence of Christmas, of good manners. There are two integral part of this program: performance and gift giving. Government offices are requested to provide small gifts to give to the children and school children are requested to perform Christmas related activities.

Palau Severely Disabled Assistance Funds: The Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Career under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs is responsible for the Administration of this program as mandated by RPPL No. 6-26. The bureau shall maintain financial records of the funds and shall work with the Ministry of Finance to establish disbursement mechanism, record keeping and reporting formats in compliance with Palau Financial Audit requirements. The Bureau on monthly basis provides the distribution of financial assistance for individuals with severe disabilities, who are homebound, needing twenty-four hours of care, wheelchair and or blind. The Committee overseeing this program are working with OMEKESANG and respective agencies in monitoring and evaluating the program with regular screening visits of clients. The members of the Committee are appointed by the President as per RPPL No. 6-26 and its Rules and Regulations.

Job Corps Program: The job corps program had been in existence ever since the 80s. Its mission is to educate and train highly motivated young people for successful careers. This program is under the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. It is a tuition free training and education program for young people between the ages of 18 through 24. Palau is fortunate to be the recipient of this wonderful opportunity for our young people. It is a pathway to brighter career and one of the options provided for our young people.

***Sports Facility Maintenance*:** To maintain all government sports facilities to ensure that the general public, high schools and elementary schools are able to utilize for physical activities to promote healthy lifestyles. Palau High School utilizes the sports facilities for PE class. At the same time, Ministry of Education from Elementary to High Schools use for their intramurals and inter scholastic games in addition to its utilization for Palau National Olympic Sports Activities and other Sports federation tournaments; and other uses by the different ethnic groups in Palau.

All Public National Holidays and Events: The Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Learning provides services for youth and general public through all the national events annually. The national events provide opportunities to implement youth policies, and social good wellbeing of our citizens through

various national, state and community driven programs, promoting good economy of the country, social good health, wellbeing and culture.

Bureau of National Archives and Research is To protect and preserve the Republic of Palau written history through the use of current technology and best practice, and to effectively document the importance of our history as mandated for the present and future generations. With medium term for In-house review and training of rules and regulations with staff and Require approval of rules & regulations from the Archive Council per Title 19, Chapter 4. The Archive works with States and National Government agencies to set Archives standards and procedures to preserve documents for digitization and archiving.

The Bureau has conducted the following work as mandated: process documents to achieve a Digitization Program, Document appraisal – ongoing inside Processing Room. Book Index - ongoing inside Exhibition Room, File Index – ongoing inside the Vault, Division of Protocol, Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of State, Scan & Digitize, Cassettes, VHS, Microfilm, Microfiche, reels, tapes and others – readers and players are needed to convert to digital, Other Document Scan and Digitize – Office of the President in Ngerulmud scan documents from previous four (4) presidential administrations) and Judicial.

Documentation and Analysis to date: The Archives in June 2009 has acquired a land 15,587 sq. meter at Melekeok State called Bekeu Detimel with the new Archive office building opened in 2017.

To date the Archives Office has prepared for digitization documents from 1st OEK to 8th OEK, Office of Presidents documents, Judiciary documents have been placed at the containers for Archives Office. The judiciary branch has their own Archives System.

The Archives has documents available for researchers and students and is open to public weekly. The documents at Archives includes all government reports, history, newspapers, publications, photos and materials as well.

The Archives is tasked to track down all the numbers of records preserved as an indicator of how many documents have been preserved. The records of researchers in the archives log book will help us initiate programs to develop effective system that will speed up the research process.

The Archives and Research office has completed set up in new office. A Digitization program is to be implemented to network with other government agencies in preserving records in the most advance form of preservation. Initiation of the Archives Website and e-records programs are forthcoming.

The Archives Record Manager will be responsible for providing records keeping services to the three branches of the National Government and each state government, assisting in the development of effective and economic control of documents, file and records in all formats, and for implementing information and records management policies, standards, and procedures. This includes responsibility for the survey, inventory, description, appraise, disposition, and accession of official records and covers records designated for temporary retention and for permanent archival retention.

2020 National Events organized and managed in partnership with MCCA

January 9 Thursday 7am	National Day of Prayer, Ngerulmud Capitol
February	Cultural Symposium
March 9-10 Monday	Women's Forum in Koror (International Women's Day)
March 15 Sunday (12-13 March)	Youth Day – Youth Forum on Environment/Marine
April 9 Thursday	PNOC Day
April 22 Wednesday	Earth Day
May 5 Tuesday	Senior Citizens Day
June 1 Monday	President's Day (unveiling ceremony of Presidents Portraits)
June 10-21	Festival of Pacific Arts, Hawaii
June	Youth Games and Festival, Palau
July 9 Thursday	Constitution Day
September 7 1st Monday	Labor Day
September 13 Sunday	Micronesia Clean Up Day
September 15-16	Mechesil Belau Conference
October 1 Thursday	26th Independence Day
October 24 Saturday	Olechotel Belau Fair & UN Day
November 25th Wednesday	Government Employees Appreciation Lunch
December (week before Christmas)	Children's Christmas Program

Other Programs delivered and implemented through MCCA

- Youth activities and Job Placements
- Senior Citizens activities (meals, employment, homebound support)
- Aging, Gender, Disability, Family Protection Act, Child Protection Programs
- Historical Preservation and Permits
- Youth Development and Programs (Implementation of Youth Policy)
- Job Corps program (Hawaii)
- Cultural and Historical Preservation related activities
- Pacific of Festival Arts
- Annual Cultural Historical Symposium
- Belau Museum Activities and Programs
- Palau NOC Activities and Programs
- National Archive and Archive Building at Capitol
- Kramer Committee
- Hall of Fame
- National Housing Commission
- Public facilities maintenance and operations

Thank you very much

Baklai Temengil
Minister

Melson Miko
Director, BYAAC

Sunny Ngirmang
Director, BCHP

Klouldil Singeo
Director, BADG

Yalap Yalap
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