



- Mainstreaming Lakes in the Global Water Agenda -

Date and Time: October 27th, 2020, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Japan Time (UTC +9)
Participants: 133 persons from 27 countries (including 27 persons from Japan)

ILEC and UNEP, in collaborating with relevant international organizations and national governments, have initiated a call for action for mainstreaming lakes and other lentic waters in national as well as international policy frameworks on sustainable development, which is a major missing link in the global water agenda. This Webinar was organized as part of joint inaugural actions to share the needs, achievements and challenges ahead, among participants and with the global audience.

Opening Remarks



Dr. Jian Liu

Director, Science Division,
The United Nations Environment
Programme (UNEP)



Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto

President,
International Lake Environment
Committee Foundation (ILEC)

At this critical period, the issues of lakes are now more urgent than before. UNEP is aware of the multiple functions and the problems that lakes are facing. With the current scientific knowledge, we understand that Lakes are an integral part of our life-supporting system on this earth. Currently, global Lakes are experiencing problems such as pollution, eutrophication and the shrinking of their lake area. These problems route cause is land-use changes such as urbanization, rural settlements and development. These problems affect the multiple functions provided by lakes and the role played by lakes in supporting ecosystems sustainability. Using credible scientific assessments, and management approaches by UNEP and ILEC we have a joint statement which identifies these problems but also provides policy suggestions for their solution. It is therefore imperative that UNEP and ILEC should share these experiences through various channels and forums including UNEP's own with the rest of the world, particularly among developing countries.

The management of Lakes, therefore, should be mainstreamed into all discussions aimed at implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, SDG6 and SDG12. UNEP will work together with ILEC and partners worldwide to help guide the issues to be addressed at the highest levels of political leadership and to help governments make the right decisions and formulate the right policies for lakes.

ILEC has a mission to contribute to the sustainable management and to the conservation of lakes and their basin around the world. In close collaboration with the members of the Scientific Committee, ILEC has implemented a wide range of activities such as research and human resource development to address integrated lake basin management (ILBM). It is important to further develop ILBM, in addition to the integrated water resources management (IWRM) and the integrated river basin management (IRBM). It is also noted that this ILBM approach will be able to contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

I would like to draw your attention to the statement which was recently developed jointly with the UNEP. This statement is to call for all relevant international organizations to take collaborative actions to mainstream ILBM into the global water agenda through international discussions at the intergovernmental fora such as UNEA-5 in February next year and others. This statement also highlights the role of lakes in addressing long term consequences.



Presentation Session

<p>Presenter #1</p>  <p>ILEC</p>	<p>Dr. Walter Rast, Chairman, Scientific Committee, International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC) </p> <p>“Mainstreaming Lakes in Global Water Agenda”</p> <p>Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) is an approach for achieving sustainable management of lakes and reservoirs through gradual, continuous and holistic improvement of basin governance.</p> <p>At the same time, however, a comprehensive integrated framework for managing lakes is a major missing link in the Global Water Agenda, and also a weak link in International Water Resource Management (IWRM) and International River Basin Management (IRBM) arenas.</p>
<p>Presenter #2</p>  <p>Japan</p>	<p>Mr. Seiji Tsutsui, Director, Water Environment Division, Ministry of Environment </p> <p>“Water Environment Administration of Lakes in Japan”</p> <p>In Japan, preservation of water quality is pursued through environmental quality standards (EQSs) established for each river, lake and sea area. Domestic lake conservation measures are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of lake basin water quality, 2) Setting of targets based on the characteristics of each lake, and 3) Promotion of relevant collaborations.
<p>Presenter #3</p>  <p>Indonesia</p>	<p>Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi, Senior Adviser to Minister of Environment and Forestry for Industry and International Trade </p> <p>“Sustainable Lake Management in Indonesia”</p> <p>The government of Indonesia has taken action at the national and local levels to address the challenges facing lakes. These measures include formulation of integrated management plans for 30 (15 + 15) priority lakes. The call for action in Indonesia includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prioritizing lake conservation and rehabilitation efforts, 2) Enhancing community engagement, 3) Enhancing research and innovation, and 4) Developing international networking and collaborations.
<p>Presenter #4</p>  <p>The Philippines</p>	<p>Ms. Amelita DJ. Ortiz, Assistant Director, Representing Mr. Ricardo Calderon, Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources </p> <p>“Lake Basin Management Initiatives in the Philippines”</p> <p>There is presently no national policy specific on wetlands conservation, although there are relevant laws in place that provide for their conservation and sustainable use. ILBM is already being applied by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Another initiative is the ILBM training provided by ILEC. The Philippine Government supports the global initiative towards mainstreaming of lakes in the global water agenda.</p>
<p>Presenter #5</p>  <p>India</p>	<p>Ms. Manju Pandey, Joint Secretary, Forest and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment </p> <p>“Wetland Conservation Program in India”</p> <p>As the regulatory framework (policy), the central government ratified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in 2017. That is a significant step for conserving, managing and maintaining the ecological character of the wetlands without restricting their wise use. The way forward in regard to wetland conservation programs in India includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Strengthening the implementation of Ramsar Convention, 2) Enhancing regional co-operation, 3) Designating more wetlands as Ramsar sites, and 4) Promotion of integrated management and conservation of wetlands.
<p>Presenter #6</p>  <p>Malaysia</p>	<p>Dr. Zati Sharip, Senior Researcher, National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Ministry of Environment and Water </p> <p>“Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) initiatives towards transforming the Malaysian Water Sector”</p> <p>The major challenges of ILBM initiatives in Malaysia include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Deterioration of lakes due to eutrophication, sedimentation and pollution, 2) Unplanned / unsustainable catchment development, 3) Fragmentation of relevant governance mechanisms, 4) Lack of a central management authority for most lakes. <p>Accordingly, one of the ten strategies in the 12th Malaysia Plan about water is “mainstreaming water in national agendas.”</p>

