

A group of performers on a stage, one in mid-air, with a large UNESCO logo in the background. The scene is lit with blue light. The UNESCO logo is a large, three-dimensional structure in the background. The performers are dressed in dark clothing, and one is in a dynamic pose, jumping or falling. The background is a wall of blue panels.

# International Theatre Institute

## World Organization for the Performing Arts



*Using the performing arts as a bridge to transport ideas, inspiration and peace since 1948.*



## What are ITI and its members working for?

The ability to imagine a vision is essential for every creation that an artist, in fact every human being, wants to achieve. The International Theatre Institute ITI was created to enable the performing artists and their community to create their vision on stage. This was true at the beginning of ITI and is true today.

As an organization we envision a world that is rich in the performing arts, a world where the art of dialogue is used to bring mutual understanding and peace. We have the vision that theatre, dance and music theatre makers create inspiring works on stage, and that they use the performing arts, especially theatre, for bringing peace into zones of conflict, that they use the performing arts for the development of an individual, a group or a society and that they share their knowhow with others. These artistic, humanistic and educational achievements are apparent in the work of the members of ITI on a global scale.

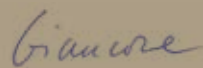
A world rich in performing arts, a world with mutual understanding. We hope you share these values with us. If so, you are very welcome in the world of the International Theatre Institute ITI, the world's largest organization for the performing arts.

Join in strengthening our work or contact us with new ideas, new visions that you may have. Browsing through these pages you will find information about our major activities and projects.



President of ITI

Mohammed Saif AL-AFKHAM



Director General of ITI

Tobias BIANCONE



# What is ITI's vision and mission?

## Vision

The International Theatre Institute ITI envisions a world that puts strong value and importance on the performing arts. It is a world in which performing artists are able to work and present their creative ideas to audiences. It is a world in which local, regional and national authorities, sponsors and donors, invest in the performing arts. It is a world in which education in the performing arts and related subjects are offered at all levels of education. It is a world in which the performing arts – especially theatre – are used in communities, for development, for mutual understanding and for building peace in conflict zones. It is a world in which diverse cultures and expressions are safeguarded and innovation is promoted.

## Mission

The International Theatre Institute ITI, the world's largest performing arts organization, founded in 1948 by theatre and dance experts and UNESCO, strives for a society in which performing arts and their artists thrive and flourish. ITI advances UNESCO's goals of mutual understanding and peace and advocates for the protection and promotion of cultural expressions and practitioners regardless of age, gender, creed or ethnicity. It works to these ends internationally.





## What is the relation of ITI with UNESCO?



In 1948 the International Theatre Institute (ITI) was founded by UNESCO and since then both organizations have a long tradition of close collaboration. Today ITI is the official partner of UNESCO for the performing arts – dance, theatre and music theatre. It is one of the few partners of UNESCO with an official associate status.

Despite no longer being funded by UNESCO, ITI continues to work together closely with its partner, and still has an office in a UNESCO Building in Paris whilst being headquartered in Shanghai.

ITI and UNESCO are currently cooperating on the development of the ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital, the ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts as well as International Dance Day and World Theatre Day for which ITI received the patronage of UNESCO.

Collaboration with UNESCO is recommended highly: Centres may be active in UNESCO projects, may collaborate in joint projects, or may seek support from a UNESCO Commission in form of funds or patronage.

# Organizational Structure

ITI is a membership organization, with its fully-fledged members being the ITI Centres.

## General Assembly

During an ITI World Congress the Centres meet in the General Assembly where the members select their leaders, decide on finances, the charter, the contribution scale and other organizational issues.

## Executive Council

The General Assembly elects the Executive Council members who deal with the organization until the next assembly is convened. The Executive Council advises the Director General in his/her work and is responsible for the strategic plans of ITI. The Executive Council itself determines who is President and who the four Vice-Presidents are. They are selected so that all five UNESCO regions are represented. The Executive Council also designates the Treasurer and Secretary.

