

IAC News

Japan Society of Civil Engineers International Activities Center

About IAC News

IAC News highlights JSCE's international activities, including:

- Updates from JSCE International Sections (UK, Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, etc.)
- ACECC initiatives and global committee efforts
- Introductions to active professionals and unique projects in civil engineering

**We introduce the lively and engaging views of the current civil engineering field through JSCE's global network.
Your feedback and suggestions are always welcomed!**

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New Year's Greeting from the President

Realizing a Resilient, Carbon-Neutral Society through International Cooperation



Koji Ikeuchi
(113th president of the Japan Society
of Civil Engineers)

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Today, climate change is having a serious impact on our lives. Last year also saw frequent floods, droughts, and extreme heat around the world. Thus, the restructuring of national land use and infrastructure to achieve both carbon neutrality and disaster prevention and mitigation has become an urgent challenge shared by the international community.

With this understanding, we launched the JSCE President's Project entitled 'Establishing a Resilient, Carbon-Neutral Society', through which we have promoted discussions from a long-term and holistic perspective. Rather than limiting carbon neutrality to environmental policy, we are required to consider energy, national land

use, and infrastructure as an integrated whole, and to articulate a concrete vision for the future.

At the JSCE Annual Meeting in Kumamoto in September 2025, multifaceted discussions were conducted with carbon neutrality as a central theme. A wide range of practical examples were introduced, including local initiatives addressing challenges such as the energy transition and population decline. These examples showed that carbon neutrality efforts can be the driving force behind regional revitalization. I was keenly aware that these activities rooted in local communities help enrich JSCE's discussions and turn carbon neutrality into actionable efforts.

At the ASCE 2025 Convention held in Seattle in October 2025, in addition to signing the renewed Cooperation Agreement document, I took part in lively discussions on infrastructure innovation using AI, machine learning, and digital twins, as well as adapting to climate change. Against the backdrop of Seattle, a city characterized by the close integration of leading-edge IT industries and academia, I was struck by the collaboration between universities and industry experts. The approach of organically linking technology, talent, and social issues provided many insights for the civil engineering industry in Japan.

I also had the opportunity to observe a culture that places strong emphasis on communicating the value of civil

engineering through people. There were many things to learn from this commitment to communicating the importance of civil engineering through the efforts and aspirations of everyone involved. I also reaffirmed the importance of promoting the appeal of civil engineering in Japan through the stories of real people.

Furthermore, at the 10th Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region (CECAR10) held on Jeju Island in South Korea in October 2025, I gave a plenary lecture entitled: 'Flood Risk Management Adapted to Climate Change'. Here, I shared Japan's flood management policies and the concept of 'River Basin Disaster Resilience and Sustainability by All', Japan's integrated river basin management approach, with our fellow professionals from Asia. I received many questions after the lecture, and along with everyone's great expectations of Japan, I reaffirmed the importance of continuing to share information with the international community. I also signed the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council's (ACECC) Jeju Declaration, reaffirming unity in Asia based on the shared values of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing climate change in civil engineering fields, mainstreaming disaster resilience across all areas, and reducing poverty and building inclusive infrastructure.

This year, I will continue to work closely with stakeholders in Japan and abroad to make progress, even if only one step at a time, to help realize carbon neutrality and a

sustainable society resilient to disasters. I kindly ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in these efforts.

JSCE Construction Site Tour for International Students 2025



Amirfarkhan Bin Radzali

(Nishimatsu Construction Co., Ltd.)

November 13, 2025, international students in Japan took part in the JSCE Construction Site Tour for International Students, held in between Takanawa Gateway Station and Shinagawa Station. Though lasting only two hours, the tour offered an enriching look into some of Japan's most advanced urban civil engineering projects.



Students from Saitama University, Shibaura Institute of Technology, and Yokohama National University, representing ten countries, a total of 14 participants, observed several major infrastructure developments. The itinerary included bridge construction works, the Construction of Ring Road No. 4 near Shinagawa Station, and the steel girder incremental launching method used for the reconstruction of the Keikyu Yatsuyama Bridge.



