

From Lake Biwa to the World



International Symposium 2022

“Fostering the Value of Lakes for Future Generations”

International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) held the International Symposium 2022 "Fostering the Value of Lakes for Future Generations" on Saturday, October 15, 2022, in a hybrid format (Venue: Lake Biwa Museum Hall / Live Streaming) with seven ILEC Scientific Committee members (from six countries), who are internationally renowned scientists and experts in the field of lakes.

For "future development of resource use" in addition to the resolution "sustainable lake management" at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA5.2) held in Nairobi in March 2022, it is important to work together with local communities, symbolized by the "Lake Biwa Model". Therefore, this conference was held to share and discuss efforts to protect and enhance the value of lakes and to disseminate them to the world so that young people and citizens can reaffirm the value of lakes and deepen their understanding of the further development of sustainable lake management, using ecotourism as a starting point.

The event was viewed by 175 people from 20 countries on-site and online countries. We would like to thank everyone who participated.



◎Summary of Opening Remarks



〈Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto, President, ILEC〉

The resolution on "Sustainable Lake Management" at the UNEA 5.2 was a major step for sustainable lake management.

Now is the time for all stakeholders to accelerate action toward the goal of sustainable lake management. Citizens need to understand the value of the lake environment.



〈Mr. Taizo Mikazuki, Governor of Shiga Prefecture〉

- Video Message -

Lake Biwa is a mirror reflecting our lives, and it can never shine if we only focus on cleaning it. We who live around Lake Biwa must reconsider our lifestyles for the sake of the lake's environment. Protecting Lake Biwa's environment also means reconsidering our ways of life.

◎Part 1. Final Judging of Lake Ecotourism Contest

To foster human resources capable of contributing to sustainable lake management through tourism promotion efforts, the "Lake Ecotourism Contest" was held to discover the value of lakes through ecotourism proposals from the younger generation and to use these proposals to improve the environment. Eight groups applied for the contest, and the four groups that passed the preliminary screening gave presentations, followed by the final screening and awards.

[Judges]

- Yoshika Yamamoto*, Professor, Heian Jogakuin (St. Agnes') College
- Yoshiyuki Kawato, Chair, Biwako Visitors Bureau Public Interest Incorporated Association
- Kayoko Kameda, Vice Director, Shiga Prefectural Lake Biwa Museum
- Yoichi Nakajima, Director, Lake Biwa Conservation and Restoration Division, Shiga Prefectural Government
- Ajit Kumar Pattnaik, ILEC Scientific Committee (India)
- Alejandro Juarez Aguilar, ILEC Scientific Committee (Mexico)

○Special Judge for Viewer's Award



Onsite and Online participants

Prize/Award	Affiliation	Title
Grand Prize *1 and Viewer's Award *2	Seian University of Art and Design	Enjoying Tracing Ecotourism
Excellence Award	International Volunteer University Student Association (IVUSA), Kyoto University of Foreign Studies	"Be a Researcher "Tour in BIWAKO
Excellence Award	Ritsumeikan University	Eco-Tourism starts with Trail Running
Special Award	General Incorporated Association SwitchSwitch	Experience 400 years of history! Traditional Fishing Method Sustainable Tour
ILEC Award (Participation Award)	Biwako Hojo no Sato Ritsumeikan University	Creating a River Where Fireflies Fly Ecotourism to promote Shiga Prefecture's attractions
Participation Award	Omi Uraraka Net, Kobe University	Reed Tourism
	The University of Shiga Prefecture	What "Attractive Eco-tourism for young generation" be like?
	Kyoto Sangyo University	Use non-native species to revitalize the local economy and develop a new food culture.

*1 Grand Prize winner will participate in the 19th World Lake Conference (Lake Balaton, Hungary).

*2 Viewer's Award winner was selected by real-time voting by all participants (both onsite and online).

Summary of the Contest <Dr. Yoshika Yamamoto*, Chief Judge>

All the presentations were innovative ideas from young people who will lead the next generation, and they were all wonderful ecotourism proposals that will further refine the value of lakes. We expect that the concept of ecotourism itself will take another step forward from here.

