



NEWSLETTER

– Save Water, Save Lakes –

International Lake Environment Committee Foundation

This newsletter is also available in Japanese.



“Youth Power” in Action @WLC19

The “Balaton Declaration” at the 19th World Lake Conference (WLC19) incorporated a recommendation to “Mobilize the enthusiasm, energy, and visions of the Youth in facilitating sustainable lake management at all levels, including planning, decision-making, implementation, evaluation and celebration.” Youth involvement in lake conservation is increasingly important. In this context, we asked six youth members dispatched to WLC19 as the Fostering Next Generation Leaders Project from ILEC to share their impressions after participating.



— Participation in a Technical Session —

“Enjoying Tracing Ecotourism”

A case study of eco-tourism with the assistance of “Local Curators”; The establishment of systems aimed at revitalizing the local economy through ecotourism, strengthening the connection between the lake ecosystem and the community, and contributing to environmental conservation.

Academia, Industry, and Government



Akari Taira
Seian University of
Art and Design

We found it deeply moving to be able to promote tours conducted in the Moriyama area, a small region, to the world. Feedback from “Local Curators” included remarks like, “It was great to reaffirm the unique charms of our region and organize tours based on them.” Participants expressed feelings mentioning, “It feels like we’re visiting the backyard of the residents.” To sustain this initiative in the future, we aim to foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government. We plan to turn it into a project or business at the university level, and collaborate with the Shiga-Shiga, a nonprofit organization, which is based in the Moriyama area, to provide guidance for the Moriyama Neighborhood Association and students. This collaboration offers mutual learning opportunities and aims to plan sustainable tours. To achieve this, we are working on exhibitions and expanding awareness.

Sustainable with Region.



Rao Sasaki
Seian University of
Art and Design

From planning and execution of tours to presentation at WLC19, I felt the true challenge lies not in merely pursuing superficial sustainability, but in creating tourism that truly sustains with the region. Moreover, through numerous discussions with local residents, the depth of understanding toward the region significantly increased. Each visit allowed me to discover the joy of exploring the region’s small charms and culture, making it a very rewarding experience.



— Participation in a Technical Session, and Youth Session —

“Be a Researcher Tour in BIWAKO”

A case study of eco-tours for elementary school students conducted by the International Volunteer Student Association (IVUSA), with the goal of achieving the Mother Lake Goals (MLGs), which are specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Lake Biwa. This initiative is aimed at fulfilling one of the goals, which focuses on incorporating both local residents and the basin into educational experiences.

“Youth Power in Action: Youth-driven Innovations for Sustainable Lake Management”

Youth shared initiatives and activities for environmental conservation in various lakes worldwide and discussed “how youth activities can be sustainable” and “what is needed to broaden the circle of youth engaged in lake environmental conservation”.

10 Countries 10 Colors



Saeko Ito
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

I was proud to have the opportunity to present our activities on an international stage in the technical session. Among the many technical and scientific presentations, receiving nods and smiles during our presentation was gratifying, as it showed appreciation regardless of position or age. In the youth session, participating as a leader in an international event for the first time, I felt the difficulty of creating something meaningful. Priorities varied by country, and what existed in Japan didn't always exist abroad, and vice versa. Meeting face-to-face and hearing each other's voices in person added depth to our interactions. Moreover, hearing the opinions of experts who participated in the session, regardless of age, was stimulating. I aspire to continue engaging in international environmental activities after graduating from university.

Language Barrier



Arika Tanabe
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

In the technical session, during the contest last year, our project was in the ideation stage. However, over the year leading up to WLC19, we actually held tours and were able to disseminate enhanced content globally, incorporating feedback from children. We intend to pass on this tour to future generations of IVUSA, ensuring it doesn't end as a one-time event. In the youth session, creating the session, incorporating the views of foreign participants, proved to be very challenging. Therefore, the sense of achievement on the day of the session was profound. Understanding the sentiments toward lakes and environmental issues from individuals abroad deepened my knowledge and broadened my perspective. Moreover, encountering language barriers emphasized the importance of English as a vital tool in communication, enhancing motivation for language learning.

— Participation in Youth Session —

Participants' Interaction



Marina Hata
Ritsumeikan University

This was my second participation in the World Lake Conference. While WLC18 was hosted virtually, I took on planning and moderating roles in the Shiga Prefecture's special session. WLC19 was held in Hungary on-site and it gratified me to have opportunities to exchange ideas with researchers and youth from various countries. Repeatedly having meetings involving five countries with significant time differences resulted in sessions viewed by many, boosting my confidence in my studies in international relations and activities in Shiga Prefecture. I am grateful to everyone involved and hope to help contribute to future youth sessions.