## General Secretariat / Director General

The General Secretariat is the management body of ITI under the leadership of the Director General. The General Secretariat follows the Charter for all its activities and works together with the Executive Council to create strategic plans as well as new projects that further the vision, mission and goals of ITI.



# ITI Centres

Centres – the full members of ITI – are the core components of ITI. As per the ITI Charter, each Centre shall have a board of directors in which the various branches of the performing arts are represented. Centres shall promote the performing arts in their respective countries through research, distributing information, conferences,

festivals, competitions, showcases, workshops, publications and other means as well as facilitating international cultural exchange.

Algeria  
 Argentina  
 Armenia  
 Austria  
 Azerbaijan  
 Bangladesh  
 Belgium Flanders  
 Belgium Wallonia  
 Benin  
 Botswana  
 Brazil  
 Burkina Faso  
 Cameroon  
 Central African Republic  
 Chad  
 China  
 Congo Dem. Republic /Congo  
 Kinshasa  
 Congo Republic / Congo  
 Brazzaville  
 Croatia  
 Cuba  
 Cyprus

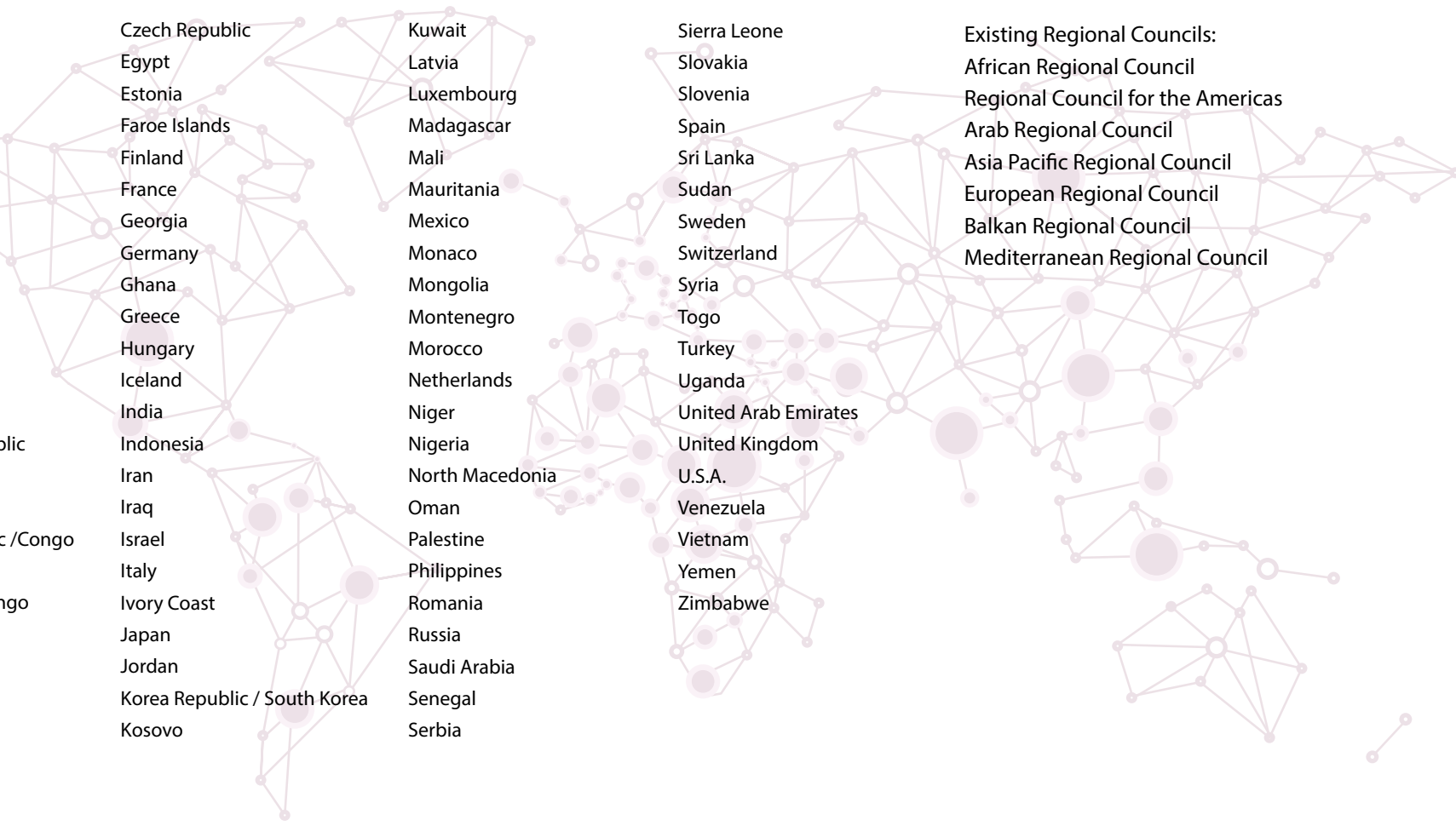
Czech Republic  
 Egypt  
 Estonia  
 Faroe Islands  
 Finland  
 France  
 Georgia  
 Germany  
 Ghana  
 Greece  
 Hungary  
 Iceland  
 India  
 Indonesia  
 Iran  
 Iraq  
 Israel  
 Italy  
 Ivory Coast  
 Japan  
 Jordan  
 Korea Republic / South Korea  
 Kosovo

