



Leading Asia-US exchange since 1963



VIA PROGRAMS

VIAPROGRAMS.ORG



OUR MISSION

VIA provides innovative experiential learning programs in Asia and the United States that promote cross-cultural understanding, build partnerships, and offer transformative experiences for our participants and the communities they serve.

ORIGINS



VIA began in 1963 when then Dean of Freshman Men at Stanford University, Dwight Clark, organized a summer volunteer project with Stanford students serving refugees in Hong Kong. The summer reshaped many of these students' personal and professional goals. They so valued the benefits of their cross-cultural experience that they recruited others for similar projects. In 1966, these programs were incorporated under the name "Volunteers in Asia".

Since its founding, VIA has grown to offer short-term cultural and professional training programs, internships, and year-long fellowships throughout Asia and in Silicon Valley for participants from the US and Asia. The organization shortened its name to "VIA" (pronounced vee-ya) to recognize its origins while also being inclusive of its entire community in the US and Asia.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS



1963
VIA's first volunteers spend a summer in Hong Kong, serving Chinese refugees



1966-68
VIA incorporates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit; sends first volunteers to Vietnam ('66) and Indonesia ('68)



1977
VIA launches the American Language & Culture (ALC) program at Stanford for students from Japan (now includes students from mainland China, Macau, Korea, and Taiwan as well)



1970's
VIA enters Taiwan, remains in Taiwan for nearly 24 years; also sends volunteers to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for several years



1980
VIA starts mainland China program, quickly expanding to many provinces



1996
VIA launches first Exploring Health Care program in collaboration with Tokyo Medical and Tokyo Women's Medical Universities



2010's
VIA hosts first Exploring Social Innovation program at Stanford ('10); launches summer medical and social innovation programs in Silicon Valley ('12)



2006
VIA enters Myanmar and continues to grow its network of local partners there

PERSONAL GROWTH

How VIA Invests in Individuals...

VIA seeks to create meaningful impact through a unique, whole-person and community-based approach to cultural exchange.

Our programming focuses on three core competencies: creative problem-solving, leadership development, and cross-cultural competence, in addition to program-specific themes.

Through strengthening these core competencies, participants cultivate a global mindset, resilience, self-awareness, and empathy - growing as future leaders and changemakers equipped to solve the challenges facing our global community.