Toward Australia



Mana Kubozono
Ritsumeikan University

Sharing youth activities and opinions holds significant value, and I was extremely happy to be involved in it. As a director, I carefully planned the structure and objectives of the session multiple times, ensuring that the presentation appealed visually, and being conscious of tone and facial expressions to engage the audience actively. Environmental issues, including lakes, often highlight the lack of intergenerational equity. However, what I felt upon concluding the conference was the importance of youth actively raising their voices and taking action to bring about change. It is our new mission to involve our next generation and youth from additional countries, and pass it on to the next World Lake Conference in Australia, 2025.



Report from a Former JICA Training Participant

Prava Pandey (Nepal)

National Lake Conservation Development Committee

Integrated Lake Basin Management Approach: An Effective Tool for the Sustainable Conservation of Lakes and Wetlands in Nepal

Wetlands are important in terms of their ecological, economic, cultural, and recreational values. These ecosystems produce a wide range of goods and services as well as income-generating activities for people all over the world. It provides two broad values: first is ecological values (wildlife habitats, maintenance of the environment, ecological balance, etc.), and second is economic values (such as a productive ecosystem, water supply, etc.).

The Himalayan landscape of Nepal has tremendous topographic diversities followed by diversities of lakes and wetlands ways down from the Himalayan high altitude to lowland Terai. Lakes/wetlands provide water for irrigation, maintain biodiversity, enhance the livelihoods of people through eco-tourism, provide a basis for cultural and spiritual development, and so on. There are different studies and reports that Nepal is a bearer of more than 6,000 rivers, 3,252 glaciers, 2,323 glacial lakes, and several tectonic*¹ and ox-bow*²-lakes. Among them, the National Lake Conservation Development Committee has enlisted 5,358 lakes in Nepal.

Lakes of Nepal are Himalayan in nature. They are the water tower of Asia, home to many Ramsar sites, transboundary in nature, biodiversity hotspots, and high religio-cultural values. Wetlands are important habitats for the biodiversity of flora and fauna varying from permanent fast-flowing rivers to seasonal streams, from high altitude glacial lakes to lowland ox-bow lakes, from ghoulds to swamps and marshy land, from river flood plains to paddy fields and from man-made reservoirs to village ponds.



Kupinde Daha, Salyan, Nepal

The Himalayan nature of these lakes and wetlands is under various threats. The proximate causes of lake problems can arise from both the direct exploitation of lake resources as well as from human activities taking place within and outside of the lake basins, but the nature and extent of threats vary according to the geographical location and magnitude of anthropogenic pressure. Meanwhile, there is a need to raise awareness among the general public for the conservation and restoration of lakes to create opportunities for promoting lake tourism and climate-resilient green livelihood. That can be possible only by finding out the root cause of problems and the possible solutions that contribute towards mitigating efforts of those problems, as the lake and



Tilicho Lake, Manag, Nepal

wetland researcher and conservationist ILBM is an appropriate management tool to address issues of these lakes and wetlands that indeed helps by improving governance structure and ultimately help in the sustainable conservation. With the support of ILEC, an Integrated Lake Basin Management approach was implemented with the goal of sustainable conservation of lake resources for biodiversity, tourism, and livelihoods of communities in various Lake Basin Areas with the vision of Lake Prosperity, Wisdom, and Peace from climate resilient lake basin governance in Nepal. The six ILBM governance pillars have been considered the major conservation efforts in the conservation of Nepal's lakes and wetlands. It has been found that ILBM requires adequate time to deliver results with holistic, participatory conservation efforts for the conservation of forests and water resources.

*¹ Tectonic Lake - A lake formed as a result of tectonic activity.

*² Ox-bow Lake - Formed by the significant meandering of a river, where a section of the river becomes isolated due to changes in its course, resulting in a lake or marsh. Resembles the shape of a bull's horn.

ILEC's FY2023

Scientific Committee General Meeting

Nov 10, 2023



ILEC has developed **International Cooperation** activities focusing on the 19th World Lake Conference (WLC19). WLC19 was held for the first time since adopting the resolution on Sustainable Lake Management (SLM) at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA5.2). It was a good opportunity to disseminate the importance of SLM in lake environmental conservation to the world. We also conducted a training program provided to lake stakeholders in various countries as a **Human Resource Development** project, which is essential for promoting SLM.