Kuwait  
 Latvia  
 Luxembourg  
 Madagascar  
 Mali  
 Mauritania  
 Mexico  
 Monaco  
 Mongolia  
 Montenegro  
 Morocco  
 Netherlands  
 Niger  
 Nigeria  
 North Macedonia  
 Oman  
 Palestine  
 Philippines  
 Romania  
 Russia  
 Saudi Arabia  
 Senegal  
 Serbia

Sierra Leone  
 Slovakia  
 Slovenia  
 Spain  
 Sri Lanka  
 Sudan  
 Sweden  
 Switzerland  
 Syria  
 Togo  
 Turkey  
 Uganda  
 United Arab Emirates  
 United Kingdom  
 U.S.A.  
 Venezuela  
 Vietnam  
 Yemen  
 Zimbabwe

Regional Councils comprising representatives of Centres and Cooperating Members within a geographical region may be established by the General Assembly or the Executive Council, with the aim of promoting regional exchange, joint activities, information-sharing and cooperation.

Existing Regional Councils:  
 African Regional Council  
 Regional Council for the Americas  
 Arab Regional Council  
 Asia Pacific Regional Council  
 European Regional Council  
 Balkan Regional Council  
 Mediterranean Regional Council



# International Artistic Work

It is important that Centres are active in international Project and Working Groups. Should a member, or members, of a Centre wish to become involved in one of the Project or Working Groups, connect with the office bearers of said group and communicate your intention.

Please check the ITI website for contact details of the Project and Working Groups (Committees, Forums, Networks, etc.), as the leadership changes from time to time.

All the Project and Working Groups with artistic goals include educational and humanistic elements.

