



Smart Villages Lab

In association with



International Council
for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

W107- Construction in Developing Countries



In collaboration with
GRI Deemed University

Smart Villages Program

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
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The 9th International Conference on Smart Villages and Rural Development (COSVARD 2026) - Jointly hosted with CIB Working Commission, W107 (Construction in Developing Countries) and Task Group, TG127 (Social Value in Built Environment)

Hybrid Mode (Date: **29-31 October 2026**)

(In-person Venue: Silver Jubilee Hall, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India)

University of Melbourne

Organising committee:

A/Prof Hemanta Doloi (Chair)
Prof Robert Crawford
Dr Hannah Robertson
Dr Gao Shang

Support Committee

GRI Deemed University (local partner)

Dr B. Sangeethavani (Co-Chair)
Dr R.T. Balamurali (Co-Chair)
Dr Santhosh Loganathan (Co-Chair) NITT

CIB TG127

Prof Ani Raiden (Co-Chair) – NTU, UK
Dr Suhair Z Alkilani (Co-Chair) UTS, Australia
Prof Martin Loosemore (Co-Chair) UTS, Australia

Key Affiliating Partners

Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
National Institute of Technology, Trichy
Smart Cities Research Institute (SCRI) - Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
Int Council for Res. and Innovation (CIB)



Topic: **COSVARD 2026**

Time: **29-31 October**

9:00am (Indian Standard Time, IST)

2:30pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Registration Link:

https://unimelb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RB47XHxXR0C0-W07ulbJnA#/registration

(Or Scan the QR to visit the link)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Webinar ID: **848 3935 7909**

Password: **967784 (if prompted)**



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With over 40% of the world's population now living in rural areas, there is global interest in research associated with the creation of "Smart Villages" to address the ever-growing urban-rural divide. Smart Village research being undertaken in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne is exploring rural community development, practices and relevant policies with a focus on community-centric planning of affordable housing, infrastructure, sustainable development and growth, community empowerment and other issues related to the creation of Smart Villages.

About the conference

This will be a peer-reviewed conference with a scientific committee comprising global leaders and experts. Full papers will be subject to a double-blind review before acceptance.

Themes

Conference themes include, but are not limited to:

Rural Housing - Housing affordability, low-cost housing, local materials and resources

Rural Infrastructure - Roads and other forms of infrastructure, access to education and health

Rural Economy – Micro and community-led finance, income generation, farming & crops supports

Sustainability - Environmental, Social, and Economic Sustainability and resilience

Smart Governance - ICT and data- applications, alternative forms of governance and other relevant topics

Circular Economy - Framework for local manufacturing, local production, local consumption

Social Procurement, Social Value and Value-for-Money - Community-specific social benefits

Rural Enterprises and Rural Entrepreneurship – Entrepreneurial capability and capacity to leverage

Rural Culture and Experience – Appreciation, preservation, characterisation of rural cultures and values

Climate Change, Global Warming and Role of Rural Development (targeting the 40%) - Alternative, value-based, context-specific development models targeting the 40% global population who still live in rural but relatively in low-carbon footprints.

Smart and Sustainable Infrastructure for Rural Areas - Includes research on Modern Housing Solutions for Rural Communities, Developing Efficient Transportation Networks in Villages, Water Supply and Sanitation: Urban Standards in Rural Settings, and Building Climate-Resilient Rural Infrastructure.

Digital Connectivity and Technology Access - Include research on the Role of Technology in Delivering Urban-Like Services to Villages, E-Governance and Digital Public Services for Rural Communities, Cost-effective digital solutions for water supply, sewage and solid waste management.

Low Carbon and Lean Construction - Low-carbon footprints and low-waste, low-cost construction practices

Location

The Conference will be held in-person and in Webinar formats on 29 – 31 Oct, 2026 *starting at 9:00am (Indian Standard Time, IST)*. For registration, visit

https://unimelb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RB47XHfzXR0C0-W07uIbJnA