ILEC will promote SLM globally, with the **Scientific Committee** at its core and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), national government agencies, and others.



Mar. 22-24, 2023



◆ UN 2023 Water Conference

This Conference was held for the first time in 46 years at the UN Headquarters in New York. ILEC delegates presented the Lake Biwa Cases that could contribute to SLM, and the ILEC's "Water Action Agenda" at a side event organized by the Indonesian government and UNEP. The establishment of "World Lake Day" has been included in the conference summary to address urgent water challenges such as climate change, or deteriorating water quality and aquatic ecosystems.



Sep. 29, 2023

◆ Workshop leading to WLC

Experts and researchers who related to Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basins, gathered and discussed under the theme "Toward Achieving SLM: How Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basins Can Contribute?" This output was presented at the undermentioned colloquium as "The SLM Implication of the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin Management".



◆ WLC 19 / International Colloquium

ILEC and Lake Balaton Development Council co-hosted the 19th World Lake Conference (WLC19) "Beyond Lakes: Linking Science, Culture and Governance for their Sustainable Use" in Balatonfüred, Hungary. This marked the second time in 35 years that the conference was held on the shores of Lake Balaton, following the third conference in Keszthely. A total of 354 participants from 30 countries attended. On November 6, an international colloquium titled "Promoting Sustainable Lake Management (SLM): Challenges, Achievements, and Lessons Learned" was organized as a side event in cooperation with UNEP. The colloquium attracted 134 participants from over 16 countries.



Nov. 7-9, 2023





Jul. 24-25, 2023

◆ JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project

Aiming to improve the water environment in the coastal waters of Halong Bay and Cat Ba Island, the training was conducted to learn about the “Lake Biwa Model” in which industry, government, academia, and the public work together to conserve the water environment and promote economic development. Additionally, Shiga’s eco-tourism promotion initiatives were introduced to inspire actions towards environmental preservation. Six participants including officials from administrative agencies of Hai Phong City and Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam, took part in the training.

◆ PESSVA Introduction Project in Malaysia FY2023



In the second year, the PESSVA (Participatory Ecosystem Services Shared Value Assessment) project has targeted at Bukit Merah Lake located in the northwest of Malaysia. A value assessment questionnaire of the lake was conducted residents, fishermen, local government officials, and others in the basin area. By discussing the survey results with various stakeholders, the project aimed to motivate and encourage the participation of diverse parties, including watershed residents, in lake management. Furthermore, with the goal of voluntary expansion in other countries with similar initiatives, the National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), our collaborator of this project, presented the project at WLC19.

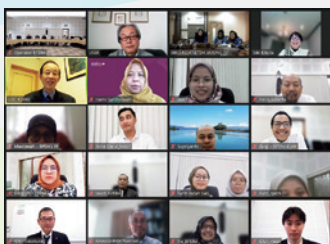
◆ FY2023 JICA-KCCP Training Program “Integrated Lake, River and Coastal Basin Management for Sustainable Use and Conservation of Water Resources”



The training was conducted to learn about the concept of ILBM through the experience of watershed management in the Lake Biwa-Yodo River Basin. Eleven government officials and researchers from 11 countries (Albania, Central African Republic, Chad, Cuba, El Salvador, India, Nicaragua, Nigeria, South Sudan, Bangladesh, and Mexico) and one staff member from JICA Nicaragua office participated.

Remote (Nov. 20 - Dec. 8, 2023)

On-site (Jan. 10 - Feb. 14, 2024)



Jan. 16-17, 2024

◆ Commissioned Project “Technical Cooperation for Improving Lake Water Quality in Indonesia”

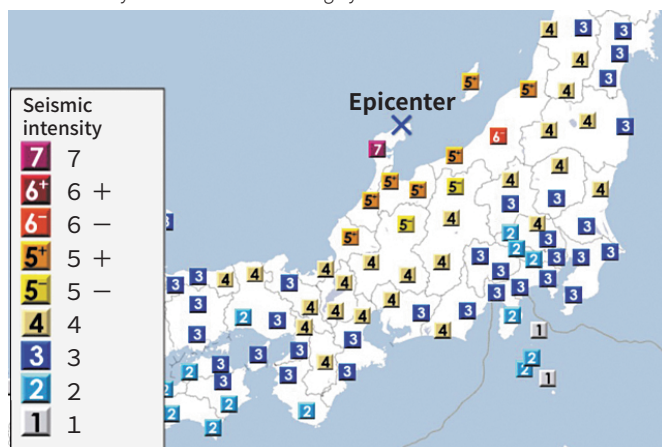
Based on the field survey of Lake Rawapenin conducted in FY2022, ILEC held a workshop commissioned by the Ministry of Environment to introduce solutions to issues such as soil runoff, household/agricultural/livestock wastewater treatment, alongside showcasing good practices from Japan. Approximately 50 participants from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, the Province of Central Java, etc., attended the workshop.

