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INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, NEPAL

Fourth AGM of IPPAN

Independent Power Producers' Association Nepal (IPPAN) held its fourth Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 7th 2005 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

During the AGM, President of IPPAN Dr. Sandip Shah presented the annual report of IPPAN wherein he highlighted the activities and achievements of IPPAN during the last year. The major activities during the period were the review of acts, policies and regulations related to hydropower project development in Nepal; research projects on Rural Electrification in South Asia Region (RESAR), and Nepal India Cooperation on Hydropower (NICOH). These two research projects are being jointly carried out with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India. IPPAN has been nominated as the member of the High Level Steering Committee on Power Sector Reforms in Nepal. Further, IPPAN President has been nominated as the Country Director of South Asia Regional Energy Coalition (SAREC). IPPAN has also become the member of International Center for Hydropower (ICH), Norway.

IPPAN has earned a lot of credibility and visibility in this short period. The target is to develop IPPAN as the one-stop-solutions shop for all developers involved in the development of power projects in Nepal. At the end, President Dr. Shah urged all IPPAN members to collectively define commitment, a commitment to unanimously agreed

plan of actions, to agree on a plan with short term, time bound targets and long term goals and to actively participate in the activities of IPPAN.

The AGM has unanimously elected the new Executive Committee of IPPAN for the next 4-year period as follows:

1. Dr. Sandip Shah	President	Founder Member, representing Bhote Koshi Power Company Pvt. Ltd.
2. Mr. P.P. Adhikari	Secretary General	Founder Member
3. Mr. V.N. Uprety	Treasurer	Representing Molnia Power Co.
4. Mr. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan	Member	Representing Butwal Power Company
5. Mr. Amar Jibi Ghimire	Member	Representing Himat Power Limited
6. Mr. Lekh Nath Kharel*	Member	Representing LEDCO
7. Mr. Suman Basnet	Member	Representing Winrock International

*Mr. Kharel is replaced by Mr. Devi Bahadur Thapa from LEDCO in the EC of IPPAN

IPPAN'S VISION, MISSION, GOAL & PURPOSE

To contribute to the development of Nepal's vast untapped hydropower potential, in line with Nepalese aspirations.

To help mobilize private capability, both national and international, to overcome the constraints confronting hydropower development.

To make optimal use of Nepal's water resources endowments, to serve long-term national and regional needs in the context of future fresh water and energy scarcity.

To disseminate information on hydropower development in Nepal and elsewhere.



Fourth AGM of IPPAN

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Editorial:

It goes without saying that Nepal's economic growth is closely linked with the development of its water resources, primarily with the harnessing of its vast hydropower potential for national and regional benefit. Nepal's internal demand for electricity is principally domestic lighting use with industrial demand at low levels resulting in low load factor in the power system. Some studies show that the national grid, off-grid small hydropower projects, solar and other alternate energy resources are providing access to electricity to about 40% of Nepal's population. Therefore, a lot of effort has to be garnered towards developing the hydropower sector such that the entire population has access to electricity at an affordable price while the power projects are still financially viable with a reasonably high plant load factor. In order for this to materialize, power consuming industries need to be developed within the country. Further, power trading with our neighboring countries need to be pursued actively.

Development of a hydropower project is a capital intensive venture and requires immense patience and risk-taking capacity on the part of the developer. In the past, HMGN through Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) was the only vehicle for implementation of power projects. However, over the last decade, IPPs have taken greater strides towards implementing power projects in Nepal. Current generation figures show that IPPs are providing 148 MW of the almost 600 MW of hydropower generation in Nepal.