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Keynote Speakers

1. **Professor Mohan M Kumaraswamy**, *Editor-in-Chief (Emerald Journal of the Built Environment Project and Asset Management – BEPAM)*
Topic: “Rural-Urban synergies and Integrated Regenerative Built Environments”
2. **Professor Dongping Fan**, *Tsinghua University, Beijing, China*
Topic: “Safety Culture and Ethics in Construction in Developing Countries”
3. **Professor V.K. Vijay**, *National Coordinator, IREDA Chair Professor, Country-Head (Unnat Bharat Abhiyan) (IIT Delhi)*
Topic: “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – the Program of the Education Ministry, GoI, to revolutionise rural development by utilising the knowledge and experience of higher education institutions”
4. **Dr. S. M. Ramasamy**, *Honorary Emeritus Professor, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India, & Former Vice Chancellor, GRI, India*
Topic: “Geo-spatial solutions to smart villages”
5. **Professor Ani Raiden**, *Nottingham Trent University, UK*
Topic: “Co-Creation as a Framework for Social Value in Smart Villages – Critical Reflections on the Approach, Challenges and Opportunities”
6. **Dr. K. Ravichandran**, *Senior Professor & Head, Department of Cooperation, GRI & Regional Coordinator, UBA, India.*
Topic: “Reimagining Rural India: Global Perspectives, Higher Education, and Policy Pathways for Smart Villages”

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Scientific committee

- Professor Craig Langston, Bond University, Australia
- Professor Mark Burry, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
- Professor Anthony Mills, Deakin University, Australia
- Professor Bishwajit Bhattacharjee, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India
- Dr Yoshiki Higuchi, Nippon Institute of Technology, Japan
- Dr Siddhartha Singha, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India
- Professor Shaila Bantanur, BMS School of Architecture, Bangalore, India
- A/Professor Masa Noguchi, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Assistant Professor Sajal Chowdhury, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh
- Dr James Helal, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Professor Anu Gokhale, Illinois State University, U.S.
- Professor Reeta Sarmah, Jorhat Engineering College, India
- Professor Benny Raphael, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India
- Dr Dominique Hes, University of Melbourne, Australia
- A/Prof Peter Raisbeck, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Professor Koshy Varghese, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India
- A/ Professor Arup Bhattachajee, Jorhat Engineering College, Assam, India
- Dr Mehdi Amirkhani, University of Melbourne, Australia
- A/Professor Manjuri Hazarika, Assam Engineering College, India
- Geoff Kimm, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
- Dr Citra Ongkowijoyo, Deakin University, Australia
- Professor Boeing Singh, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India
- A/ Professor Nithyadharan Mokkaian, Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, India
- Dr Salman Shoostarian, RMIT University, Australia
- A/ Professor Essam Almahmoud, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia
- Dr Mohammad Arif Rohman, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology, Indonesia
- Velyne Katharpi, University of Melbourne, Australia
- A/Prof Sean Jin, Western Sydney University, Australia
- Dr Sasanka Borah, Assam Engineering College, India
- A/Professor Pradip Baishya
- Professor Bipul Talukdar, Assam Engineering College, India
- Dr Medalsong Ronghang, Bineswar Brahma Engineering College, India
- Dr Kiran Shinde, La Trobe University, Australia
- Dr Hannah Robertson, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Alessandro Liuti, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Rakhee Das, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, Odisha, India
- Dr Sally Donovan, Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Arif Rohman, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia
- Dr B. Mahesh, IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Ms Dwijomala Hanjabam, Mizoram University, India
- Mr Abdullatif Abdallah (Smart Villages Lab), The University of Melbourne
- Dr Luisa Lombardo, UniPa, Italy
- Dr Sujatha E Ramani, SASTRA University, Thanjavur, India
- Prof Neelakantan T R, SASTRA University, Thanjavur, India
- Dr Santhosh Loganathan, NIT Trichy, India
- Dr Balamurali RT, GRI, Dindigul, India

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Agenda for Opening Ceremony and Inauguration (In-Person) Day 1 – Thursday 29 October 2026 Silver Jubilee Hall, GRI

9:30am– 11:30am (IST[^]) or 3:00pm – 5:00pm (AEDT[#])

[^]Indian Standard Time (IST), [#]Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)

