

"Taking major step toward mainstreaming lakes"

The overview of the webinar held May 18th

(the flash version)

On May 18 (Wed.), ILEC and UNEP held an international webinar "Taking major step toward mainstreaming lakes" by ZOOM in conjunction with the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS), welcoming representatives from the Indonesian government, the Japanese Ministry of Environment, and others. The webinar, which discussed specific actions and challenges for mainstreaming lakes into the global water agenda, was attended by 135 participants from 20 countries around the world.

◇ The overview of the opening remarks

<ILEC President Kazuhiko Takemoto >

The world's lakes and other lentic waters have long been suffering from serious degradation despite their enormous value and their critical roles in the global ecosystem. They have long been kind of a missing link in the Global Water Agenda and the SDGs.

At the last UNEA5.2, a very important Resolution entitled "Sustainable Lake Management," was adopted unanimously. The draft of this Resolution proposed by the Government of Indonesia and supported by many member states around the world for its adoption. Now, it is time for us to work together for achieving "Sustainable Lake Management" in line with the adopted Resolution.

<Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Japan >

Lake Biwa is a "mirror" that reflects our way of life. This means that it can never shine if we only focus on cleaning it. Those who live around the lake must reconsider our way of life to create a clean lake environment. Additionally, Lake Biwa shows us signs of global warming.

It could function as a "window" to look through at the global environment.

Since lakes are very important for ecosystems and the human beings, I insist on mainstreaming lakes in the global water agenda at any occasion.

- ◇ The overview of the keynote address and the panel discussion
 - The need for a clear message that people, including those who are not familiar with lakes, and especially policy makers, can understand and accept the importance of lakes. (The role of lakes in mitigating the effects of climate change and natural disasters; the establishment of World Lake Day at the UN General Assembly as the symbolic initiative; making full use of water-related conferences and forums.)
 - The importance and potential of the role of lake basin stakeholders, especially local residents. (e.g., the Basic Act on Water Cycle and other water-related laws in Japan, and efforts by Shiga Prefecture)
- ◇ The summary of the webinar by ILEC President

This is an opportunity for the all participants to take a major step toward mainstreaming lakes in global water agenda. Knowledge base is the very important and crucial point for ILEC to work together with our colleagues in the world. We will make the best use of the ILEC Scientific Committee Meeting and International Symposium held in Shiga this October toward the next world lake conference which will be held in Hungary in fall 2023 to keep and update our momentum.