Development of these projects in a country like Nepal is full of risks and stumbling blocks, some of which can be "show stoppers". To every risk there is an associated return, and it is in the best interest of all that these risks are minimized, mitigated or eliminated. In this context, IPPAN feels that the following issues need to be addressed by all concerned entities, including HMGN, NEA, IPPs, banking and financial institutions, insurance companies, donors and multi-lateral lending agencies, etc.:

1. The government should stay away from the business of doing business. It should undertake the role of the facilitator such that a stable and predictable policy and regulatory environment can be created for private investments.
2. Hydropower projects in Nepal have been deemed to be expensive primarily because of the fact that cost of access roads and power evacuation transmission lines are added on to the hydropower project cost. As we all know, most of the better hydropower project sites are in remote mountainous locations requiring construction of access roads prior to project construction. This, along with the high-voltage power evacuation system, renders power from these projects comparatively expensive. This can lead to hydropower projects losing their competitive advantage with respect to other sources in the energy market. It is in this context that HMGN, donor agencies and multilateral lending agencies should change their focus towards development of trunk highways in the major river valleys of Nepal. Similarly, high-voltage trunk transmission lines should also be developed in these river valleys. This will lead to opening up of these river valleys for IPPs to develop power projects around these rivers and their tributaries resulting in less expensive power and adding to the competitive advantage that this clean form of energy has.
3. The transmission network within Nepal needs to be strengthened and upgraded to increase the reliability of the internal power transmission network. Currently, some parts of Nepal are not able to get good quality

and adequate power due to transmission bottlenecks while some power plants are spilling energy in the absence of access to these load centers. Furthermore, enough redundancy needs to be built into the transmission network to increase its reliability. In addition, transmission corridors need to be built into India such that available power can be traded in large volumes for economic benefit to both countries. This will help the current predicament whereby Nepal is still a net importer of electricity from India. The current net import of appx. 131 GWh can easily be reversed in favor of Nepal, and Nepal could be a net exporter of approximately double this quantity even with the current generation facilities.

4. IPPs in Nepal are a fairly recent phenomenon and need to be encouraged from all sectors since donor and "soft" money is no longer going to be readily available for power project development. IPPs are major risk-takers and have to get adequate return on their investments. The "single-window" policy needs to be strengthened such that IPPs do not have to run from pillar to post for lack of coordination among government entities. The "single-window" should be reinforced such that the facilities and concessions provided under the Electricity Act and Regulations need to be implemented by all ministries of the Government.
5. There seems to be a sustained media campaign to tarnish IPP image by putting a "high-price" label on them. IPPAN would like to stress the fact that these facts are baseless and very misleading. The truth of the matter is that IPPs are providing 44% of the annual energy consumption in Nepal at an average tariff of N.Rs. 5.24. Accordingly, they are receiving 36% of NEA's annual revenue. NEA reports have added NEA's technical and non-technical losses of 25 % to the average tariff and have come up with a figure of N.Rs. 10 per unit for IPP power, with some financial jugglery that defies any logic and reasoning! Even if the 25% loss figure is added to the IPP average tariff, the tariff comes to N.Rs. 6.5, which is still less than NEA's average consumer tariff of N.Rs. 6.70 per unit. If only NEA was able to market its almost 680 GWh of spilled energy, NEA's books would have been very healthy and IPPs would then not be blamed for NEA's current miseries.

IPPAN stresses that IPP power provides much-needed support to the power system of Nepal. Currently, IPP power is a major engine of growth for the nation's economy, and this will grow rapidly in the near future. IPPs supplement and supplant the Integrated Nepal Power System (INPS), and are not to be construed as competitors to NEA. This misconception needs to be dispersed.

6. An ideal way to develop the medium to larger scale projects in Nepal would be through private-public partnership. Since this scale of projects involves larger risks with more expensive risk-mitigating measures, sharing of risks, capital investment and benefits would be the preferred way to develop these projects.
7. The private sector is taking greater strides towards economic activities such as power project development, and hence, IPPAN believes that it should have a greater role in the decision-making processes of the government when it comes to national economic issues and also in bilateral and multilateral issues which have a direct impact on this industry.

IPPAN feels strongly about the above matters, and believes that it will have a greater role to play in the days to come.

News from Members:

Sunkoshi Small Hydropower Commercial Operation started

Sanima Hydropower Company has completed the construction of its Sunkoshi Small Hydropower Project, and commercial operation has started from 24 March 2005. The project lies in Sindhupalchok district, 85 km north from Kathmandu. The installed capacity of the project is 2.6 MW and the average annual energy generation is 1.5 Gwh.

Congratulations to Sanima Hydropower Company !