Anchored by: The Organizing Committee	
9:30am (IST) 3:00pm (AEDT)	The official opening of COSVARD 2026, Welcome Guests, Felicitation of the Guests
9:35am (IST) 3:05pm (AEDT)	Opening COSVARD 2026 and Welcome by Local Hosts, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University).
9:40am (IST) 3:10pm (AEDT)	Opening Speech Prof Hemanta Doloi (<i>Chair, COSVARD 2026</i>), <i>The University of Melbourne</i>
9:45am (IST)* 3:15pm (AEDT) <i>* may need adjustment</i>	Inaugural Speech Prof. N. Panchanatham, Vice Chancellor, <i>Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India</i>
10:05am (IST) 3:35pm (AEDT)	Special Guest Dr. S. M. Ramasamy, Honorary Emeritus Professor, <i>Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India, & Former Vice Chancellor, GRI, India</i>
10:20am (IST) 3:50pm (AEDT)	Address by Dr. P. Kalavathi, Professor & Dean, <i>School of Computer Science and Technologies, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India</i>
10:30am (IST) 4:00pm (AEDT)	Address by Dr Suhair Alkilani, <i>University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Sydney</i>
10:40am (IST) 4:10pm (AEDT)	Address by Prof Ani Raiden, <i>Nottingham Trent University, UK</i>
10:50am (IST) 4:20pm (AEDT)	Address by Prof Robert Crawford, <i>The University of Melbourne</i>
11:00am (IST) 4:30pm (AEDT)	Address by Dr Hannah Robertson, <i>The University of Melbourne</i>
11:10am (IST) 4:40pm (AEDT)	Address by Dr Gao Shang, <i>The University of Melbourne</i>
11:20am (IST) 4:50pm (AEDT)	Vote of Thanks – by Dr. B. Sangeethavani, (<i>Co-Chair, COSVARD 2026</i>), <i>Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India</i>
High Tea 11:30am - 12:00pm (IST) 5:00pm – 5:30pm (AEDT)	
Technical Session starts at 12:15pm (IST) 5:45pm (AEDT)	

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Technical Session Day 1 - Thursday 29 October 2026

12:15pm (IST) 5:45pm (AEDT)	Keynote 1: Professor Mohan M Kumaraswamy <i>Editor-in-Chief (Emerald Journal of the Built Environment Project and Asset Management – BEPAM); Honorary Professor, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Honorary Professor, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka</i> Topic: Rural-Urban synergies and Integrated Regenerative Built Environments <i>Chair: Prof Hemanta Doloi</i>	
1:00pm (IST) 6:30pm (AEDT)	Lunch (1:00 pm-2:00 pm)	
	Technical Papers	
2:00pm (IST) 7:30pm (AEDT)	Session 1: Smart Villages and Rural Transformation: Concepts and Global Perspectives Chair: Dr. B. Sangeethavani , <i>Assistant Professor & Director i/c, Centre for Rural Technology, GRI, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India &</i> Dr.Santhose Loganathan , <i>Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, NIT, Trichy, India</i>	
Paper 24 (20 mins)	The open museum territorial framework: a territorial design model for cultural heritage enhancement and the sustainable development of smart villages	Rossella Piediscalzi, Simona Colajanni <i>Department of Architecture, University of Palermo</i>
Paper 23 (20 mins)	Smart Villages as Catalysts for Viksit Bharat 2047: A Context-Sensitive Framework for Rural India	Ankita Srivastava and Madhura Yadav <i>Department of Architecture and Planning, Manipal University, Jaipur</i>
Paper 26 (20 mins)	A smart village-based implementation model for community waste-to-energy management in Indonesia	Sucy Delyarahmi ¹ , Yulita Sirinti Pongtambing ² , Nararia Hutama Putra ³ and Eliyah Acantha Manapa Sampetoding ⁴ ¹ <i>Faculty of Law, Universitas Andalas</i> ² <i>Health Administration, Universitas Negeri Makassar</i> ³ <i>Community Education, Universitas Negeri Jakarta</i> ⁴ <i>Information Systems, Hasanuddin University</i>
3:00pm(IST) 8:30pm (AEDT)	Tea Break (3:00pam – 3:30pm)	