Participants receiving an explanation of the construction progress at the site

The highlight of the tour was the active engagement between students and JR East engineers, where participants asked insightful questions about construction methods, safety management, and career development. Feedback was highly positive, with students commenting: "Nicely organized and educative," "Great opportunity to see construction works," and "A very good initiative for new engineers."



A group photo featuring international student participants, engineers from JR East, and members of the organizing team

The event was initiated and managed by members of the IAC Student Support Group — Associate Professor Ji Dang (Saitama University), Mr. Amirfarkhan (Nishimatsu Construction Co., Ltd.), and Mrs. Katrina (Ramboll Japan). We extend our sincere appreciation to JR East and the International Activities Center (IAC) for their collaboration and generous support in making this valuable learning experience possible.

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Reported by Amirfarkhan Bin Radzali
(Nishimatsu Construction Co., Ltd.)
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Report from Joint Seminar: 'Lessons Learnt from 2023 Kahramanmaraş and 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquakes'



Yusuke Ono
Tottori University

Receiving a grant from the JSCE International Scientific Exchange Fund Charitable Trust, a joint seminar entitled 'Lessons Learnt From 2023 Kahramanmaraş & 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquakes' was held between the JSCE Earthquake Engineering Committee and Turkey Section in Turkey on November 14th and 15th, 2025. It was apparently the fifth time the Turkey Section has held a joint seminar. Iskenderun Technical University and the Hatay Branch of the Chamber of Civil Engineers (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects) also helped organize the event.

Attendees from Japan were Gaku Shoji (University of Tsukuba), Yoshimi Masayuki (AIST), Kazuma Inoue (Ritsumeikan University), Ikki Kato (Obayashi Corporation), and myself, Yusuke Ono (Tottori University). Attendees from the Turkey Section were Zeki Hasgür (former president of the Turkey Section and

professor at Istanbul Technical University), and Beyza Taşkın (president of the Turkish Section and professor at Istanbul Technical University).

This joint seminar, as its title suggests, aimed to share the lessons learnt from damage to social infrastructure caused by the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquake in Turkey and the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake with researchers from Japan and Turkey. The joint seminar was held across two days, with the first day featuring presentations from attendees from Japan and Turkey at Iskenderun Technical University. The second day involved a field trip to Antakya in Hatay Province, guided by the Hatay Branch of the Chamber of Civil Engineers (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects).

On the first day, before the presentations took place, opening addresses were given by Iskenderun Technical University's Chancellor Mehmet Duruel, Faculty Dean Ahmet Yapıcı, Department Head Mustafa Demirci, and Branch Manager Inal Büyükaşık of the Hatay Branch of the Chamber of Civil Engineers (Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects). A list of the presenters and topics covered is shown in Table 1.

After all the presentations had finished, a group photo was taken on the stage where Iskenderun Technical University had seemingly engaged in prior efforts to encourage its students to attend, so there were over 80 people in the audience.



Group photo of the presenters



Atmosphere at the venue

On the day after the presentations, we departed the hotel - located on high ground in Istanbul - bright and early, heading to Antakya in Hatay Province. All the attendees from Japan and Beyza Taşkin were members of the JSCE investigation team that performed a site investigation after the earthquake struck in 2023, meaning this was their second visit. Urban areas, which were surrounded by collapsed buildings and piles of rubble at the time of the post-earthquake site investigation, were now seeing the construction of new buildings.



Urban Redevelopment in Progress

Meanwhile, in the Old Town area, some damaged buildings remained among the vast amount of cleared land creating a stark contrast to the speed of recovery efforts in each area.



Old Town area with piles of rubble

The joint seminar came to a close with the promise to further develop exchange between the earthquake engineering researchers of Japan and Turkey with the help of the Turkey Section.