99% Chat and 1% Discussion



Yoshihisa SHIMIZU
Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

On January 1, 2024, at 4:06 pm, the Noto Peninsula Earthquake occurred with a magnitude of 7.6 and a maximum seismic intensity of 7, with the epicenter in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. In the northeastern part of the Noto Peninsula, a swarm of earthquakes with a magnitude of 5 or higher has been occurring since December 2020. This time, the earthquake was much larger than these. Damage occurred in eight prefectures (Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Nagano, Gifu, Osaka, and Hyogo). As of January 29; 1,523 people were injured including 236 deaths, and 19,286 residential buildings were damaged (122 completely destroyed, 1,900 partially destroyed, 6 flooded above the floor, 19 flooded below the floor, and 17,239 partially damaged). Lifeline services such as water, sewage, and electricity continue to remain largely unrestored.



Epicenter of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and seismic intensity in various locations



Mitsuke Island in Suzu City, known as a scenic spot on the Noto Peninsula and also called "Gunkanjima (Warship Island)" because of its shape that looks like a warship heading towards it, collapsed due to the effects of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. The scenery I had been used to seeing since I was a child had become different.

I was spending New Year's Day as usual at my home in Kyoto when the earthquake occurred. When I felt a sudden earthquake and turned on the TV, I saw that a major tsunami warning had already been issued for the Noto Peninsula. I grew up in the Noto Peninsula, which was the area affected by the recent disaster. My home was in Noto Town, and I attended high school at Iida High School in Suzu City in the Noto Peninsula. I have no family or relatives living on the Noto Peninsula now, but I called my sister who lives in Kanazawa near the Noto Peninsula. She "felt the worst shaking of her life," my sister said, but fortunately she appeared to be unharmed. I tried to contact some of my childhood friends in my hometown, Noto Town, by cell phone, but I couldn't get through. It was on January 9th that I finally received a call from them. My friends survived, but are still living in various evacuation centers. During this season, the temperature on the Noto Peninsula continues to drop below freezing, making it the lowest temperature of the year. I can't do anything because I'm far away, but I just hope that they take good care of themselves.

It has been over 40 years since I left the Noto Peninsula after graduating from high school, and we have barely had a chance to meet or talk. Lately, whenever the earthquake swarm has occurred, I have continued to call them and say, "It's okay." Each conversation was short. But this time, due to the extent of the damage, we were able to have a longer conversation than usual. We spoke to each other, starting out in standard Japanese and then speaking in local accents that I thought I had forgotten. Most of the conversations were about the time of the earthquake, the evacuation that followed, the current evacuation shelter, family, and friends, etc. I realized that we were able to have serious conversations that we don't usually have because we had spent our childhood playing together and sharing the same place and time.

I was not born on the Noto Peninsula. My father was appointed as a foreman for the construction of a railroad, so we decided to live there. As a result, when I was in the lower grades of elementary school, I was not allowed to participate in the summer festival, one of the biggest local events there. I was an outsider. I remember that my friends who I always hung out with became aloof during that period. However, after living in the local area for several years, they gradually started to let me in, and by the time of junior high school, we were joining together with the adults to liven up the summer festivals. I do not remember seriously discussing the summer festival with my friends. I think that I somehow gained acceptance through everyday life and small talks. I remember that one day before a summer festival, I was suddenly told, "You can come in, too." My short response, "Yes," which was only a very short serious conversation between us. Now, I feel that the friendship we have developed over many years has been unconsciously recognized.

Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM), which has been promoted by the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC), aims to achieve sustainable lake management and healthy lakes through the cooperation of stakeholders from many fields, targeting lakes in various environments around the world. Our goal is to promote the conservation of this ecosystem and to cherish the connections between people and nature. Serious discussions about lake basin management are of course essential in order for people from many fields to manage watersheds, transcending administrative boundaries, cultures, customs, religions, etc. However, it is difficult to achieve mutual understanding through serious conversations alone. Not only ILBM but also various occasions, friendship and love are necessary to support serious discussions and conversations. Unless we have spent time together through normal conversations and small talks, no amount of serious conversation or words will touch the other person's heart. More and more small talks are needed.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest sympathies to everyone affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, and my heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives and their families. We also pray for the earliest possible recovery and reconstruction, and for the people in the disaster to return to peaceful days. We hope that the beautiful sea and mountains of the Noto Peninsula and the warm hearts of the people will return to normal as soon as possible. To that end, I'm planning to go and have a lot of chats with them.