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3:30pm (IST) 9:00pm (AEDT)	Keynote 2: Prof Dongping Fang <i>Sustainability Lead for LSBU Group, London South Bank University, London, UK</i> Topic: Safety Culture and Ethics in Construction in Developing Countries Chair: Prof. Hemanta Doloi	
4:20pm (IST) 9:50pm (AEDT)	Session 2: Rural Built Environments: Housing, Risk and Resilience Chair: Prof.R.Kumutha, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering & Dr.R.T.Balamurali, Assistant Professor, Centre for Rural Technology, GRI, India	
Paper 19 (20 mins)	Dynamism of house-plan usage across family life-stages in Aniwatte, Kandy, Sri Lanka	Madhushani Wijerathne and Mihiri Hirudini <i>Undergraduate, University of Moratuwa</i>
Paper 29 (20 mins)	Humanising the Provinces: A Social Sustainability Framework for Saudi Settlements under Vision 2030	Essam Almahmoud <i>Department of Architecture, College of Architecture and Planning, Qassim University, Saudi Arabia</i>
Paper 3 (20 mins)	Evaluation of Acoustic Environments of Roadside Primary School in Rural Bangladesh	Anindita Das, Sirajum Munira and Tomal Banik <i>Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology</i>
Paper 1 (20 mins)	Significance of Smart Villages research in Developing Countries	Hemanta Doloi <i>Smart villages Research program, The University of Melbourne</i>
5:40pm (IST) 11:10pm (AEDT)	End of Day 1	

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Technical Session Day 2 - Friday 30 October 2026

9:30am (IST) 3:00pm (AEDT)	Keynote 3: Prof V.K. Vijay <i>National Coordinator, IREDA Chair Professor, Country-Head (Unnat Bharat Abhiyan) (IIT Delhi)</i> Topic: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – the Program of the Education Ministry, GoI, to revolutionise rural development by utilising the knowledge and experience of higher education institutions Chair: Dr. K. Ravichandran, Senior Professor & Head, Department of Cooperation, GRI & Regional Coordinator, UBA, India	
10.20am (IST) 3:50pm (AEDT)	Session 3: Infrastructure, Connectivity and Sustainable Rural Development Chair: Dr.C.Pitchai, Professor, Department of Cooperation, GRI & Dr.K.Manikandan, Professor & Head, Department of Economics, GRI, India	
Paper 4 (20 mins)	Designing business models for infrastructure systems	Nikolaos Kalyviotis ¹ , Dimitris Kallioras ¹ , Sascha von Behren ⁵ , Hemanta Doloi ² , Geoffrey J.D. Hewings ³ and Christopher D.F. Rogers ⁴ ¹ University of Thessaly, Thessaly, Greece ² The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia ³ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, USA ⁴ University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK ⁵ Department of Spatial Planning, TU Dortmund University, Dortmund, Germany
Paper 18 (20 mins)	A Study on the Mechanical Performance of Copper Slag and Recycled Coarse Aggregate in Geopolymer Concrete	S Abhinaya and R T Balamurali <i>The Gandhigram Rural Institute-(Deemed to be University), Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India</i>
11.00am (IST) 4:30pm (AEDT)	Tea Break (11:00am – 11:30am)	
Paper 22 (20 mins)	Applying Just Energy Transition Principles to Floating PV Renewable Energy Project in Indonesia	Shang Gao and Hemanta Doloi <i>The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia</i>
Paper 25 (20 mins)	Towards an Integrated Framework for Sustainable and Resilient Bridge Infrastructure: A Systematic Literature Review	Shifa Fauziyah and Mohammad Arif Rohman <i>Civil Engineering Department, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Indonesia</i>
Paper 6 (20 mins)	Stadiums and communities: Examining mutual benefits for sustainability and resilience	Annes Elsa Francis <i>Faculty of Engineering, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia</i>
Paper 8 (20 mins)	Indigenous knowledge-led smart village development: a decolonial approach to sustainable rural transformation	Mziwoxolo Sirayi ¹ , Sibusiso Ndlangamandla ² , Luvo Sirayi ³ and Mcebisi Mabuza ⁴ ¹ Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa ² Pretoria, South Africa ³ MSV Consulting, Pty Ltd, 19 Addison Road, Reef Park, Orkney, South Africa ⁴ University of South Africa, Roodepoort, South Africa

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Technical Session Day 2 - Friday 30 October 2026