Presentation Session

<p>Presenter #7</p>  <p>Nepal</p>	<p>Ms. Prava Pandey, Program Officer, National Lake Conservation Development Committee (NLCDC), Representing Mr. Raju Sapkota, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, and Executive Director of NLCDC</p>  <p>“Overview of Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) Approach for Sustainability of Lakes and Wetlands in Nepal”</p> <p>The challenges of ILBM implementation are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need for an inventory of lakes, 2) Weak technical capability, 3) Financial constraints, 4) Overlapping of Sectors, 5) Low awareness among people living in the lake region, 6) Capacity-building problems, and 7) Demarcation of lakes. <p>The way forward includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Publication of a Lake Inventory in Nepal, 2) Prioritizing the revised National lake strategy plan, 3) Establishing a Wetland Academy in Nepal, 4) ILBM implementation for Gaidahawa Lake (Rupendahi) and Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (Kaski), 5) International Workshop, and 6) ILBM demonstration site.
<p>Presenter #8</p>  <p>Kenya</p>	<p>Dr. Daniel O. Olago, Professor, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA), University of Nairobi</p>  <p>The Status of Lake Basin Management in “Kenya and the Prospect for East African Collaboration on ILBM”</p> <p>Key Observations are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lakes are highly sensitive to natural changes and anthropogenic activities. 2) Human activities in catchments and lakes adversely impact their ecosystem health and resource values. 3) The problems facing each lake basins are multi-faceted. 4) Lakes are largely ignored in the IWBM and IRBM frameworks. 5) ILBM offers opportunity for cross-sectoral and transboundary cooperation and citizen participation in management of lakes and their basins. 6) A long-term(trans-generational) view is important.
<p>Presenter #9</p>  <p>Senegal</p>	<p>Dr. Salif Diop, Professor, University Cheikh Anta Diop, and Member of Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal</p>  <p>“Challenges for ILBM/Integrated Lake Basins Management implementation in West Africa”</p> <p>For the restoration and preservation of lake basins conditions and ecosystems in West Africa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve existing overall management framework by considering the full and widest range of ecosystem services. 2) Provide due respect to legal and institutional frameworks that govern use of lake basins and water ecosystems. 3) Promote ILBM training and capacity building as well as generating scientific knowledge to underpin the integrated management of lakes and the interactions between lakes and surrounding watersheds. <p>These points are considered to be critical for achieving the sustainable management and development of lake basins systems in Africa in general, and West Africa in particular in the overall context of Climate Change.</p>

Discussion Session

<p>Moderator</p>  <p>ILEC</p>	<p>Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Executive Director and Vice President, International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC), and Professor of Shiga University</p>  <p>While the ongoing efforts to mainstream lakes in the national policy has been significant, improvement of the state of lake basins for sustainable resource use will require a great deal of inter-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder engagement. What are some of the accomplishments and challenges?</p>
<p>Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi (Indonesia)</p>	<p>For the implementation of integrated programs, strengthening coordination and communication among the lake managers is extremely important because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There are different challenges faced by different lakes because of their diverse lake ecosystems; and 2) There exist different pressures from the population, governmental priority and local conditions at the district level.
<p>Ms. Manju Pandey (India)</p>	<p>The following are some key facts on urban lakes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The state wetland authorities have formed the core groups for wetland rejuvenation in order to revive water bodies that have been polluted. 2) Development of integrated management plans for all lakes and wetlands, funded by the relevant ministries. 3) India has knowledge partners in each region who work with wetland managers for capacity building.