International Dance Committee IDC

International Festival Forum IFF

International Monodrama Forum IMF

International Playwrights' Forum IPF

ITI Publications Committee IPC

Music Theatre NOW Network MTNN

Network of Emerging Arts Professionals NEAP

Stage Directors' Network SDN

Traditional Performing Arts Forum TPAF





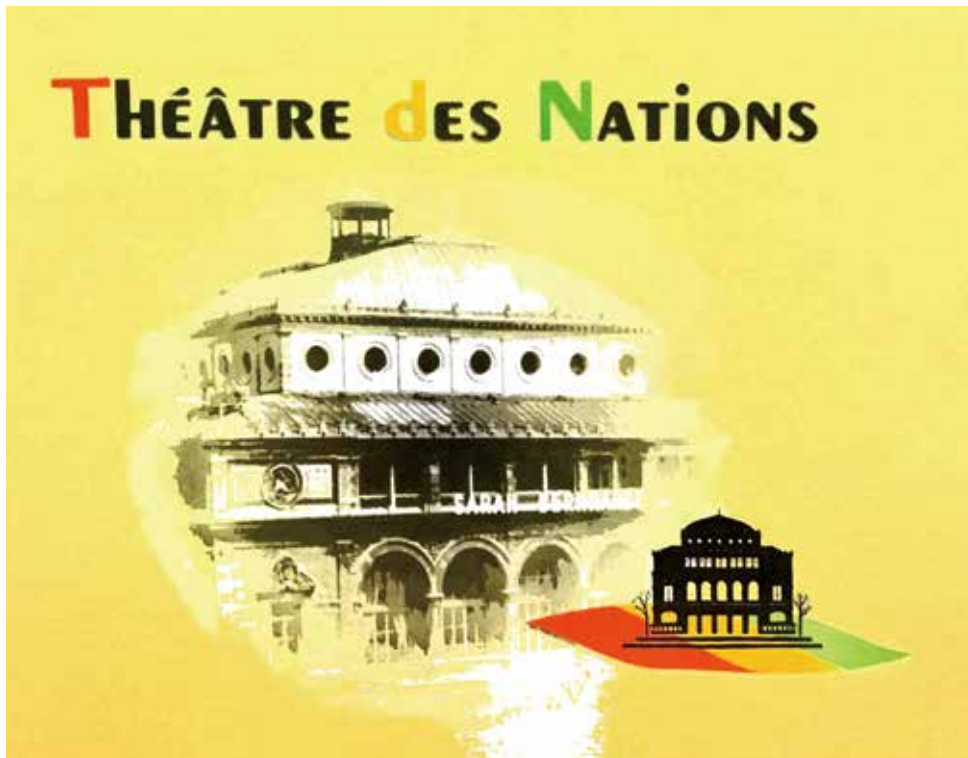
## Theatre of Nations



As a result of the work of ITI and those associated with it, the first season of the Theatre of Nations festival was held in Paris in 1957. Ten nations were represented by 16 companies in partnership with the French authorities. The Theatre of Nations was to remain in Paris up until 1972. During its fifteen year sojourn there, it was the major showcase for international theatre in the world, the goals pursued being those of quality, plurality and diversity in contemporary theatre. The Theatre of Nations in Paris was where Peking Opera, Berliner Ensemble, Kabuki, and Moscow Art Theatre were first seen in the West after the war.

In 1975 the International Theatre Institute took the title back for review and decided to award the label to an applicant city. Held first in Warsaw in 1975 and then in a series of other cities, the Theatre of Nations has moved around the world. The last Theatre of Nations was organized by the China Theatre Association / Chinese Centre of ITI in 2008, in Nanjing, China.

Currently ITI is creating a Think Tank for the Theatre of Nations in order to re-establish the event on a regular basis.



# World Theatre Day

World Theatre Day was created by ITI and was celebrated for the first time on 27 March 1962, the date of the opening of the "Theatre of Nations" season in Paris. Ever since, each year on that date, World Theatre Day is celebrated on a global scale.

One of the most important actions for World Theatre Day is the international message through which, at the invitation of the ITI, a figure of world stature shares her or his reflections on the theme of Theatre and a Culture of Peace. The first World Theatre Day message was written by Jean Cocteau. Since then a message has been written every year, and each message is translated into different languages and distributed widely.

[www.world-theatre-day.org](http://www.world-theatre-day.org)



# International Dance Day

In 1982, the Dance Committee of ITI founded International Dance Day to be celebrated every year on 29 April, the birthday anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727-1810), the creator of modern ballet.

The intention of International Dance Day is to celebrate dance, to revel in the universality of this art form, to cross all political, cultural and ethnic barriers and to bring people together with a common language – dance! Every year, a message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer is circulated throughout the world. The author of the message is selected by ITI, in collaboration with the Dance Committee, and the message is translated into numerous languages and circulated globally.