Our Activities Overview (FY2023)

- **May** 23 Welcome Dr. Matthew McCandless from IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) to visit ILEC
- **June** 2 Receipt of a donation from Kinki Rokin Bank
7 Receipt of a donation from Kansai Mirai Bank, Limited
- **July** 7 Welcome Dr. XU Jun from the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, to visit ILEC
23-29 JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project (Study Tour to Japan) Utilizing the Lake Biwa Model (Kusatsu, etc.)
27 Present at the Expo'70 Fund award ceremony (Fostering Next-Generation Leaders Project) **[PIC 1]**
- **August** 5 4th Family Seminar in the Environmental Education Project in collaboration with Kinki Rokin Bank, and the certified NPO "Biwako Houjou no Sato" (Moriyama) **[PIC 2]**
20-25 Workshop for PESSVA (Participatory Ecosystem Services Shared Value Assessment) Introduction Project in Malaysia FY2023 (Kusatsu)
- **September** 19-21 On-site Preparatory Meeting for the 19th World Lake Conference (Balatonfüred, Hungary)
29 **H** Workshop "Toward Achieving SLM: How can the Biwa Lake-Yodo River Basin contribute?" leading to the World Lake Conference (Kusatsu)
- **October** 12-13 Present at the 2nd Stakeholders Consultation Meeting (SCM) of the 10th World Water Forum (Bali, Indonesia) **[PIC 3]**
- **November** 6 **H** ILEC-UNEP International Colloquium "Promoting Sustainable Lake Management (SLM): Challenges, Achievements, and Lessons Learned" (Balatonfüred)
7-9 19th World Lake Conference (WLC19) "Beyond Lakes: Linking Science, Culture and Governance for their Sustainable Use" (Balatonfüred)
10 ILEC Scientific Committee General Meeting (Balatonfüred)
20-December 8 **W** FY2023 JICA-KCCP Training Program Stage 1
- **December** 6-7 Participation in the 4th International Conference on Tropical Limnology (TROPLIMNO IV) (Bogor, Indonesia) **[PIC 4]**
20 **H** WLC19 Reporting Meeting



PIC 1



PIC 2



PIC 3



PIC 4

W Web **H** Hybrid (Onsite + Web)

2024年

- **January 10 - February 14** FY2023 JICA-KCCP Training Program Stage 2 (Kusatsu, etc.)
16-17 **W** Sustainable Lake Management Workshop in Indonesia
23 **H** The Expert Meeting on Lake Basin Management in Conjunction with the Report on WLC19 (Kusatsu)
- **February** 2 JICA Regional Understanding Program (Kusatsu, etc.)
19-23 PESSVA Introduction Project in Malaysia FY2023 (Bukit Merah, Malaysia)



“Brisbane to Host WLC20 in 2025”

The memorable 20th World Lake Conference (WLC20) will be held in Brisbane, Australia, in July 2025. This marks the first time the conference is being held in Oceania.

Brisbane is the capital of Queensland in the eastern part of Australia, close to the renowned Gold Coast, and is a year-round tourist destination. Despite July being the winter season in the southern hemisphere, Brisbane boasts a sunny and mild climate, with average temperatures around 20°C.

The city of Brisbane is bisected by the meandering Brisbane River and is where urban areas and green spaces coexist. The Brisbane River is known as the 'Brown Snake' due to its color and shape, a legacy of past land clearing, and there are growing calls for the river to be turned blue and green by the 2032 Brisbane Olympics to ensure a sustainable, carbon-neutral Olympics. Despite WLC20 being primarily a lake conference, the Brisbane Convention Centre, the venue for WLC20, is adjacent to the Brisbane River. The conference will therefore examine the need for an integrated approach to land and water management given the connectivity of rivers and lakes, as well as the challenges of managing subtropical and tropical areas.



Thank You for Your Support! FY2023

● ILEC received sponsorships from the following organizations (in no particular order)



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*The latest issue, WLC19 special issue, and back issues of this newsletter are also available on our website above.