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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: Trade and investment

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session

Summary

The eighth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology was held in Bangkok on 14 December 2012. The Council endorsed the Centre's draft programme of work for 2013 on the basis of the recommendations of the Technical Committee, which had met in Manila on 26 and 27 November 2012.

The Council commended the Centre for the work accomplished with limited resources during the reporting period, and made valuable suggestions with regard to strengthening its capacity to meet the needs of member countries.

The Council approved the Centre's draft five-year strategic plan (2013-2017) to assist member countries, especially countries with special needs, in enhancing their capacity for technology transfer and innovation management at multiple levels.

The Council advised that the Centre's results and accomplishments could be proactively brought to the notice of relevant ministries/agencies, policymakers and stakeholders in member countries. It suggested that the focal points in member countries could disseminate the Centre's project outcomes to relevant stakeholders at national and subnational levels so that they could help to enhance the visibility of the Centre in their respective countries.

In taking note of the current administrative, financial and human resources of the Centre, the Council reiterated its call for member countries to enhance their annual contribution, which was set at \$30,000 for developing countries and \$7,000 for least developed countries in line with the recommendation made by the Governing Council in 2009. The Council also stressed the importance of timely and regular remittance of payments to the Centre. It advised the Centre to develop, in consultation with ESCAP, innovative ways of enhancing institutional support and programme resources, including contributions from the corporate sector. In welcoming the offer made by some member countries to deploy experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis to strengthen the human resources capacity of the Centre, the Council requested that ESCAP adopt flexible guidelines that would also meet the requirements of the member countries.

The Council expressed appreciation for: (a) the support furnished to the Centre by its host, the Government of India; (b) the voluntary contributions from other member countries; and (c) the support of the secretariat of ESCAP.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide guidance for the future work of the Centre.

* E/ESCAP/69/L.1.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The Council made the following suggestions and recommendations for action by the Commission:

(a) Enhancement of institutional support:

(i) In view of increasing operational costs, the Council encouraged member States to augment their contributions to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) in line with the recommended guidelines of \$30,000 for developing countries and \$7,000 for least developed countries;

(ii) The Council noted the remark made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP that it was important for the member countries to contribute to APCTT in recognition of the relevance of the Centre's work for the benefit of the Asia-Pacific region;

(iii) The Council advised the Centre to explore new sources to augment its current institutional support, including contributions from the corporate sector. This could be in the form of a corpus fund. Suitable guidelines for the same could be developed in consultation with ESCAP;

(iv) While the Council expressed appreciation for the value of the Centre's activities, it encouraged APCTT to highlight outcomes of national and regional programmes in member countries in order to encourage them to enhance their annual contribution;

- (b) Technical cooperation project resources and joint activities:
 - (i) In noting the offer made by some of the member countries to take a lead role in developing an open technology innovation platform in selected sectors, the Council advised the Centre to develop guidelines or a framework that would make it possible for other member countries to participate in such initiatives;
 - (ii) In order to enable member countries to participate in the national capacity-building activities that were being organized and hosted by individual countries, the Council requested the Centre to continue to facilitate the participation of nationals from other member countries who wished to attend those programmes, using their own resources;
- (c) Assignment of national experts:
 - (i) For enhanced programme delivery, it was important for the Centre to strengthen its human resources. The Council suggested that the Centre consider such options as the secondment of experts from member countries on a non-reimbursable loan basis and the placement of experts from the corporate sector on a pro bono basis.

II. Summary of the discussions

A. Agenda item 4

Report on the activities of APCTT during the period from December 2011 to November 2012

2. The Council had before it the following documents: (a) report on the activities of APCTT from December 2011 to November 2012 (TID/APCTT/GC(8)/3); (b) report on the status of financial resources (TID/APCTT/GC(8)/4); and (c) report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting held in Manila on 26 and 27 November 2012 (TID/APCTT/GC(8)/5).

3. The report on the activities of APCTT from December 2011 to November 2012 was presented to provide an overview of the capacity-building programmes organized in various member countries. During the reporting period, the Centre's activities were directed towards building capacity for technology transfer of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), strengthening national innovation systems, developing institutional cooperation mechanisms for promoting renewable energy technologies, increasing the capacity for managing research and development (R and D) activities of research institutions in new and emerging areas of technology, such as nanotechnology, and enhancing technology intelligence through the provision of technology information services.

4. In introducing the report on the activities of the Centre, the officer in charge of APCTT informed the Council that the Centre had organized more than 16 capacity-building activities in 11 member countries of the region, namely China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. He added that the Centre's activities had been jointly organized in cooperation with about 40 partner institutions, including government ministries, national institutions and international agencies.