[www.international-dance-day.org](http://www.international-dance-day.org)







## ITI/UNESCO World Performing Arts Capital

ITI and UNESCO are engaged in a dialogue to create a World Performing Arts Capital. The UNESCO General Assembly of 2013 decided that the administration of the Capital is to be done by ITI, with the World Performing Arts Capital title to be bestowed by both UNESCO and ITI to a city in recognition of the quality of its programmes, as well as to support and promote the performing arts, and performing arts education, all serving the ultimate aim of cultural bridge-building and human understanding.

The criteria of World Performing Arts Capital is published by UNESCO and a group of experts from ITI.

## ITI Publications

Many ITI Centres publish periodicals, books and news. Centre's are encouraged to publish books, even if it is in a digital form.

The ITI Publications Committee (IPC) is engaged in publishing "The World of Theatre", a book about what is happening in the performing arts written by cultural journalists and experts. It is released at an ITI World Congress and covers a period of two or three years.

Another publication is published by the Russian Centre of ITI in collaboration with ITI and its Centres. It is called "ITInfo".

The third project that was generated through the Publications Committee of ITI is called "The World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre". Six books were published, featuring information about Africa, Asia Pacific, the Americas, Europe and the Arab Countries. The books are still available through Amazon or through the publisher Routledge.

Participation in the Project and Working Group called ITI Publications Committee is welcome.

[www.itipublication.com](http://www.itipublication.com)



## Forum for Theatre Training & Education FTTE

Specialised in training and education in the field of the performing arts, and at the vanguard of developments in the area; aims to be representative of the current diversity of theatre approaches and theatre training around the world and also promote the learning of the practice of theatre for personal development, artistic research and social transformation.



## Conference Series on "How to Bring Theatre to People?"

A global series of conferences that ponders how to bring theatre to the people and related questions, such as, what does it mean to bring theatre to people? Does it mean to educate the audience? Or does it mean to have the audience participate in a performance? And who are the people? What target group is envisioned? And then we can ask ourselves: What kind of theatre? Traditional theatre? Experimental theatre? Innovative theatre? Amateur theatre?

## World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT/ITI

The World Theatre Training Institute AKT-ZENT works exclusively for the innovation of theory and practice of theatre training. All seminars, master-classes and lectures in any country are considered as part of the permanent World Theatre Training Laboratory. They are giving birth to exercises and methods to be published in the World Theatre Training Library.

The artistic director Dr. Jurij Alschitz enters with the World Theatre Training Institute a new era of educational practice with a range of innovative projects. The scientific focus lies in the development of hybrid tuition which combines distance learning and contact education through an international team of teachers.

The World Theatre Training Institute has launched its own hybrid theatre platform for online education as a complementary tool for any new programme addressing learners world-wide.





# ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts



The ITI/UNESCO Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts is a joint initiative of UNESCO and ITI together with more than 20 higher education and research institutions. It was built in alignment with the guidelines and procedures of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair and Network Program.

The headquarters are based at UNESCO Paris and in Shanghai. The Director General of ITI is the President of the Network. The permanent address for the Network is at c/o ITI, UNESCO, in Paris.

The Network is a non-profit organization. It is non-political in its nature. It welcomes members from all continents, independent of their socio-economic condition, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, culture and nationality. The Network is based on democratic principles and it follows the core values of collaboration, inclusiveness, transparency and inspiration.

## Objectives

The objectives are to realise the following projects or activities: school festivals, conferences, congresses (whenever possible in conjunction with the ITI World Congress), exchange programs for educators and students, research projects, intangible heritage research and preservation activities – in conjunction with UNESCO and ITI, dissemination of knowledge in print or via digital and audio-visual publications, exhibitions, competitions, awards, and any other event or activity which supports the goals of the Network.