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Reported by Yusuke Ono
Tottori University

Table 1 - Presenters (in presentation order)

Name	Affiliation	Topic
Masayuki YOSHIMI	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology	Effect of the strong motion and ground uplifting during the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake
Ikki KATO	Obayashi Corporation	Damage cases and restoration responses of geotechnical structures in the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake
Fatih ÇELİK	Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University	Evaluation of the seismicity of the İskenderun region and its effects on structural design in terms of soil-structure interaction within the scope of the February 6 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes
Kazuma INOUE	Ritsumeikan University	Reconnaissance report on bridge damage caused by the January 1st, 2024, Noto Peninsula earthquake, Japan
Gaku SHOJI	University of Tsukuba	Damage analysis of water supply and sewer pipelines in the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake
Osman ARIKAN	Istanbul Technical University	Quantity and characterization of debris generated in the February 6, 2023, Kahramanmaraş earthquakes
Yusuke ONO	Tottori University	Damage to transportation networks caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake
Murat BİKÇE	İskenderun Technical University	Common causes of damage observed in reinforced-concrete structures in the February 6 earthquakes
Beyza TAŞKIN M. Hüseyin MASLAK	Istanbul Technical University	Ground motions during the February 6 earthquakes, current structural design practices and recommendations

CECAR10 as Experienced by Future Leaders Forum Members



Sayaka Sugiyama

(Dept. of Social Infrastructure Engineering,
Graduate School of Engineering,
University of Tokyo)



So Fumiyama

(R&D Group, Hitachi, Ltd.)

As members of the Future Leaders Forum (FLF), Sayaka Sugiyama and So Fumiyama attended the 49th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) and the 10th Civil Engineering Conference in Asian Region (CECAR10) organized by the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC) and held on Jeju Island in South Korea from October 21 to October 24, 2025. This newsletter paints a picture of what the event was like. Firstly, I will briefly explain

what the Future Leaders Forum (FLF) and CECAR10 are.

■ What are the ACECC and FLF?

The ACECC is a federation made up of civil engineering societies from 17 countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific region. In partnership across multiple countries, the ACECC organizes a forum to discuss issues related to social infrastructure maintenance and civil engineering and holds the Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) once every six months. The Future Leaders Forum (FLF) is a networking forum for upcoming engineers set up by the ACECC, and is attended by representatives from each member society between the ages of 25 and 35. There is also an opportunity for presentations by FLF members at the ECM every six months, with an FLF session held in conjunction with CECAR10. In addition to this FLF session, the FLF engages in activities such as holding a Monthly Meeting and Webinar Series. The webinar, in particular, features a seminar event that invites civil engineers engaged in innovative efforts from each member society. If you are interested in attending, we would be delighted for you to give a presentation at the next event hosted by JSCE. All JSCE



At Future Leaders Forum

members can also freely attend webinars organized by other societies, so we encourage your involvement in these events as well.

■ What is CECAR10?

CECAR10 is an international conference held every three years that brings together the civil engineers of ACECC member countries and regions across fields of expertise. With themes spanning from soil mechanics to digital technologies, CECAR10 hosted a wide variety of attendees, from students to company employees from all kinds of educational and career backgrounds. Through attending the event, we learned firsthand that CECAR10 is a really unique opportunity to be able to network with people with diverse expertise and backgrounds in one place. At CECAR10, there were also many presentations from Technical Committees (TC) organized by ACECC members. JSCE members can also freely participate in these TCs, so please get involved if you are interested in doing so.

■ FLF activities

The main FLF activity this time was the session held during CECAR10.

The session saw five young engineers, including the FLF members, give presentations on the following topics:

- (1) a representative from Nepal discussed their research based on rainfall data and data on ground cracks impacting local citizens
- (2) a representative from Australia explained the success cases and challenges in converting disused railway lines into cycling paths, and
- (3) Korean representatives shed light on how observation works using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and its use cases simulations of crowd dynamics in an emergency evacuation of a subway system
- (4) research into establishing a roadmap to promote the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) in Mongolia.