5. APCTT had continued to facilitate and promote the networking of institutions in specific industrial sectors (biotechnology, nanotechnology,

traditional medicine and renewable energy) in member countries for the purpose of cooperation in R and D, the development of human resources and joint ventures, and other forms of technological cooperation among the participating institutions. The Centre had also focused on institutional capacity-building in member countries to assist their SMEs in identifying, acquiring and adopting technologies and in promoting information technology-enabled mechanisms to facilitate technology transfer and related intermediary services.

6. During the reporting period, the Centre had organized eight capacity-building activities under its ongoing project to strengthen national innovation systems in Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam. In cooperation with the Science and Technology Policy Institute of the Republic of Korea, APCTT had started an initiative to develop guidelines on national science, technology and innovation (STI) strategies and initiatives for least developed countries. In that regard, a preliminary STI diagnosis of Nepal had been carried out and its key findings presented at a one-day workshop held in conjunction with the meeting of the Technical Committee in Manila. The Deputy Executive Secretary also added that APCTT had entered into a letter of agreement with partner institutions in Indonesia and Nepal to design, develop and manage their respective online national innovation system resource centres.

7. APCTT had implemented the India portion of a project funded by the United Nations Development Account that was jointly implemented by the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and ESCAP to attract foreign direct investment into advanced fossil fuel technologies for electricity generation in Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

8. The Council was briefed about the progress made in 2012 towards developing an online network and a training manual, funded through Section 23 of the programme budget, under a project on networking of R and D institutions in the Asia-Pacific region aimed at strengthening the capacity of R and D management and innovation in new and emerging areas of technology, such as the field of nanotechnology.

9. As a part of the Centre's endeavour towards enhancing technological intelligence in the region, APCTT had continued to publish two periodicals, the *Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor* and the *Value Added Technology Information Services Update*, for disseminating a range of information on the latest technological innovations, technology policies, innovation management, technology transfer and events. During the reporting period, APCTT had accorded high priority to its normative and analytical work with a regional perspective that could serve as a basis for its operational activities.

10. APCTT had made explicit efforts to focus on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island countries in the activities carried out under various projects. Participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar and Nepal had taken part in those activities.

11. The Centre had actively participated in various programmes of ESCAP, in particular the Asia-Pacific Business Forum held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 and 16 October 2012. APCTT had continued to participate in other activities in India supported by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the United Nations Disaster Management Team and other United Nations collaborators.

12. APCTT had developed a draft strategic plan (2013-2017) earlier in the year following a strategic planning workshop held as a part of the organizational effectiveness initiative of ESCAP.

13. An overview of the report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting held in Manila on 26 and 27 November 2012 was presented to the Governing Council.

14. The programme of work that had been recommended by the Technical Committee at its eighth meeting was also presented; that programme was designed to accomplish the following results under the current programmatic approach:

(a) Increased capacity of policymakers and specialists on renewable energy to promote the development and application of renewable energy resources at the national level through knowledge-sharing, networking, technology transfer and cooperative programmes, including South-South cooperation;

(b) Target national institutions, such as SME support agencies, chambers of commerce and government R and D institutions, to enable them to gain skills pertaining to technology transfer project planning and implementation to assist SMEs;

(c) Increased capacity in member States to strengthen national innovation systems;

(d) Increased capacity of so-called nodal institutions in participating member countries to formulate policies and adopt measures to promote a sustainable and commercially viable traditional medicine sector through the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network;

(e) Target policymakers and intermediaries so that they would have developed increased capacity to put into place policies and programmes that facilitated commercialization of grass-roots innovations to foster inclusive development and social entrepreneurship.

15. The Council was briefed about future projects and activities that could be implemented by APCTT, as had been recommended by the Technical Committee.

16. An update on the current administrative status of the Centre was presented, with particular reference to the human resources situation. During the period under review, the Centre had been providing ESCAP with administrative support related to the establishment of its Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia which was located in the APCTT building in New Delhi. Two APCTT staff members were providing the Office with administrative and financial services and one staff member was maintaining the common information and communication technology infrastructure and furnishing trouble-shooting services. The APCTT staff member who was assisting the personnel responsible for programme delivery was working full time with the Office. As a result of those arrangements, the Centre was facing a severe human resources constraint. In order to strengthen the common support services for both APCTT and the Office, which currently were being provided by APCTT staff members, and maintain the Centre's effective delivery of its programme of work, it would be necessary therefore to immediately increase the number of administrative staff members and for the two offices to share the cost of those personnel.