## International Humanistic Work

Humanistic work has always been a key issue for ITI, since its inauguration just after World War II. In the beginning, ITI was a key player in creating a "bridge" over the Iron Curtain. It was ITI's Theatre of Nations event which brought the first theatre performances of the People's Republic of China to Paris. Later it was through the initiative of ITI Centres that plays from the Soviet Union and Eastern European states were able to be shown in Western Europe.

While the Iron Curtain is no longer exists, humanistic work to bring peace to conflict zones and mutual understanding on a global scale are more than essential. Anyone reading and watching the news can feel that understanding between the different peoples of Earth has to be achieved – theatre, dance, and the performing arts in general are a great tool to build a bridge.

Theatre in Conflict Zones Network TCZN

Social Change Network SCN

Network Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration N-HIM

Action Committee for Artist Rights ACAR

# ITI World Congress

Every two to three years ITI holds a World Congress. It is the main reunion for ITI Members and affiliated organizations, observers and guests. ITI and the host Centre put together the program consisting of artistic, educational, humanistic and administrative activities.

- The Artistic Part with performances (local and international), international collaboration projects.
- The Educational Part with presentations, workshops, master classes, seminars, conferences, round tables, etc.
- The Humanistic Part with workshops and presentations, and community projects.
- The Statutory Part with General Assembly, meetings of Regional Councils, Committees, Networks, Forums and Project Groups.
- The Communication Part are the activities that connect ITI members with Centers' Speed Dating, Congress Orientation, Open Space, etc.

Since 1948, 35 editions of ITI World Congresses have been held.

[www.iti-congress.org](http://www.iti-congress.org)



▲ 35<sup>th</sup> ITI World Congress in Segovia, Spain

▼ 34<sup>th</sup> ITI World Congress in Yerevan, Armenia



## ITI Headquarters












ITI had been based, since its inception in 1948, at the UNESCO Building in Paris, France. Whilst still maintaining a functioning office at this address, underlining the closeness of the bond between ITI and UNESCO, the decision was taken in 2015 to move the actual headquarters of ITI, along with its Director General and General Secretariat, to Shanghai, China. This allows ITI to maintain a presence in both East and West, to the benefit of its global projects and initiatives.










# Partner Organizations

The Partner Organizations of ITI meet regularly at UNESCO or at other locations all over the world. Together with ITI they create joint strategies and projects. Once a partner organization is accepted by ITI it has the right to participate in the activities of ITI (Project Groups, etc.)





## ITI International Partner Organizations

-  UNESCO / UNESCO is the main partner organization of ITI.
-  AICT-IACT - International Association of Theatre Critics
-  AITA-IATA - International Amateur Theatre Association
-  AITU-IUTA - International University Theatre Association
-  ASSITEJ - International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People
-  ATI - Arab Theatre Institute
-  ETC - European Theatre Convention
-  FEDEC - European Federation of Professional Circus Schools
-  FIA - International Federation of Actors
-  FIRT-IFTR - International Federation for Theatre Research
-  IDEA - International Drama/Theatre & Education Association

## ITI International Partner Organizations

-  IMC - International Music Council
-  OISTAT - International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians
-  SIBMAS - International Society of Libraries and Museums for the Performing Arts
-  UNIMA - International Puppeteers Union
-  WDA - World Dance Alliance
-  WMO - World Mime Organization
-  TWB - Theatre Without Borders

## Partner Organizations in China

-  STA - Shanghai Theatre Academy  
*Shanghai Theatre Academy is the main partner of ITI in China.*
-  CTA - China Theatre Association
-  CAD - Central Academy of Drama Beijing
-  iSTAN - International Stage Art Network

# How to collaborate with or support the International Theatre Institute?

Organizations, institutions and individuals are welcome to participate in the activities of ITI.

If your organizations, institutions or you would like to collaborate with ITI or to support ITI, please get in touch with us.

The collaboration may involve existing activities or projects or may consist in creating a new activities that is of benefit of the performing arts. The support which ITI has received in the recent past was in form of finances, in kind donation or pro bono work.

If you have any questions or remarks or if you have an interest to collaborate or support ITI, please send us an email.





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