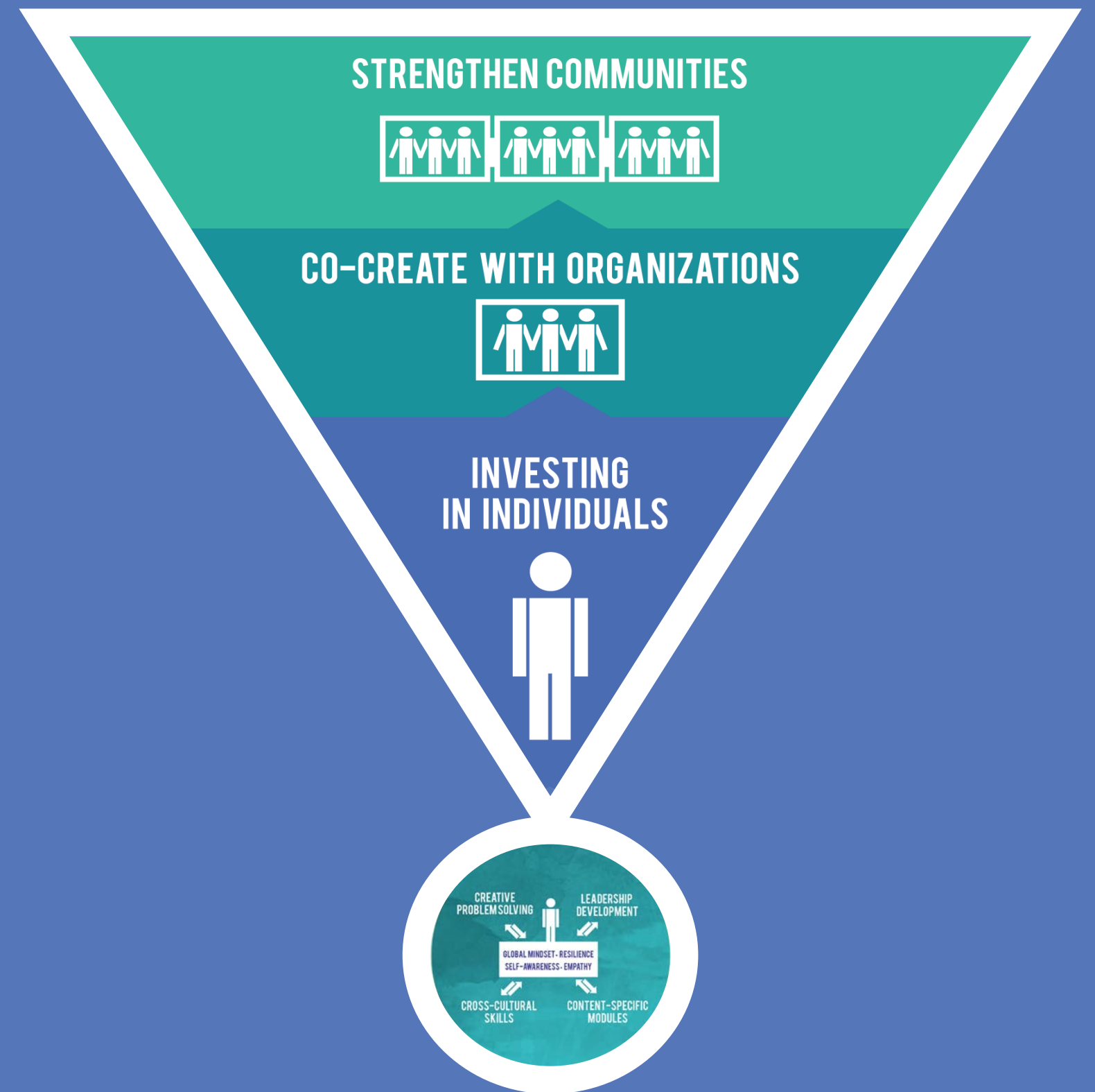
GLOBAL IMPACT

...to Create Global Impact

To design and deliver programs, VIA partners with universities, local community organizations, social enterprises, and NGOs developing grassroots solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges facing communities across the globe.

By connecting individuals and organizations in the US and Asia, we support grassroots collaboration and innovation across cultures.

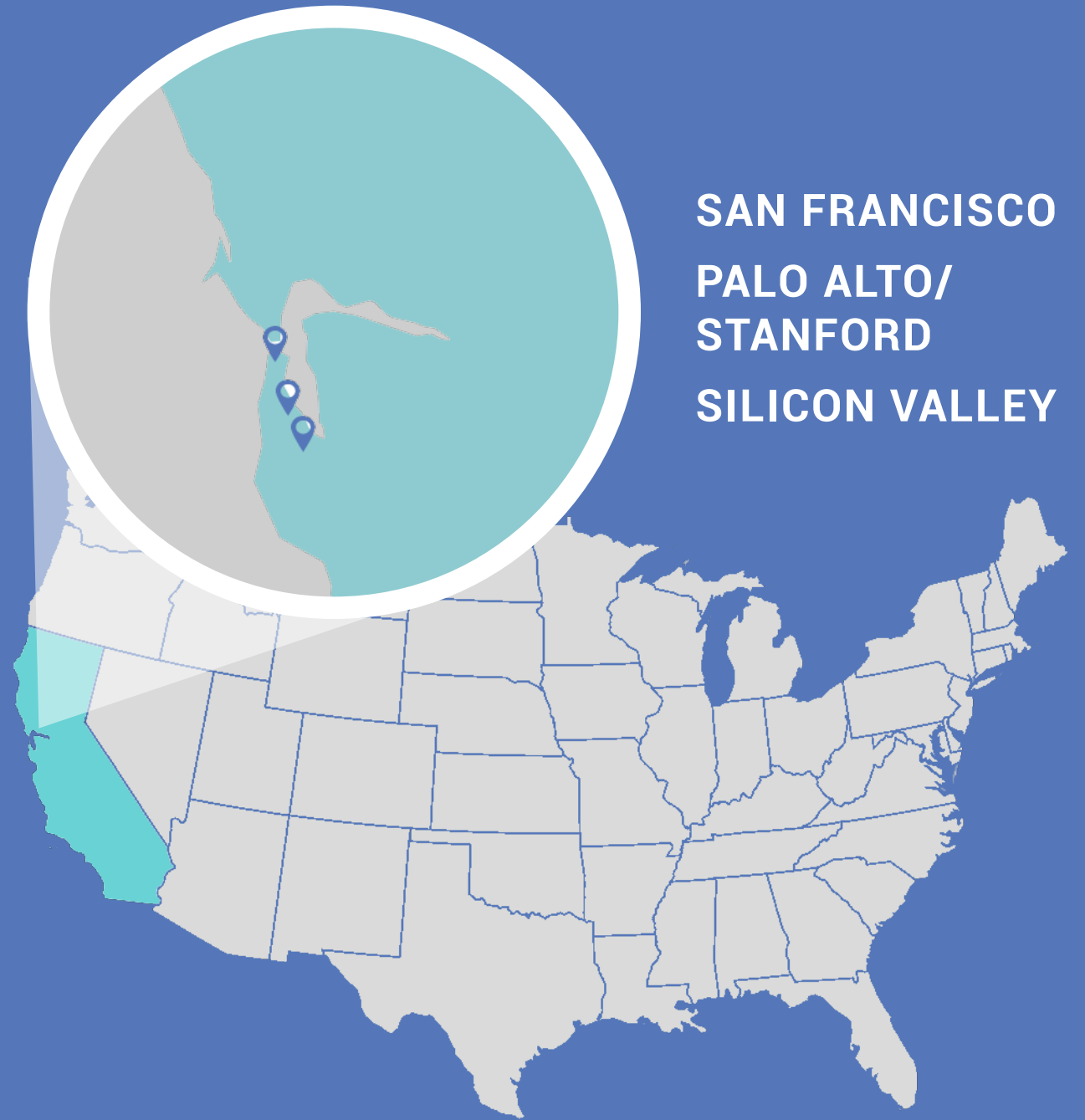
As we support and learn from one another, our global community grows stronger and more capable of developing innovative solutions to the challenges facing our world.