17. The Council was briefed on the Centre's current financial status and expenditures during the reporting period. In spite of having implemented several cost-saving measures during the reporting period, the Centre had increasingly been facing financial constraints not only with regard to implementing its substantive programmes and activities but also meeting institutional and local operating costs. When it had been proposed that the Government of India might consider enhancing its annual contribution to the Centre to cover those operating costs, the representative of India informed the Council that, in view of the recent enhancement of its annual contribution to a total of \$200,000, a further increase in such funding could not be considered immediately but would be evaluated at an appropriate time. The annual contributions pledged to APCTT by member countries of ESCAP had remained static over the last several years. In view of the increasing financial constraints faced by the Centre, members and associate members were urged to increase institutional support by contributing funds to at least the indicative, if not higher, levels: an annual contribution of \$30,000 from developing countries and \$7,000 from least developed countries, to enable the Centre to deliver effective services to members and associate members on a sustainable basis.

18. The Council commended the work done by APCTT during the reporting period and stated that the results and accomplishments could be proactively brought to the notice of relevant government ministries/agencies, policymakers, technology promotion agencies, intermediary agencies, SME support institutions and R and D institutions in member countries. It suggested that the focal points in member countries could further enhance the visibility of APCTT in their respective countries by disseminating the project outcomes to relevant stakeholders at national and subnational levels. The Council suggested that APCTT could share with member countries modalities with regard to the methods used by the Centre for planning and designing substantive projects, such as those supported by India, so that countries such as China could explore the possibility of funding such projects. It was also suggested that such mechanisms as letters of intent could be made easy to use and flexible enough to access support from the member countries.

19. The Council took note of the administrative and financial status of APCTT, in particular its current financial and human resources situation. It discussed various possibilities and modalities through which member countries could enhance their contributions and support in view of the mounting financial burden of the Centre that had been highlighted at the meeting. It expressed appreciation for the offer by China of sending an expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis to APCTT in consultation with ESCAP, and urged that other resourceful member countries offer similar support. The Council commended the announcement by the representative of the Philippines that it would increase its institutional support to \$30,000 from the current year. The representatives of Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka stated that the issue of contributions and increasing the institutional support to the indicative level would be brought to the attention of their respective Governments.

B. Agenda item 5

Report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting

20. The Council had before it the report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting (TID/APCTT/GC(8)/5).

21. The Council noted with interest the proposals of the Technical Committee to strengthen the capacity of member countries to: (a) strengthen national innovation systems; (b) efficiently utilize information and communications technology-based networks and platforms; (c) plan and

implement technology transfer projects; (d) promote new and emerging technologies, such as renewable energy, nanotechnology and biotechnology; (e) promote a sustainable and commercially viable traditional medicine sector; and (f) facilitate commercialization of grass-roots innovations to foster inclusive development and social entrepreneurship.

22. The Council endorsed the report of the Technical Committee.

C. Agenda item 6

Presentation and discussion on proposed programme of work, administrative and financial issues

23. The Council endorsed the activities planned for 2013, as described in paragraph 68 of the report of the Technical Committee. It emphasized the importance of greater regional cooperation to enhance the efficiency of programme delivery and ensure the sustainability of the Centre. The Council suggested that member countries should come forward to support the Centre's planned projects by providing or sharing the necessary financial and human resources.

24. The following suggestions were made concerning future activities and new projects under the programmatic approach subject to approval by national Governments where country-specific initiatives were indicated:

(a) *Output 1c of the capacity development project*: Increased capacity of policymakers and renewable energy specialists to promote the development and application of renewable energy resources at the national level through knowledge-sharing, networking, technology transfer and cooperative programmes, including South-South cooperation:

(i) Facilitate establishment of a technology transfer centre through South-South cooperation;

(ii) Organize a workshop to promote development and deployment of renewable technologies to provide rural poor people with access to energy;

(iii) Promote cooperation among member countries in the region with regard to: new and renewable forms of energy; solid-state lighting (light-emitting diode) technology for lighting; and hybrid buses for improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by adopting some new mechanisms, such as through the development of open innovation platforms or networks of participating national and international stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) *Output 1d of the capacity development project*: Target national institutions, such as SME support agencies, chambers of commerce and government R and D institutions, so that they would have gained skills in respect of technology transfer for project planning and implementation in order to assist SMEs:

(i) Organize a training workshop on planning and implementing technology transfer projects in the Philippines;

