

Promoting Sustainable Lake Management (SLM): Challenges, Achievements and Lessons Learned



Nov. 6, 2023

9:30 am – 4:00 pm Hungary Time (UTC+1)

Hybrid Format @ Balatonfüred Congress Center / Online

Purpose of the Colloquium:

For Broad Promotion of the Sustainable Lake Management (SLM) Resolution:

At the 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEAS) held in Nairobi in March 2022, the member states adopted a resolution on the need to pursue "Sustainable Lake Management (SLM) globally." For rigorous pursuits of SLM, ILEC, in close collaboration with UNEP and with the participation and support from the concerned UN agencies, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, will organize an International Colloquium in a hybrid format allowing both in-person and online participation for the prospective SLM beneficiaries at the individual lake community, local government, and national government levels.

International Colloquium

Promoting Sustainable Lake Management (SLM): Challenges, Achievements and Lessons Learned

Programme

9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Hungary Time, UTC+1



1. Greetings

- 9:30 - 9:45
- Kazuhiko Takemoto (President, ILEC)
 - Jian Liu (Director, Early Warning & Assessment Division, UNEP)
 - Gabor Molnar (Managing Director, Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency, Hungary)
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2. Background and Purpose of Colloquium

- 9:45 - 10:05
- Walter Rast (Chair, ILEC Scientific Committee):
Colloquium background
 - Masahisa Nakamura (Vice-President, ILEC):
SLM as a Basin Governance Improvement Process
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3. Messages from National Governments (Government Needs and Commitments)

- 10:05 - 10:40
- Inge Retnowati (Director, Inland Waters and Mangrove Rehabilitation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia)
 - Michihiro Oi (Manager, Marine Environment Division, Water and Air Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan)
 - The SLM-related Program Frameworks of Selected National Governments
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4. Voices from the Continental Regions (Toward Sharing and Cross-Fertilizing SLM Experiences)

- 10:40 - 11:10
- Sharon van Tuylen (Vice President, Asociation Guatemala de Limnologia & Gestion de Lagos, Guatemala)
 - Adelina Santos-Borja (Chair, Southeast Asian Limnological Network, Philippines)
 - Tetsuji Morimoto (Director General, Department of Lake Biwa and the Environment, Shiga Prefectural Government, Japan) collaborates with
 - Emily Finnell (Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist Office of the Great Lakes, Michigan, USA)
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11:10 - 11:20 Break (10 minutes)

5. UNEP Activities and Partnership Efforts in Facilitating SLM Implementation

(MC: Patrick M'mayi - Early Warning & Assessment Division)

- 11:20 - 12:30
- Vivek Shah (Ecosystems Division-):
SLM Resolution and UNEP Lakes Portal and Freshwater Challenges
 - Nina Raasakka (Early Warning & Assessment Division):
Advancing Sustainable Lake Management Through Partnership Efforts
 - Kenneth Irvine (IHE Delft; WWQA Ecosystems Workstream):
Embedding Lakes into the Global Sustainability Agenda
 - Themba Gumbo (Director, Cap-Net):
Interdisciplinary and Institutional Knowledge as a Pathway Towards SLM Massive Open Online Course
 - Elizabeth M. Bernhardt (Ecosystems Division- Freshwater Ecosystems Unit):
COP-28 & Towards UNEA-6
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12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (60 minutes)

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1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, Hungary Time, UTC+1

Afternoon Session 1

6. Invited Presentations on Further Advancing SLM Experiences Globally


-  Rafik Hirji (Director, Water, Environment and Climate Solutions, LLC; Former World Bank Team Leader, GEF Lake Basin Management Initiative):

Integrated Lake and Reservoir Basin Management: A Framework for Implementing UN Resolution on Sustainable Lake Management and Climate Resilience


-  Thomas Mehner (President, International Society of Limnology (SIL)):


Limnological Science and SLM

1:30 - 2:40

-  Sonja Koeppel (UNECE & Secretariat, Freshwater Convention):

Global Water Convention and SLM

-  Stephanie Smith (Strategic Advisor, African Center for Aquatic Research and Education and Principal, Zephyr Mangata Consulting) co-presents with

-  Joyce Nyeko: African Center for Aquatic Research and Education Board Member and Deputy Executive Director at Lakes Edward Albert Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation (LEAFAO) and member of LEAAG:

African Great Lakes and SLM Implementation

-  ILEC Secretariat, with Contributions from Participating Members of the Workshop entitled:


The SLM Implication of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin Management

2:40 - 3:00 Coffee Break (20 minutes)

Afternoon Session 2

7. International Panel Discussion, with Conclusions and Recommendations:

3:00 - 3:55 ***SLM Roles and Implementations Challenges in Pursuit of UN-Water Agenda Toward the SDGs***

-  Chair: Prof. Andras Szöllősi-Nagy (Former Director, UNESCO-IHP)

Closing Remarks

3:55 - 4:00  Yasuo Takahashi (Director, ILEC; Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES))

International Colloquium

Promoting Sustainable Lake Management (SLM): Challenges, Achievements and Lessons Learned

Co-organized by International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC) & United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 6 November 2023

(Side Event of the 19th World Lake Conference, Lake Balaton, Hungary, 7-9 November 2023)

Freshwater is one of our planet's most critical natural resources, essential for human health, well-being, and socioeconomic development, and for maintaining the biodiversity and ecosystem services upon which humanity depends. However, liquid freshwater comprises only about 1% of all the water on the surface of our planet, with more than 90% of this quantity being contained in lakes, wetlands, and other standing bodies of freshwater. Furthermore, while our ability to develop water resources has advanced significantly on a global scale over time, our ability to sustainably manage lakes and their life-supporting ecosystem services has lagged far behind, which is a sobering reality given that freshwater demands continue to increase, while lakes and their basins continue to be degraded on a global scale. In addition, achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, and 15 will require our accumulated knowledge of lakes and their basins, particularly how we manage them and their ecosystem services for sustainable use.

Accordingly, the primary purpose of this international Colloquium is to examine the challenges to the Sustainable Lake Management (SLM) Resolution recently adopted unanimously by governments at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in Nairobi, Kenya, in March, 2022, as well as the progress made thus far in its implementation. Undoubtedly, implementation of the SLM Resolution will prove to be a difficult and complex undertaking by governments at all levels. It is essential, therefore, to highlight and share experiences about how different governments, the UN, and other international organizations are addressing the challenges to implementation of SLM at the national, local, and lake basin levels in different regions of the world, as well as its importance in achieving the water-related SDG targets. We will also discuss the potential role of Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) as a powerful tool in facilitating the achievement of the SLM Resolution.

This Colloquium, to be held as a hybrid event incorporating both in-person and virtual participation, will be conducted in cooperation with the broad involvement of UNEP and other relevant UN agencies and international organizations, national governments, and non-governmental organizations, all sharing their experiences and lessons learned to date in addressing the SLM Resolution. The experiences and lessons learned will include common issues arising from its implementation under different environmental, social, economic, and cultural settings and the proactive roles to be played by the prospective beneficiaries of the SLM achievements.