These unique topics from each country were really inspiring for us as researchers and engineers.

It was a very welcoming session, with the yearly custom of exchanging souvenirs from each country and taking commemorative photos before and after the presentations. This congregation of younger generations gave the event a lively and fun atmosphere. We gave out matcha chocolate from Japan, and it was well-received by many people.



At Gala Dinner table

■ Other activities

At CECAR10, in addition to the FLF activities, there were also many other events, such as the Executive Committee Meeting and the gala dinner.

• The 49th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM)

In addition to JSCE, representatives from each ACECC member society also participated in the ECM, which is a meeting to discuss policies for future activities. There were some passionate discussions during the ECM. This conveyed the strong sense of purpose of the countries involved and the earnestness of their commitment to the future of the civil engineering industry. At the dinner after the meeting, however, we were struck by the sight of everyone laughing and talking with one another beyond cultural and positional boundaries, which contrasted with the seriousness of the meeting earlier.

Attendees who had been debating with one another were now chatting away and taking commemorative photos.

• Networking

There was a gala dinner on the middle day of the CECAR10 schedule, where we had a meal with society attendees. We also enjoyed chatting with FLF members around a table in what was a lively and engaging atmosphere. We were able to deepen our relationships with other attendees, taking lots of photos and discussing the cuisine of each country. Personally, what really struck me was when people from a South Asian background added generous amounts of

pepper over mild-flavored dishes because they said they “wanted to add some spiciness.” At the gala dinner afterparty, we had a really fun time chatting about all kinds of topics—such as research, civil engineering projects in each country, and even about one’s pets—until the hotel bar closed.



with participants from all over the world

• The impressions of each member

Sugiyama: This time, I was able to talk with lots of different society attendees, in addition to FLF members. There were also people from outside of Asia, such as a Brit working in Korea and an Aussie working in Singapore. I experienced firsthand the growing international nature of civil engineering in Asia. I also met a person who had worked at a subcontractor of a major Japanese general contractor and someone who had taught English in Japan. I was really happy when they spoke to me in the Japanese which they had remembered.

Fumiyama: CECAR10 was the first event I attended in person as part of my FLF activities. I was delighted in being able to meet for the first time all the members I

had previously interacted with in meetings and exchanges online. I felt a greater bond with my fellow members as a result of experiencing the session and dining together during CECAR10. I had previously thought of international partnerships as being somewhat formal in nature, but through attending CECAR10, I learned that this respectful atmosphere ultimately comes from the warm and active person-to-person interactions.



Coastal landscape of Jeju Island

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Reported by Sayaka Sugiyama
(University of Tokyo)
&
So Fumiyama
(R&D Group, Hitachi, Ltd.)
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How the JSCE Study Tour Grant Shaped My Journey Towards a PhD



Omar Faruqe Hamin
2019 STG participant

In 2019, I was honored to be selected as a recipient of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) Study Tour Grant (STG) representing Bangladesh.

At that time, I had recently completed my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and was pursuing my Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering with a focus on Transportation Engineering. Being chosen for the Study Tour Grant program was not only a recognition of my early academic efforts but also a defining milestone that profoundly influenced my decision to pursue doctoral studies and an academic career.

The STG selection process itself was both rigorous and meaningful. Along with two other graduate students from BUET, I was nominated by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. After submitting detailed questionnaires and supporting documents, we waited anxiously for the final decision. I still vividly remember the moment when Professor Dr. A. F. M. Saiful Amin informed me that I had been selected as the STG 2019 participant representing Bangladesh. That announcement marked

the beginning of an unforgettable journey academically, professionally, and personally.

As part of the program, I was paired with an academic advisor, Professor Tatsuhiko Ishizaka, who provided invaluable guidance while I prepared a research paper for presentation at the 21st International Summer Symposium. Presenting my research titled “Application of AcciMap Methodology to Investigate the Bus Accident at Salehpur Bridge” was my first opportunity to present in person at an international symposium. Standing before an audience of researchers and professionals from different countries, explaining my methodology, and responding to questions was an immensely empowering experience. The discussion following my presentation strengthened my confidence as a young researcher and affirmed that my work could contribute meaningfully to broader conversations in transportation safety and systems analysis.