Glimpses of Sunkoshi Hydropower Project

Andhi Khola Hydropower Project (Upgrading)

Andhi Khola Hydropower Project Upgrading (proposed Galyang Hydropower Project) is a run-of-the-river type hydropower project located near Galyang Bazaar of Syangja District of Gandaki Zone. This project will replace the existing Andhi Khola Hydroelectric and Rural Electrification Project/Centre (AHREP/C) owned by Butwal Power Company Limited (BPC). The existing 5.1 MW project capacity will be upgraded to 9.4 MW with increase in plant discharge from 2.7 m³/s (93% of exceedance) to 4.9 m³/s (65% of exceedance). The project will utilize the existing headworks and headrace tunnel with necessary modifications. However, the existing penstock pipe and all electromechanical equipments will be completely replaced.

Complete feasibility report with new design and drawings have already been prepared. The project will be able to generate total annual energy of 64.67 GWh (21.21 GWh dry energy and 43.46 GWh wet energy). Thus the upgraded project will contribute additional energy of 27.55 GWh to the Integrated Nepal Power System (INPS) from the year 2007. Considering prevailing environmental legislations, BPC has already published a notice in Gorkhapatra on 15 May 2005 for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Officials from BPC are in the course of public consultation and data collection for possible environmental impacts that may evolve due to the project development. It is anticipated that EIA study will be completed within March 2006.

ISO Certification of BPC

Butwal Power Company Ltd. (BPC) has recently been certified for ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System and 14001:1996 Environmental Management Systems by Det Norske Veritas (DNV) for Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Hydropower and Engineering Consultancy including Design and Management of Hydropower and Water Resource Projects. This is the first hydropower company in Nepal being awarded the two certificates. BPC has

demonstrated effective implementation and has committed itself with the policy to enhance customer satisfaction by generating and providing environment friendly cost effective quality power and engineering solutions. BPC's ongoing endeavor shall be to promote natural resources conservation, enhance customer satisfaction, minimize waste, prevent pollution, bring out amongst employees and focus on sustainable environmental and quality awareness development and continual improvement complying with legal requirements.

Congratulations to Butwal Power Company !

BPC Executive Committee Chairman's Visit to North Delhi Power Limited, India

BPC Board Director Mr. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan visited North Delhi Power Limited (NDPL), India in May 2005 to explore the possibility of establishing business relation between BPC and NDPL. BPC is trying to get NDPL's assistance in doing a study of BPC's existing distribution systems and a pre-takeover study of distribution systems in 11 districts presently operated by Nepal Electricity Authority. According to the understanding reached with the HMG-Nepal during privatization of BPC, the distribution networks of 11 districts in the Western and Mid Western Development Region of the country are to be handed over to BPC. NDPL has been successful in commercial operations of electricity distribution networks in New Delhi. NDPL has been able to reduce the distribution losses and introduce innovative technologies and ideas in power distribution industry. BPC believes that experience of NDPL will be beneficial to it for the takeover.

SHDAN, new member of IPPAN

As per the decision of the 25th Executive Committee Meeting of IPPAN, Small Hydropower Developer Association Nepal (SHDAN) has become a new associate member of IPPAN.

International Training/ Workshop on Small Hydropower

8- 11 July 2005, Kathmandu, Nepal



Training participants and guests

A four days Training/Workshop was organized by Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal (IPPAN) in association with Small Hydropower Developers' Association Nepal (SHDAN), International Center for Small Hydropower (IC-SHP), Winrock International Nepal, Small Hydropower Promotion Project of GTZ (SHPP/GTZ), Alternate Energy Promotion Project (AEPC) & ICIMOD with the financial support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy & USAID, Nepal on 8-11 July 2005 at Park Village Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal. The principle objective was to impart basic technical knowledge & skills on hydropower site selection, plant size optimization, economic analysis, feasibility studies, equipment

selection, technical & financial evaluation of potential projects.

There were 47 participants from Nepal, India, Tanzania and Norway representing Independent Power Producers, Bankers, Government organizations and utilities, academic institutions and consultants. Papers were presented by experts from China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and Germany on technical as well as policy issues of small hydropower.