12.20pm (IST) 5:50pm (AEDT)	Keynote 4: Dr. S. M. Ramasamy , Honorary Emeritus Professor, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India, & Former Vice Chancellor, GRI, India Topic: "Geo-spatial solutions to smart villages" Chair: Dr. B. Sangeethavani , Assistant Professor & Director i/c, Centre for Rural Technology, GRI, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India	
1:00pm (IST) 6:30pm (AEDT)	Lunch (1:00 pm-2:00 pm)	
2:00pm(IST) 7:30pm (AEDT)	Keynote 5: Prof Ani Raiden , Professor in Responsible Management Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom Topic: Co-Creation as a Framework for Social Value in Smart Villages – Critical Reflections on the Approach, Challenges and Opportunities Chair: Prof Hemanta Doloi , The University of Melbourne, Australia	
2:40pm(IST) 8:10pm (AEDT)	Session 4: Infrastructure Systems, risks and resilience Chair: Dr. M. Hilaria Soundari , Professor & Head, Department of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India & Prof Hemanta Doloi , The University of Melbourne, Australia.	
Paper 13 (20 mins)	OxyQuest: A Geo-Intelligence and Gamified Learning Platform for Community-Led Green Infrastructure in Rural and Developing Regions	Abhishek Shinde NICMAR University, Pune, India
Paper 14 (20 mins)	Echoes of Tradition, Pulse of Technology: Digital Twins for the Smart Rehabilitation of Rural Settlements	Luisa Lombardo Department of Architecture, University of Palermo
Paper 15 (20 mins)	Co-creating Digital-Ready Learning Spaces for Incarcerated Persons in Correctional Environments	Lateef Ademola Lawal ¹ , Rukaiyat Adeola Ogunbajo ² and Sani Adamu ¹ ¹ Department of Architecture, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria; ² Department of Estate Management and Valuation, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria
3:40pm (IST) 9:10pm (AEDT)	Tea Break (3:40pm – 4:20pm)	
Paper 21 (20 mins)	Development of a Climate-Resilient Rehabilitation Framework for Irrigation Weirs Integrating Hydrological Variability, Sedimentation Dynamics, and Rural Water Security	I Wayan Sutapa and Amar Akbar Tadulako University, Indonesia
Paper 28 (20 mins)	Double layered steel fibre reinforced pavers for rural applications	Kumutha Rathinam, Neha G and Priyadharshani S Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering
Paper 27 (20 mins)	Utilization of buoyancy assisted air circulation in the indoor space of a building using CFD simulation - A Review	Jeseema Nisrin J, Uma S, Sangeethavani B The GRI Deemed to be University
5:20pm (IST) 10:50pm (AEDT)	End of Day 2	



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Technical Session Day 3 - Saturday 31 October 2026

9:30am (IST) 3:00pm (AEDT)	Keynote 6: Dr. K. Ravichandran , Senior Professor & Head, Department of Cooperation, GRI & Regional Coordinator, UBA, India. Topic: Reimagining Rural India: Global Perspectives, Higher Education, and Policy Pathways for Smart Villages Chair: Dr. Santhosh Loganathan , Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, NIT, Trichy, India	
10:20am (IST) 3:50pm (AEDT)	Session 5: Infrastructure Systems, risks and resilience Chair: Dr. K. Ravichandran , Senior Professor & Head, Department of Cooperation, GRI & Regional Coordinator, UBA, India & Dr. S. Kavitha Maithily , Professor, Department of Home Science, Coordinator, UBA, GRI, India.	
Paper 31 (20 mins)	Needs for Understanding Environmental and Social Safeguarding Principles in the Indonesian Energy Transition Context	Ridwan Ridwan ¹ , Gao Shang ² , Akhmad Suraji ¹ , Aulia Aulia ¹ , Sucy Delyarahmi ¹ , Krishna Suryanto Pribadi ¹ , Hemanta Doloi ² ¹ Andalas University, Indonesia ² The University of Melbourne, Australia
Paper 16 (20 mins)	An Integrated Irrigation System for Sustainable Rural Development	Rajat Kamal Kakati, Sudip Kumar Deb and Plabon Kakoti Department of Mechanical Engineering, Assam Engineering College, Guwahati, Assam
Design Poster 1 (20 mins)	Reimagining Stadiums: A Smart and Sustainable Hub for Village Resilience	Annes Elsa Francis Faculty of Engineering, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia
11:20am (IST) 4:50pm (AEDT)	Tea Break (11:20pm – 12:00pm)	
12:00pm (IST) 5:30pm (AEDT)	Awards announcements	
12:30pm (IST) 6:00pm (AEDT)	Valedictory function	
	End of Conference	

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For Registration

Follow the link below:

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Or Scan the QR



Best wishes to our brilliant volunteers from GRI Deemed University:

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