During this symposium, interactions with international faculty members, including one from Malaysia who encouraged me to consider doctoral studies, played a critical role in shaping my aspiration to pursue a PhD in Transportation Engineering.

Beyond the symposium, the STG program offered a deeply immersive exposure to Japanese civil engineering practice and research culture. One of the earliest technical visits was to the Kajima Technical Research Institute, where I observed advanced experimental facilities including large structural testing laboratories, wind tunnel facilities, and a three-dimensional shaking table used for seismic research. Witnessing how advanced research infrastructure supports innovation in structural safety and resilience was deeply motivating. Coming from a background where access to such large-scale facilities is limited, this visit helped me envision what was possible through sustained investment in research and

collaboration between academia and industry.

We also visited the tunnel construction project at Haneda International Airport, where engineers explained the technical challenges of constructing underground infrastructure in a dense urban environment. Walking through the tunnel under construction and interacting directly with project engineers allowed me to connect theoretical knowledge with real world implementation. This experience strengthened my appreciation for systems level thinking in transportation infrastructure, a perspective that later became central to my doctoral research.



With other STG Participants

The STG program also emphasized the social and environmental responsibilities of civil engineers. Our visit to Teshima Island, an illegal industrial waste dumping site, was particularly impactful. Learning about the long-term environmental consequences of irresponsible practices and how Japan responded through remediation and institutional reform left a lasting impression on me. It underscored the ethical dimensions of engineering decisions and the importance of accountability, sustainability, and public trust.

Another highly influential aspect of the program was its strong focus on disaster resilience and recovery. Through visits to disaster affected sites in Hiroshima, Kure,

Sakacho, and along the Misasa River, we observed how Japan responds systematically and efficiently to natural disasters.

We learned about sediment management, emergency transportation restoration, temporary housing construction, and riverbank protection strategies. As someone from a disaster prone and river rich country, these visits were especially meaningful. They deepened my understanding of how resilient infrastructure can save lives, protect livelihoods, and support long term development.

Visiting major infrastructure projects such as the Kabagawa Dam, Kurushima Kaikyo Bridge, and Akashi Kaikyo Bridge further reinforced the scale and ambition of Japanese civil engineering. These structures demonstrated how technical excellence, safety, aesthetics, and social needs can be integrated into infrastructure design. As a transportation engineering enthusiast, riding the Sanyo Shinkansen for the first time was equally inspiring. Experiencing Japan's high speed rail system firsthand highlighted the efficiency and reliability of well-planned public transportation systems. This experience later influenced how I viewed transportation challenges in car dependent environments such as the United States.

Equally transformative were the interactions with fellow STG participants from different countries. Through discussions, shared meals, and technical visits, I realized the value of international knowledge exchange and peer learning. These interactions helped me understand that while engineering challenges vary across regions, collaboration and shared learning are essential to developing effective solutions. Many of these connections extended beyond the program and evolved into long-term professional relationships.

Following the STG program, I applied to Purdue University in the United States and was admitted with full funding to pursue a PhD in Civil Engineering. Although my start was delayed until Spring 2021 due to the COVID pandemic and visa disruptions, my motivation sparked during the STG experience remained strong. Throughout this period, I stayed connected with fellow participants through social media, where we continued to discuss academic paths and future goals.

A particularly memorable moment occurred during Fall 2021 at Purdue University's Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering, when I unexpectedly met Munkhsaikhan Battumur, a fellow STG 2019 participant from Mongolia. Meeting again, this time as graduate students in the United States, was deeply meaningful. Even more inspiring was learning that my own journey had motivated him to pursue graduate studies and that our earlier conversations during the STG program about preparing for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and English language tests (e.g., IELTS) had helped guide his decisions. This experience reaffirmed my desire to remain in academia, where mentorship and knowledge sharing can shape the next generation of engineers.