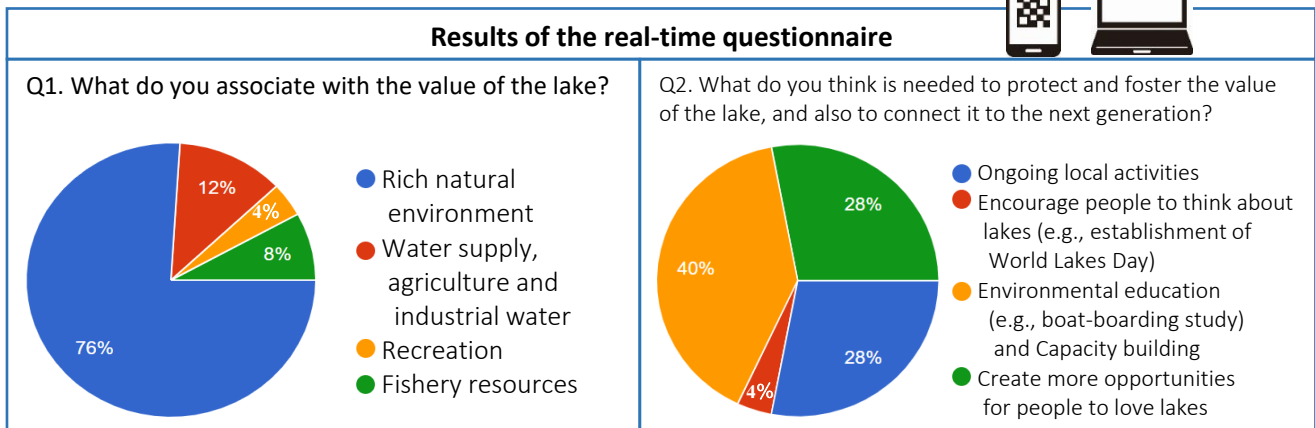


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“Fostering the Value of Lakes for Future Generations”

Keynote speeches were given on topics such as "Lake Biwa System," which was registered as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) this July, and ecotourism and lake environment conservation overseas.

In the panel discussion on the theme of "Toward Sustainable Use of Cultural Service," the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Indonesian government, Japan's Ministry of the Environment, and the Shiga Prefectural Government were invited to discuss human resource development, local participation, education, and legal systems for sustainable lake management in the future. And also the results of a real-time questionnaire conducted after the keynote speech were presented. Moderator Adelina Santos Borja, ILEC Scientific Committee Member (Philippines), summed up the session by saying, "It is important to reflect local voices and act towards sustainable ecotourism and lake management."



General Summary of the Symposium <Mr. Yasuo Takahashi, Director, ILEC>

We shared our experiences in managing the rich Japanese lakes, especially Lake Biwa. We believe that continuous efforts based on scientific knowledge will improve the environment of lakes over the world.



©Exhibits

Panels on "Mainstreaming Lakes" by ILEC, "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)" and "Mother Lake Goals (MLGs)" by the Shiga Prefectural Government were displayed in front of the Lake Biwa Museum Hall. Additionally, product exhibition booths of "Hiyoshi Corporation", and "HORIBA Advanced Techno, Co., Ltd.", which sponsored this event, were also set up at the annex of the Lake Biwa Museum.



◎Side Story of the Event

<Taste the delicacies of Lake Biwa!>

During lunch, "Let's Eat the Blessings of Lake Biwa" was held as an opportunity for exchange between contest participants and symposium officials. Participants enjoyed the food culture of Lake Biwa, such as Biwa trout and shrimp beans, while deepening exchanges.



<From Lake Biwa to the world!>

With the support of 17 companies and organizations in Shiga Prefecture, we produced Shigaraki-ware pin badges in the shape of Lake Biwa with the hope to share information with the world from Lake Biwa, the venue of the event.

The six-color badges represent the diverse beauty and value of Lake Biwa, such as pellucid water and sunset, and express "Fostering the Value of Lakes for Future Generations".



◎Voices of Participants

We received many positive comments from the participants. We would like to thank you again deeply for your participation. Your feedback (comments, requests, etc.) will be utilized in ILEC's future activities.

<Some of the comments>

- ☕ It was good to hear young people's innovative ideas.👍👍
- ☕ I gained a lot of insights from the keynote speeches.👍👍
- ☕ I learned a lot by listening to global precedents. 👍
- ☕ I liked the venue with Lake Biwa in front of us.
- ☕ It was good that it was a hybrid format so I could participate in the same voting and questionnaire both at the venue and online, which gave me a sense of unity.👍👍
- ☕ The interpretation was smooth and easy to listen to.👍👍
- ☕ It is unfortunate that there were parts where the audio was choppy and the content could not be understood.👍
- ☕ The Viewer's Awards should have been announced at the event.👍

◎Sponsors (in no particular order)

