



NEWSLETTER

– Save Water, Save Lakes –

International Lake Environment Committee Foundation

This newsletter is also available in Japanese.

EXPO'70 FUND
(公財) 関西・大阪21世紀協会



Promoting SLM: Co-Creating a Better Future September 25-28, 2024

ILEC has recently been working to promote Sustainable Lake Management (SLM) by collaborating with diverse stakeholders and fostering the development of next-generation leaders. This year, youth participants from six countries, including young politicians, researchers, and students, took part in "SLM Week – Promoting SLM: Co-Creating a Better Future"

We invited Ms. Stephanie Smith as the facilitator for a three-day program. She has served as a strategic advisor for environmental protection and education programs in North America and Africa for over 20 years. Through this program, participants had the opportunity to experience ecotourism and civic activities in the Lake Biwa and Yodo River basin. They developed action plans linking these experiences to their own research and initiatives, with advice from ILEC's Scientific Committee members. On the final day, they presented these plans at the SLM Forum, calling for further engagement from young people.

Following this event, a platform called "Lakes for Life" will be established to share the outcomes and progress of the youth activities. It will be showcased at the 20th World Lake Conference (WLC20) to be held in Brisbane, Australia, in July next year.

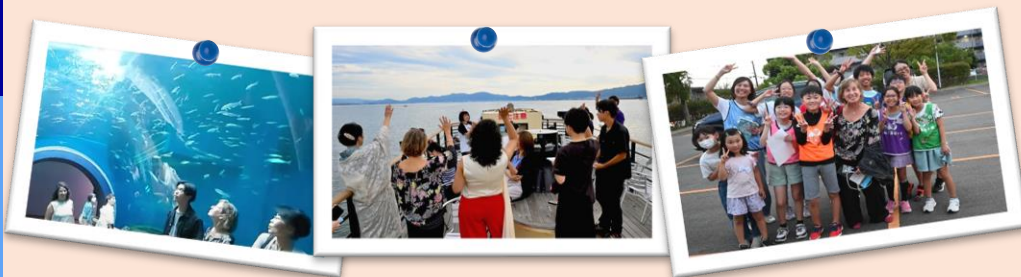
This event was supported by a grant from the Expo'70 Fund, the Kansai Osaka 21st Century Association.

DAY 1

Sep. 25

✿ Workshop

✿ Fieldtrip



Gathering at ILEC

Ten youth participants from Japan, Mexico, Australia, the Philippines, Hungary, and Uganda gathered at ILEC to present their research and activities, including topics such as ecotourism and the use of apps. They also discussed ways to encourage youth participation in WLC20, with the advice from facilitators and members of the Scientific Committee.



Lake Biwa Museum & Lake Biwa Cruise

They visited the Lake Biwa Museum to explore hints for activities and initiatives related to the ecosystem of Lake Biwa and its history of environmental conservation efforts. Afterward, they boarded the sightseeing boat "Ichibanmaru." On board, students from the NPO International Volunteer University Students Association (IVUSA) introduced the history, tourism, lake transport, and fishing method in a quiz format, as guides for Lake Biwa.



Interaction with Meta River Kid Rangers



As an example of citizen activities in Japan, they explored the "Meta River Model River Development" project by the NPO Biwako Hojō no Sato. This project focuses on environmental conservation efforts, such as cleaning and releasing fireflies, to help them naturally inhabit the Meta River in Moriyama City, Shiga Prefecture. The "Meta River Kid Rangers," local kids participating in the project, introduced their activities and exchanged ideas with the youth participants through a Q&A session, sharing examples from their countries.

DAY 2

Sep. 26

✿ Workshop

✿ Fieldtrip



6 Pillars of ILBM

They discussed in groups how youth can contribute to the six elements of Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM)—Institutions, Policies, Participation, Technology, Information, and Finance.

Aqua Biwa & Seta River Weir

The Seta River Weir plays a crucial role in flood prevention, water quality protection, water resource management, and the preservation of the local natural environment. At Aqua Biwa, they watched a video to learn about the history and current state of flood control, and visited the exhibition room, which offers a panoramic view of Mount Tanakami, an important area for forest regeneration in Shiga Prefecture's environmental conservation efforts.



Practical Use of “Litter Mapping” App

Using the “Litter Mapping” app developed by Associate Professor Sadao Harada of the Faculty of Economics at Doshisha University, they tried out the app to explore plastic waste-related environmental pollution along the Yodogawa riverbank under his guidance. This app enables users to visualize the distribution and types of waste, as well as environmental pollution, in the community with a simple registration process. It helps local communities carry out environmental protection activities and tackle waste management issues.