Discussion Session

Moderator	Infusion of ILBM into the overall national water policy (with IWRM and IRBM emphasis) is important but not so easy. How have your organizations taken up the challenges, and what were some of the specific approaches taken?
Dr. Zati Sharip (Malaysia)	We developed a strategic plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) By involving various stakeholders from the public sector organizations in order to identify the issues and the challenges, and 2) By getting consensus from the stakeholders in terms of prioritizing the issues and the measure or the strategies to be implemented.
Ms. Adelina Santos-Borja (The Philippines)	As one of the affiliated agencies of DENR, Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has evolved its achievements under the legal and institutional settings as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Clean Water Act that deals with the water quality management areas, 2) Creation of “Mini LLDA” in water quality management areas, and 3) Resorting to such policy tools as the environmental user fee system.
Ms. Prava Pandey (Nepal)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) NLCDC is the lead government institution that works to promote the ILBM approach in Nepal. 2) We are seeking co-funding from different international organizations to implement effective ILBM.
Moderator	Creating the momentum for mainstreaming requires well-coordinated actions among the leading national governments and the lead UN programs such as UNEP. Where do we stand on meeting such requirements?
Mr. Seiji Tsutsui (Japan)	Based on Japan’s lake basin management experience: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have been supporting and collaborating with Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia, 2) We have been introducing Japan’s experience in integrated lake management on various occasions, and 3) We will continue to cooperate and collaborate with Asian and African countries on integrated lake management.
Mr. Patrick M'Mayi (UNEP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There is a need to for collaboration at the national, regional, and global levels in the management of Lakes. The application of ILBM and IRBM to complement IWRM will help to achieve SDG 6.6. 2) To achieve this, we will need the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector stakeholder. 3) UNEP is supportive of the efforts of countries that seek to apply the ILBM approach and encourages their collaboration on this management approach.
Moderator	From the view point of ILEC Scientific Committee, what are some of the key challenges facing ILEC in terms of taking a lead in mainstreaming lakes globally in Latin America, East Africa and West Africa?
Dr. Walter Rast (ILEC)	Some findings are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Many people are already using some elements of ILBM. 2) Common management challenges are eutrophication and biodiversity as major themes. 3) Effective Governance is critical. 4) We need to develop a lake network in Latin America. <p>One of the primary purposes in the Lake Mainstreaming document is to share experience, cross fertilization, lesson learned, training courses and joint projects.</p>
Prof. Daniel O. Olago (Kenya)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It is very important to enhance the networks amongst national ministries of environment and water. 2) Cross ministerial collaborations can be extended. 3) Inter-sectoral planning will be needed.
Prof. Salif Diop (Senegal)	We have learned a lot from stakeholders who are intervening in the area of water. In term of Governance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) People are insisting on an interlinkage aspect and an integrated aspect of these elements such as wetlands and lakes, because they are at risk today. 2) It is important to revisit the interlinkages and interactions in the ILBM, IWRM and IRBM. 3) The lake will be more visible in the agenda of discussion by pushing those elements forward.

Summary Remarks by Moderator Dr. Masahisa Nakamura:

Thanks to you all, we have come to a successful conclusion of this important Webinar, which is summarized as follows:

- It provided us with an overview of the mainstreaming needs, accomplishments as well as challenges ahead, of lakes and other lentic waters at the national, regional, as well global levels.
- According to the presentations made by national government representatives, it was clear that they have made a significant progress in mainstreaming lakes in the overall national water policy of respective countries.
- However, the challenges faced by them are also very grave particularly due to institutional and human resource limitations.
- In addition, seriously in need is the recognition at the apex international level of the importance of lakes and other lentic waters in the overall national water policy of respective countries.
- It is hoped that the momentum created at this successful Webinar will be carried forward to the upcoming national, regional and international fora, including the 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the 18th World Lake Conference and the 9th World Water Forum.