The workshop not only imparted technical knowledge to the participants, but also has created linkages among many professionals of small hydropower in Nepal and outside.

The workshop was conducted for four days and there were ten technical sessions. There were altogether eighteen papers presented during the workshop covering a wide range of technical aspects, policy issues on Small Hydropower development and experiences through case studies in the participating countries.

The major achievements of the workshop:

1. There was good representation from the Independent Power Producers, Govt. institutions, bankers, consultants who are working or are interested in small hydropower development;
2. Technical knowledge on small hydropower was imparted to the participants;
3. Policy papers on small hydropower from different countries were presented and discussed;
4. Experiences of small hydropower from different countries were shared;
5. Participants had a good opportunity to interact with resource persons and among themselves on different issues of small hydropower development;
6. Participants had opportunity to share information about their projects during the workshop;
7. It has created a good linkage among the professionals of small hydropower in Nepal and outside.



Dr. Sandip Shah addressing on the opening day



Model demonstration at Hydro Lab Pvt. Ltd.

SAREC Activities

SAREC's mission is to promote and develop an integrated South Asia Energy market to stimulate sustained economic growth and to succeed in the global economy with social responsibility.

Sensing the acute need for targeted initiatives designed to increase awareness of the benefits of regional energy cooperation, the South Asia Regional Energy Coalition (SAREC) has initiated an ambitious social marketing programme (SMP). It aims at providing cost-shared support to SAREC member organizations or individual SAREC member firms in each country, to develop and implement energy awareness campaigns. The campaign will seek to promote the regional energy cooperation theme over and above the specific energy issues of interest to the selected members. SAREC seeks to carry forward this new energy awareness program in 2005 through a more broad-based and structured initiative. The present initiative, apart from aiding similar activities of the member organizations, would also encourage new campaigns of a similar nature.

Media Round Table

With a key objective to make aware media and then to general public on the benefit of regional power sharing, Media Round Table on "Economic and Social Benefits Analysis of Power Trade in the South Asia Growth Quadrangle Region" was organized by SAREC at Hotel Yak & Yeti on 26th June 2005. The persistent energy shortage is a major factor for the low growth in this region, said the study adding that sub-regional cooperation in energy sector may be a solution to many socio-economic problems. Dr. Sandip Shah, President IPPAN, drew the government's attention on regional grid and focused on to cooperation to balance the demand and production in the different countries. Mr. Sunil Shakya, President of NUSACCI focused on lack of clear policy and the political instability as a hindrance to attract foreign investment in the hydropower sector. Mr. Mahesh Acharya, who was involved in the study 'Economic and Social Benefits Analysis of Power Trade in the South Asia Growth Quadrangle Regions' by NEXANT, highlighted the importance of cooperation and its strategic advantages in terms of power cooperation in regional development. Former President of NUSACCI Mr. Narendra Basnyat emphasized that the government sector needs to provide the predictability and basic infrastructure to attract foreign investment in the hydropower sector. Almost all the media in Nepal were present during the meeting.



MRT in progress

SAREC Board Meeting and SARI/E Semi Annual Meeting in Colombo



SAREC Board Meeting

SAREC Board of Directors met in Colombo on May 31st to discuss SAREC activities and programmes. SARI/E Semi Annual Meeting concluded in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 1 to 2 June, 2005 on the different activities of SARI/E. Dr. Sandip Shah, President of IPPAN participated in both meetings.

RGM Meeting in Colombo

Regional Grantees Meeting (RGM) of SARI/E Round 2 projects was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 29 to 31 May 2005. Presentations were made on the status of different projects of SARI/E under Round 2. IPPAN jointly with CII has conducted a Research Project 'Nepal India Cooperation on Hydropower' under this program. Mr. Prakash Kaini, from IPPAN participated and presented the status and the findings of the NICOH project.



Participants of RGM

National Seminar on Opportunities and Challenges for Hydropower Investment in Nepal

To highlight the opportunities and prospects for investment in the hydropower sector in Nepal, with special emphasis on attracting private sector investment, Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal and Nepal-USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a 1-day Seminar on 24 June 2005 in Kathmandu, Nepal with the support of USAID Nepal.