PROGRAM SITES



CHINA
INDONESIA
JAPAN
MYANMAR
THAILAND
VIETNAM



SAN FRANCISCO
PALO ALTO/
STANFORD
SILICON VALLEY

PROGRAM THEMES

VIA's team of experienced cross-cultural and immersive learning educators design and manage programs that build understanding across cultures and promote collaboration for positive social impact



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



PUBLIC HEALTH +
COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



EDUCATION



SOCIAL INNOVATION



SPORTS + YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



TECH FOR SOCIAL GOOD



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



ART + SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

ELEMENTS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

VIA's programs are designed to be immersive, hands-on experiences using scaffolded content and guided reflection activities to reinforce learning outcomes



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Participants learn to understand and appreciate other cultures by experiencing traditional and modern cultural activities



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Interns, fellows, and student teams work closely with community partners to better understand social challenges and offer their time, skills, and energy to help address them



ORGANIZATION VISITS

By visiting local NGOs and social enterprises, participants gain insights into how local organizations are addressing social challenges



GUEST SPEAKERS

Participants engage with community members, thought leaders, and experts working to address social challenges



INNOVATIVE WORKSHOPS

Participants dive into VIA's innovative curricula through hands-on workshops and professional training

PROGRAM MODELS

VIA designs and manages a diverse portfolio of experiential education programs, offering a range of lengths and structures

EXPLORATION + EXPOSURE EXPERIENCES

3-5 DAYS

STUDY TOURS

10-14 DAYS

FACULTY-LED FIELD COURSES

10-28 DAYS

INTENSIVE SKILLS TRAINING

2-4 WEEKS

IMMERSIVE INTERNSHIPS

7-10 WEEKS

PARTNER-BASED FELLOWSHIPS

12-14 MONTHS

PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

Asia Programs

Location	Program	Duration	Program Fee (approx)	Academic Credit	Scholarship	Open to...
Western China	Sports & Environmental Leadership	3 weeks in July		Yes, from Duke/Stanford	Fully funded	Student-athletes from Duke and Stanford Universities who apply to the Rubenstein-Bing Student Athlete Civic Engagement program
Japan	Rikuzen Takata Social Innovation Program	11 days in September			Fully funded	US university students - preference given to students who have volunteered as coordinators on VIA's Silicon Valley-based programs
Yogyakarta & Bali, Indonesia	Art & Social Movements with State University of New York (SUNY), Cortland	2 weeks in January	\$3,900	Yes, from SUNY		University undergraduate & graduate students (no citizenship requirements)
	Gender & Conflict Studies with George Mason University (GMU)	2 weeks in January	\$3,900	Yes, from GMU		University undergraduate & graduate students (no citizenship requirements)
	Graduate Research Studies with George Mason University (GMU)	3 weeks in July	\$4,770	Yes, from GMU		University undergraduate & graduate students (no citizenship requirements)
	Indonesia Summer Immersion Internship	6-10 weeks in summer	\$4,000 - \$5,000		Yes	University undergraduate & graduate students (no citizenship requirements)
Indonesia Myanmar Thailand Vietnam & other locations	Global Community Fellowship	One year, starting in June			Fully funded	University graduates and professionals (US citizenship or 4-year degree required for most fellowship placements)
	Custom Programs in Asia	2 weeks to 2 months	Starting from \$2,000~			Universities, organizations, & individuals, including university students and professionals
	Study Tours	10 days, spring or summer	Starting from \$4,000~			Professionals, VIA alumni and friends/family (study tours for private groups also available through custom program option)