(ii) Develop guidelines that could be adopted by member countries for South-South technology transfer;

(iii) Assist in the development and application of technologies for food processing and preservation;

(iv) Promote cooperation in new and emerging areas of technology, especially nanotechnology;

(c) *Output 2a of the capacity development project:* Increased capacity in member States to strengthen national innovation systems:

(i) Assist in development of a technology business incubator through South-South cooperation;

(ii) Promote linkages and partnerships among key actors of innovation system in the region by organizing an Asia-Pacific technology business and investment forum;

(iii) Organize an international workshop and training programme on financing innovation to accelerate the transfer of technology and growth of innovation-based enterprises;

(iv) Develop a working mechanism and guidelines for an open innovative platform for South-South cooperation to enable each member country to develop specific products and applications that meet their needs and requirements. In that regard, Malaysia would share its experiences and provide its open innovative platform;

(v) Organize training workshops in areas concerning the development of technology parks and the relevance of such parks to developing countries; the commercialization of high technology; and the roles of venture capital cooperation, disaster management, innovation and invention; as well as a meeting of food technology experts and a conference on the information technology industry in collaboration with and with support from other international agencies and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(vi) Organize activities to enhance understanding of national innovation systems among key actors, such as universities, R and D institutions, senior policymakers and industries, and assist in strengthening various elements of national innovation systems;

(vii) Assist in the sharing of experiences and best practices in prioritizing R and D programmes and the commercialization of R and D results (research to innovation);

(viii) Organize training programmes or seminars on the importance of innovation tailored to relevant groups and personnel in Thailand, which would help create an innovative society in the country;

(d) *Output 2c of the capacity development project:* Increased capacity of nodal institutions in participating member countries to formulate policies and adopt measures to promote a sustainable and commercially viable traditional medicine sector through the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network:

(i) Execute a letter of intent between the Centre and the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, to carry forward the recommendations of the consultative forum held in Changsha, China, in 2012;

(e) *Output 2d of the capacity development project:* Target policymakers and intermediaries have increased their capacity to put into place policies and programmes that facilitate commercialization of grass-roots innovations to foster inclusive development and social entrepreneurship:

(i) Assist in the development of rural technologies for poverty alleviation;

(f) Other suggested activities:

(i) Collaboration between APCTT and the National Agency for Science and Technology Information in Viet Nam to exchange technology information;

(g) Future projects:

(i) Strengthen the capacity of member countries to promote national innovation systems at various levels (national, sectoral and corporate) through South-South cooperation for addressing the national (including sustainable) development changes;

(ii) Promote and assist developing countries and countries with special needs to adopt best practices for assessing science, technology and innovation policies and innovation systems for the development of appropriate strategies;

(iii) Promote the concept of grass-roots technology innovation and social entrepreneurship, as well as strengthen institutional capacity in member countries for the commercialization of such innovation;

(iv) Strengthen capacity for R and D management and international cooperation and partnerships to develop innovative and environmentally safe new and emerging technologies in areas such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, non-conventional energy and industrial waste management;

(v) Strengthen regional cooperation among member countries in the development, transfer, adoption and utilization of renewable energy technologies for fostering sustainable development;

(vi) Revitalize the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network by establishing an Asia-Pacific consortium for subhealth intervention technology with the active involvement of member countries of the network;

(vii) Increased regional cooperation to adopt strategies for the development, transfer and deployment of customized best practices in environmentally friendly waste management technologies.

25. The Council endorsed the draft programme of work for 2013.

D. Agenda item 7

Date and venue of the ninth session of the Governing Council

26. The Council welcomed the offer of Malaysia to host the ninth meeting of the Technical Committee during the last week of November 2013. In line with the recommendation of ESCAP, the Council recommended that its ninth session be held at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok in mid-December 2013.

**E. Agenda item 8
Other matters**

27. The Council noted with appreciation the institutional and programmatic support that the Government of India was providing to APCTT.

28. The Council expressed appreciation for the guidance and valuable support that the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP was providing to the Centre.

**F. Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report**

29. The Council adopted the present report on 14 December 2012.

III. Organization of the session

**A. Agenda item 1
Opening of the session**

30. The eighth session of the Governing Council of APCTT was held in Bangkok on 14 December 2012. The session was called to order by the Chief of the Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP made an opening statement.

31. In welcoming the delegates to the eighth session of the Governing Council of APCTT, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP stated that the meeting was being held at a crucial time when the global community had started pursuing a sustainable development course of action in a more concerted and integrated manner than ever before, especially following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which had been held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. In that context, he stressed that technology would play a vital role towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals and those outlined in the Rio+20 outcome document in areas such as water, energy, food, climate change and natural disasters.

32. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the Asia-Pacific region had had to address many developmental issues and challenges posed by the impacts of climate change, which was severely undermining food security and efforts to eradicate poverty, and was also threatening the territorial integrity, viability and the very existence of small island developing States. He therefore stressed that countries and institutions in the region could accelerate their efforts in support of the cause of sustainable development.

33. He expressed appreciation for the fact that APCTT had already oriented its current programme of work in line with the Rio+20 agenda, particularly in the areas of energy security, climate change mitigation, renewable energy and low-carbon technologies. He added that APCTT, in recent years through its programmes of work, had endeavoured to contribute towards the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability and Goal 8 to develop a global partnership for development.

34. He observed that international initiatives and partnerships, as had been advocated by Rio+20, could address the issues and challenges of water, energy, food and climate change. With regard to the sustainable development policy objectives of countries in the region, he stressed the importance of international collaboration for achieving synergies as well as minimizing conflicts. He

therefore called upon member countries to recognize the need for enhancing support to such regional institutions as APCTT that had been working hard for a global cause.

35. He stated that APCTT had always been a valued and important regional institution in the United Nations family. He pointed out that during its 35 years of service and commitment, APCTT had established itself as a centre of relevance towards building the technological capacity of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, primarily in the areas of: national innovation systems; technology development, transfer, adoption and utilization by small and medium-sized enterprises; and new and emerging areas of technology, such as renewable energy, biotechnology and nanotechnology. He expressed appreciation that, during the eighth session of the Technical Committee, which had been held in Manila on 26 and 27 November 2012, member countries had stated that they expected APCTT to continue to develop innovative mechanisms and programmes to address emerging challenges through South-South cooperation.

36. He stated that APCTT had focused on building and strengthening the capacity of developing and least developed countries in the region in close partnership with technologically and economically more advanced countries. He pointed out that recent APCTT programmes had involved several least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island States and countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Nepal.

37. The Deputy Executive Secretary assured the Council that ESCAP, through its Trade and Investment Division, would continue to extend strong support to APCTT, which was one of the most visible and dynamic regional institutions in the system. He pointed out that the Centre's programme of work had already been well integrated with that of the Trade and Investment Division through a common programmatic approach. He added that APCTT had developed a closer working and cooperative relationship with other substantive divisions in the secretariat, as well as with the recently established subregional offices and regional institutions within the ESCAP family.

38. He expressed satisfaction and confidence concerning the very encouraging and substantive support that member countries had given APCTT over the years. He expressed his sincere thanks to the Government of India for the consistent support it had given to APCTT, both financially and through the provision of host facilities. He also expressed satisfaction with the Centre's substantive programmes on national innovations systems and the promotion of renewable energy in the region.

39. He further stressed that there was an urgent need to strengthen the financial and human resources base of the Centre so that it would be able to deliver its services in the most efficient and effective manner to meet the challenging requirements of member countries.

40. He noted that the member countries would take a serious look at the critical issues faced by APCTT, deliberate upon them and extend increased support to the Centre, as appropriate. He pointed out that the member countries could enhance their support for APCTT through various mechanisms, such as increasing their annual contributions, funding substantive programmes and projects, hosting workshops and meetings and providing the Centre with experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

41. The Deputy Executive Secretary sought active support and cooperation from the member countries so that APCTT would be able to continue to help them catalyse innovation-driven, inclusive and sustainable development, and thereby accelerate low-carbon economic development in the region. He expressed the hope that the member countries would provide valuable guidance and support for the Centre's future programmes and activities, as had been recommended by the Technical Committee at its eighth meeting. He concluded by reiterating that member countries constituted an integral part of the body and soul of APCTT, with shared responsibility to ensure the Centre's long-term sustenance and growth.

B. Attendance

42. The session was attended by representatives of the following member countries: Bangladesh; China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Malaysia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

**C. Agenda item 2
Election of officers**

43. The Council unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Dilip Kumar Basak (Bangladesh)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Jovito Rey Gonzales (Philippines)

**D. Agenda item 3
Adoption of the agenda**

44. The Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Report on the activities of APCTT during the period from December 2011 to November 2012.
 5. Report of the Technical Committee on its eighth meeting.
 6. Presentation and discussion on proposed programme of work, administrative and financial issues.
 7. Date and venue for the ninth session of the Governing Council.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report.
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