There were seven papers presented in two technical sessions covering opportunities, challenges, risks, market opportunities, benefits of regional cooperation, status and prospects of local manufacturing industries and legal and contractual issues.

Papers presented:

- 1. Opportunities for Investment in Hydropower Sector in Nepal** - by Director General Department of Electricity Development - Jay Keshar Mackay
- 2. Power Trading Opportunities with India in light of the Indian Electricity Act 2003, ABT and Merit-Order Dispatch System** - by SARI/E Nexant Deputy COP D.N. Raina.
- 3. Risks and Barriers to Investment in Hydropower Sector in Nepal** - by Dr. Sandip Shah, President-IPPN & EC Member of NUSACCI
- 4. Draft Electricity Ordinance and Electricity Regulatory Commission Ordinance** - by Under Secretary, MoWR - Uday Sapkota.
- 5. Economic and Social Benefits Analysis of Power Trade in the South Asia Growth Quadrangle Region** - by Nexant/SAREC - Mr. Mahesh Acharya.

6. Opportunities for Hydropower Related Industry and Country Benefit - by IPPAN EC Member Gyanendra Lal Pradhan.

7. Legal issues of Contract Implementation and dispute resolution for the Power Industry in Nepal - by Amarjibi Ghimire.

The following recommendations were made for increased investments and to create an enabling environment:

- HMGN should aim towards creating a predictable and stable environment for investment in hydropower sector in terms of policy stability;
- HMGN should act as a facilitator for attracting investments from the private sector with more effective implementation of the single-window policy. Currently, there is a lack of proper institutional arrangement and coordination among different related ministries and institutions. MoWR and DoED should take the lead on effective implementation of the provisions of the Electricity Act in coordination with other line ministries and agencies of HMGN;
- Private sector investments in the hydropower industry is a recent phenomenon and the incentives in the previous acts should not be repealed;
- Public-private partnership models for development of this sector needs to be initiated.
- HMGN should develop relevant legal and regulatory provisions e.g. wheeling policy, grid code, etc., urgently;
- High voltage transmission corridors into India and

in the Region should be developed;

- India has a huge energy demand and the new Electricity Act of India 2003 has opened the possibility of energy markets with Availability-Based Tariff (ABT) and Merit Order Dispatch. This opportunity should be utilized without delay even with the current generation facilities for the benefit of both the countries;
- Enormous social and economic benefits can be achieved with regional cooperation in power sector. Therefore, the complementarities and synergies of the energy generation systems of the regional countries and their demand/supply patterns need to be taken advantage of;
- Local industries related to hydropower should be provided with tax incentives to make local products competitive with similar imported equipment;
- Single-borrower limit imposed on banks for funding hydropower projects need to be increased;
- Collateral financing needs to be replaced by project financing;
- Power sector reforms are required to promote the power cooperation and the major issues are:
 - Level playing field for all;
 - Independent market/system operator;
 - Market-oriented power trading;
 - Current power exchange limit need to be enlarged to say, 1000 MW;
 - Expedite ratification of power trade agreements;
 - Institute regular meetings of Power Exchange Committee;
 - Study new market situation in India and South Asia;
 - Update the Master plan to reflect the recent



development in India Power Sector and in the Region;

- Optimize the installed capacity based on the export market;
- Set up the power pooling arrangement and power trade;
- Fine tune the power export laws;
- Treat power as a commodity, de-link from water issues;
- Specifically, the recommendations for increased Nepal-India cooperation on hydropower are:
 - The projects or actions for cooperation should be categorized as short term, medium term and long term targets;
 - There seems to be a crisis of confidence on both sides as far as hydropower project development or energy cooperation or water resources cooperation is concerned. Therefore, certain doable projects need to be taken up in the short-term as confidence-building measures (CBMs);
 - Transmission interconnection with India is currently a bottleneck for power trading, and therefore, it should be opened up as soon as possible;
 - Third party access to the transmission in Nepal must be there so that the private sector can also get into power trading;
 - All possibilities for partnership between the public and private sectors on both sides of the border should be looked into;
 - The private sector should also be included in the meetings of the Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) and in the Power Exchange/ Trading meetings;
 - Private developers as well as financing from India should be encouraged for the development of hydropower projects in Nepal.