PROGRAM PORTFOLIO

Silicon Valley Programs

Location*	Program	Duration	Program Fee (approx)	Academic Credit	Scholarship	Open to...
San Francisco	Exploring Social Innovation (ESI)	11 days in February, July, & August	\$3,100	Depends on students' home university	Yes	University students & starting professionals from Asia, must be 18 or older
	Social Innovation Educators Exchange	5 days in February	\$2,500			University faculty from Asia with an interest/focus in social innovation
	Exploring Health Care (EHC)	12 days in March	\$3,800	Depends on students' home university		Medical students from Japan, must be 18 or older
Palo Alto/ Stanford	Design-Thinking for Social Innovation (DSI)	10 days in March	\$3,100	Depends on students' home university	Yes	University students from Japan (Japanese citizenship not required) & Stanford University students, must be 18 or older
Stanford Campus	Medical Exchange & Discovery (MED)	3 weeks in August	\$4,800	Depends on students' home university		Medical students from Asia, must be 18 or older
	American Language & Culture (ALC)	4 weeks in August	\$7,300	Yes, from Stanford		University students from Asia, must be 18 or older
Silicon Valley	Custom Programs in Silicon Valley	3-5 days	Starting from \$2,000~			Universities, organizations, & individuals, including university students and professionals

* Location indicates where participants are based for the majority of the program, but all programs include visits to San Francisco, Stanford, and other Silicon Valley sites.

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

VIA partners connect us with participants, provide strategic and programmatic support, and collaborate on various levels. Universities and organizations we collaborate with regularly include:

UNITED STATES

- American University
- Bellejar Foundation
- Dr. CJ Huang Foundation
- Duke University
- Enlight Foundation
- George Mason University
- Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
- Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service
- Stanford University's Summer Session
- Stanford Language Center English for Foreign Students Program
- State University of New York, Cortland

MAINLAND CHINA, HONG KONG & MACAU

- China Exploration & Research Society
- Guangzhou English Teaching Center for the Handicapped
- Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
- Lingnan University
- Macau University of Science & Technology
- Peking University, School of Economics

INDONESIA

- Sanata Dharma University
- Gadjah Mada University
- Universitas Alma Ata
- Universitas Jember

JAPAN

- Business Break Through University
- Doshisha University
- Ehime University, School of Medicine
- Fukuoka Futaba High School
- Good Try JAPAN
- Hitotsubashi University
- International University of Health & Welfare
- United World College, International School of Asia, Karuizawa
- Japan Foundation
- Juntendo University
- Keio University
- Kyoto University
- Kyushu University
- Meiji University
- Nihon University, School of Medicine
- Osaka Medical College
- Rikkyo University

- Sophia University
- Taktopia
- Tokyo Medical University
- Tokyo Metropolitan Toyama High School
- Tokyo Women's Medical University
- Waseda University

MYANMAR

- Inle Heritage Hospitality Vocational Training Centre
- Pre-Collegiate Program Yangon

TAIWAN

- Ming-Shin International Education Center
- National Cheng Chi University
- National Taiwan University
- National Yang Ming University

THAILAND

- Bridging Educational Access to Migrants (BEAM) Education Foundation
- Thammasat University

VIETNAM

- Pacific Links Foundation
- The Lab, Vung Tau

MANAGEMENT TEAM



Patrick Arnold
Director of Programs

Manages program portfolio development, partnerships, & coordinates program staff



Kazutoh Ishida, PhD
Executive Director

Provides visionary leadership, advocates for VIA's mission, & connects with community of VIA alumni, partners, & friends

ASIA PROGRAMS TEAM



Peter Nguyen
Global Community Fellowship Coordinator

Supports fellows & fellowship partners in Asia; coordinates new applicant screening & placement

SILICON VALLEY PROGRAMS TEAM



Brian Byrdsong
Director of Development

Manages fundraising, donor engagement, & grants



Yuki Ueda
Language & Cultural Programs Director

Designs & leads cultural education & customized programs in Silicon Valley



Izzy Rhoads
Indonesia Programs Director

Designs & leads short-term, faculty-led, and internship programs in Yogyakarta & Bali



Melissa Golden
Director of Operations

Manages program marketing, recruitment, & enrollment & coordinates evaluation with program staff



Lina Yamashita, PhD
Medical Programs Director

Designs & leads comparative health care programs for medical students from Asia in Silicon Valley



Samantha White
Sports Program Director

Leads the Sports & Environmental Leadership program in western China, coordinating with universities and on-site partners



Joanna Kraut
Director of Finance & Admin.

Manages and oversees finance, administration, HR, & IT operations



Yi Zhang
Social Innovation Programs

Designs & leads social innovation & design-thinking programs in Silicon Valley & Asia



Sani Widowati
Indonesia Representative

Coordinates with local partners, supports participants, & manages on-the-ground logistics

JOIN US!

Connect with VIA to learn more about our programs and how to collaborate with us to transcend boundaries, transform lives, and inspire future leaders and changemakers in the US and Asia!



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