DAY 3

Sep. 27

- ★ Fieldtrip
- ★ Forum Prep



Ecotourism Following the Path of Water

They had the opportunity to experience the tour plan proposed by students from Seian University of Art and Design, who won the Grand Prize in the “Lake Ecotourism Contest 2022.” Local curators, including fishermen, architects, farmers, and other regional experts, guided them through the natural surroundings of the Moriyama area in Otsu City, each offering their unique perspectives. One of the local curators shared a story that changes in the river's sound can predict weather shifts and disasters.



Talk by Local Curators – At HOURAI NO IE

They heard from a local fisherman that the environment of not only Lake Biwa but also rivers and rice paddies is important for fish spawning. Additionally, they were introduced to the activities of the general incorporated association Shiga-Shiga, which promotes community exchange through café operations and markets at HOURAI NO IE (meaning “Horai House”) and provides support to new residents.



Preparation for the SLM Forum & Encouragement from Former Minister

Based on their own research and activities, they proceeded with preparations for the forum presentation the next day, reflecting on what they had learned and the insights gained during the three-day workshop and field trips. Meanwhile, Mr. Basuki Hadimuljono, former Minister of Public Works and Housing of Indonesia (pictured front row, center), visited ILEC and encouraged the youth who are working on lake basin environmental conservation.



DAY 4

Sep. 28

SLM Forum



Panel Discussion “Are Lakes Sustainable?”



With a focus on discussions leading up to WLC20, speakers from six countries—Australia (the host country), as well as past host countries Indonesia, Mexico, the United States, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (Kenya), Japan's Ministry of the Environment, Shiga Prefecture, and Taneya CLUB HARIE—came together to engage in discussions on themes such as “From Source to Sea,” “Capacity Building,” and “World Lake Day.”

Round Table “Sustainable Lake Management with Global Youth ~Toward WLC20”

In addition to the eight youth from six countries who participated in SLM Week, online participants also presented their respective research and initiatives. Following that, [action plans*](#) for promoting SLM and establishing “World Lake Day” were presented, calling for further youth involvement.

**The details of the action plans are introduced on the next page.*



Key Contributors to SLM Week



Ms. Mana Kubosono, a fourth-year student at the College of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University, who served as a leader during the youth session at WLC19 in Hungary, also took on the role of MC at the roundtable discussion at the SLM Forum. Additionally, Ms. Stephanie Smith, Strategic Advisor at the African Center for Aquatic Research and Education, and Principal of Zephyr Mangata Consulting, kindly assisted as a facilitator.

Review

**- Professor Yoshika Yamamo, Department of International Tourism,
Heian Jogakuin (St. Agnes') University**

This youth activity has grown from the Ecotourism Contest 2022 to Hungary, and now to this event in Japan, creating a meaningful platform. Our mission is to maintain the place that inspires people to return and fosters participation across generation for a sustainable future.



Action Plans from the Global Youth Workshop

● Launch the online platform "Lakes For Life"

- Promote lake conservation activities continuously through "Lakes for Life" and establish a strong foundation for future lake conservation efforts.
- Recruit participants for the "Lakes for Life" project

● Initiate global actions in conjunction with World Lake Day

➔ Run a World Lake Day campaign to call for action.

● Prepare and Implement a session for the World Lake Conference to be held in Brisbane in 2025.


Campaign



Possible Actions

1. Do a shoreline cleanup	7. Participate in citizen science
2. Talk to family and friends	8. Remove invasive species
3. Educate youth	9. Write to policy makers
4. Attend a webinar, workshop, or conference	10. Reduce water usage
5. Post a photo at your favorite lake	11. Avoid single use plastics
6. Join a lake-focused group	12. Purchase sustainably harvested fish

Next Steps



- Invite partners to plan Lakes for Life
- Launch World Lake Day Campaign for Action
- Prepare for and host the session at 2025 World Lake Conference in Brisbane
- Launch the Platform
- Take global action on World Lake Day
- Promote year-round action for lakes via Lakes for Life
- Build a strong base for future amplified lake action

Lakes for Life

Healthy Lakes for All

01 What is it for?

A platform to raise awareness on the importance of lakes for peoples and communities, and move people to take action towards Sustainable Lake Management.

02 Who is it for?

When we say all, we literally mean everyone.



For each speaker's presentation, please find [the summary along with the video link](#)



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