There were 101 participants in the program representing;

- HMGN & NEA Officials
- Representatives of Diplomatic Corps
- Representatives of Donor Agencies
- Representatives of National and International Financial Institutions
- Private Sector Developers and Investors
- INGOs and NGOs involved in the electricity sector
- Media

Seminar: Hydropower for Today, 2 to 4 June 2005

A Seminar "Hydropower for Today" was organized at the International Center on Small Hydropower (IC-SHP) in Hangzhou, China from June 2 to 4, 2005 with participants from Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. The largest delegation was from the host country, China, followed by India. The Vice Minister of the Ministry of Water Resources of China, dignitaries from International Energy Association (IEA), UNIDO and diplomats from Canada and India were present in the opening session. During the course of conference about thirty papers were presented by the participants, among them three were by the Nepalese participants. The topics covered, as the theme of the conference denotes, were on hydropower development, which included possible co-operation from International Agencies like IEA, UNIDO, IN-SHP, problems faced by the small hydro sector, regulatory mechanisms, latest development in equipment manufacturing, particularly in China which has 128,000 MW of small hydro plants installed. It proves that China is on the forefront of small hydro development and many countries including Nepal can learn a lot from their experience. The IN-SHP has been appropriately located in the beautiful city of Hangzhou, about 200 Km. south of Shanghai. Nepali Technicians and Engineers involved in the small hydro sector have been benefited in the past by attending various training courses conducted by IN-SHP. A twenty member delegation from the Nagaland State of India was scheduled to have training at IN-SHP following the conference. From the Nepalese participants, Mr. Prakash Kaini presented a paper on the status of hydropower development in Nepal; the other two papers were on Hydraulic Model Testing for Khudi Small Hydropower Project and Mini Grid in Nepal.



Mr. Prakash Kaini (third from right) with IC-SHP people and other participants

Stakeholders' meeting on Draft Electricity Ordinance and NERC Ordinance

In pursuit of continuing the power sector reform process, DoED/MoWR circulated the draft Electricity Ordinance and Nepal Electricity Regulatory Commission Ordinance to the stakeholders. As a follow-up, a workshop was organized on 12-13th April, 2005 in Kathmandu. Pertinent comments were made during the workshop. IPPAN has forwarded its written comments to MoWR on these draft ordinances. A second round of workshop may be arranged before finalizing the Ordinances.

MoWR has also formulated a review committee to incorporate the comments received. IPPAN has also been included in this committee.

Friday Forum



Dr. Sandip Shah highlighting the idea of Friday Forum

IPPAN has started a series of Friday Forum Meeting at its office on a fortnightly basis. The purpose of the meetings is to have interaction on different relevant issues of the hydropower sector and sharing experience among the stakeholders. Two such meetings have been successfully organized. The first meeting, held on April 8, 2005, was on the draft 'Road Map to Power Investors in Nepal' which was prepared by IPPAN to guide in the development of hydropower in



Participants

Nepal. The paper was presented by Mr. Prakash Kaini. Discussion was made on the draft road map and the comments during the forum will be incorporated in the final report.

The second forum meeting was held on 22 April 2005, in which a paper was presented by Mr. Gyanendra Lal Pradhan on "Uplifting of the Nation on Energy Aspects" where he highlighted the opportunities of hydropower development in Nepal.

Farewell to Mr. Tor Bendik Midtgarden

IPPAN organized a farewell program for the outgoing General Manager of Himal Power Limited (HPL) Mr. Tor Bendik Midtgarden on 16 June 2005. Mr. Midtgarden served as an Advisor to IPPAN during his tenure at HPL. His contribution to IPPAN has been acknowledged and IPPAN wishes him all success in his future career. The new General Manager of HPL Mr. Tom Solberg was welcomed on the same occasion.



Mr Tor Bendik Midtgarden with IPPAN members and counsellor from Norwegian Embassy

Romy Joshi, new staff of IPPAN

Ms. Romy Joshi has been appointed as an Office Executive since May 2005.

INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, NEPAL (IPPAN)

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