During my doctoral studies, the lessons from the STG program continued to influence my research direction. My work ultimately focused on designing efficient and resilient infrastructure for electric vehicles, integrating transportation systems, energy infrastructure, and resilience planning. The emphasis on disaster preparedness, system reliability, and societal impact that I observed in Japan became foundational principles in my research.

Now, having completed my PhD, I often reflect on how profoundly the JSCE's STG program shaped my academic trajectory.

The program did far more than introducing me to engineering projects. It expanded my worldview, strengthened my confidence as a researcher, and connected me to an international community of civil engineers. It transformed my aspirations and helped me envision a career dedicated not only to technical excellence but also to societal resilience and global collaboration.

I remain deeply grateful to the JSCE for providing such a transformative opportunity for young civil engineers. The STG program played a decisive role in my pursuit of doctoral education and continues to influence my professional values. I look forward to staying engaged with the JSCE through future collaborations and knowledge exchange, and I hope that many more young engineers will benefit from this remarkable program in the years to come.



Reported by Omar Faruqe Hamin,
(Bangladesh University of
Engineering and Technology)

Announcements

■ Information

- ◆ **Interview to FY2024 JSCE Outstanding Lifetime Contribution Awardees and International Outstanding Collaboration Awardees**
► https://committees.jsce.or.jp/kokusai/interview_FY2024
- ◆ **Invitation for Nomination of FY2025 JSCE Outstanding Lifetime Contribution Award and International Outstanding Collaboration Award**
► https://committees.jsce.or.jp/kouken_sho/node/34
- ◆ **Exhibition “JSCE Civil Engineering Collection 2025 – HANDS & EYES”**
► <https://dobocolle.jsce.or.jp/2025/10/01/post-2012-2/>
- ◆ **Concrete Committee Newsletter No.75**
► <https://www.jsce.or.jp/committee/concrete/e/newsletter/newsletter75/index.html>
- ◆ **IABSE Newsletter October 2025**
► <https://mailwizz.mail-iabse.org/index.php/campaigns/so072ansloc6f/track-url/ce7732y72le76/899ae31e577f32c15c13503103c711f7e522ed5c>
- ◆ **ECCE 81st General Meeting Press Release**
► https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1b3kgm20120zkt5mrcv8w/ECCE_Press_Release_20251021_81-ECCE-GM.pdf?rlkey=njodsejul95r6619yqeqlul6h&st=khis3fb9&dl=0
- ◆ **IAC News No.147**
► 日本語：https://committees.jsce.or.jp/kokusai/iac_news_2025_10
► 英語：<https://www.jsce-int.org/pub/iacnews/147>

■ **Call for Committees' Reports, Technical Essays, Project Briefs, Opinions and More**

The JSCE International Center invites you the JSCE members to share your committee reports, technical essays, project briefs, and opinions and findings in and ouside professional activities. There are no specific format or length requirements, so please feel free to send yours to the JSCE International Center.

•Submission & Inquiries: International Activities Center (IAC),
Japan Society of Civil Engineers : iad@jsce.or.jp

■ Reader Survey & Feedback Request

We would greatly appreciate your thoughts and feedback on this publication.

Survey Form ► <https://forms.gle/3AVxpF8nPBK27Xpv8>

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【Subscription Form】

- ◆Japanese: <http://committees.jsce.or.jp/kokusai/node/31>
- ◆English: <http://www.jsce-int.org/node/150>

SNS & Web Resources

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- ◆JSCE Website (English): <https://www.jsce-int.org/>
- ◆JSCE Website (Japanese): <https://www.jsce.or.jp/>
- ◆International Center Website: <https://committees.jsce.or.jp/kokusai/>
- ◆【Facebook】 https://www.facebook.com/JSCE.en/?locale=ja_JP
- ◆【YouTube】

https://youtube.com/channel/UCGIs6DHrzX_cGDmHUrRlkA?feature=shared