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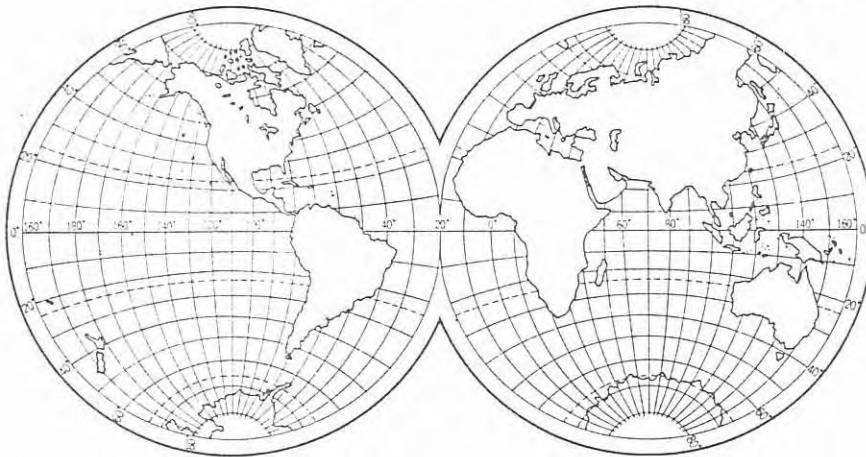
NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FOUNDATION

— For Better Lake Management —

This Newsletter is also available in Japanese.

Across the Globe, Across the Generations ILEC's 10th Anniversary



The Lake Biwa Declaration adopted at the 1st World Lake Conference in 1984, which led to the establishment of ILEC two years later, included proposals to mobilise scientists, administrators and the general public for the sake of saving the world's lakes from further deterioration and destruction.

The Kasumigaura Declaration, which was adopted last year at the 6th World Lake Conference (**see report on page 4**), widened the scope of work that must be done by including proposals on population and biodiversity; reflecting the change of people's attitude and awareness on environmental issues in general and lakes and reservoirs in particular. The Declaration also asked all those concerned with

the preservation of lakes, such as administrators, business people, academics and the public, to establish a new partnership for our common future.

A small NGO, such as ILEC, will always be limited as to what it can do by itself, but through global partnerships that achievement can be multiplied into something really worthwhile. We believe our partnerships with organisations such as UNEP, SIL, CCIW and AWB, as well as through our multi-talented and connected Scientific Committee, ILEC has indeed made a significant contribution to the preservation of the world's environment over the last 10 years and will continue to do so for many generations to come.

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ILEC Activities in 1995

January-March: JICA/ILEC group training course on Lake Water Quality Management. This was the 5th course since its inauguration in 1991, with researchers from developing countries and countries with economies in transition gathering in Kusatsu, Shiga for 10 weeks.



Professor Matsui makes a presentation to a JICA/ILEC trainee

March: Publication of "Compact-size Data Book of World Lake Environments Vol. 2 - Africa and Europe".

Symposium on Aral Sea and the Surrounding Region; and Forum on Caspian, Aral and Dead Sea in Shiga.

Completion of construction and move to ILEC's new office buildings (see Newsletter #26).

May: 7th General Meeting of the ILEC Scientific

Committee, with Professor Jørgensen becoming new chairman (see Newsletter #26).

June: Commemorative ceremony and symposium on the opening of the UNEP/IETC Shiga Office (see Newsletter #26).



The UNEP Executive Director, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell at the new UNEP/IETC Shiga Office in June, 1995.

October: Publication of "Directory of Water Related International Cooperation" - introducing international cooperation projects directly targeted at developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

6th International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Lakes (World Lake Conference), Ibaraki, Japan (see page 4).

JICA/ILEC Training Course - A Trainee's Viewpoint

Fatimah Md. Yusoff - trainee on 1996 Lake Water Quality Management Course

JICA/ILEC's training course on lake water quality is a noble way of sharing Japanese experiences in water pollution controls with developing countries. Mutual exchange of technologies and ideas between Japan and developing countries are important in dealing with the water pollution problems these countries are facing now and will face in the future. During the three month course, the participants not only learned and acquired knowledge from experienced scientists and researchers in classrooms and laboratories, but experienced pollution control and prevention activities in various local and national government organizations, autonomous bodies and industrial sectors in many places across Japan, especially around lakes Biwa and Kasumigaura.

Japan has made excellent progress in environmental management in the last 40 years as evidenced from

the greatly improved water and air quality, as well as public health. Japan's success in environmental pollution control is not only due to the concerted efforts at the government's level, but also due to historical, economic, social and cultural factors. Success in integrating environment into industrial policy, freedom of press, high standard of literacy, traditional respect for nature and positive industrial behaviour are some of the factors which were highly conducive to Japan's success in this area. We recognise that it is important to control these factors in developing countries.

With continued effort and commitment by JICA, ILEC and representatives from various countries, a strong network of cooperation in water resource management would lead to a better pollution controls in many developing countries.

Lakes and Reservoir Management

A Cameroonian Perspective - Jacqueline Nkoyok

The problem of lakes and reservoirs management in the world in general and in Africa in particular is a cause for concern for both countries in the North and South. They constitute real dangers for the existence of humanity, but equally have direct impact on the life of the people through such factors as diseases, disasters and desertification. The role of NGOs, actors for change closer to the population, is primarily to keep the population aware of all these dangers and elicit their contribution and participation as well as those of the government.

However, within the context of economic crisis, general poverty and social injustices, it appears in some countries that issues of development are given priority. In this situation; if these countries have to protect the environment in general and provide for the management of lakes and reservoirs there are certain strategies to adopt and a particular processes to follow.

In Cameroon, for instance, the environmental problem in lakes require a global view of the situation

because of the location of Cameroonian lakes in different ecological regions. The solutions merit in this way specific methods after efficient diagnosis and an assessment of existing projects (Lac Tchad reservoir, Bamendjin's Dam, Maga Dam, Edea Dams, Lac Nyos etc.) The key elements to conserving and managing lakes in our country are: giving priority to lakes and reservoirs management; improvement of local technologies; and looking for technical assistance in building of partnerships and soliciting participation. The management of lakes and reservoirs for a rational use of their ecosystem is possible if all actors make it a priority and are on an equal footing. That is to say that they have equal access to information resources and decision making process.

In order to preserve the world's heritage with regard to lake ecosystems in Cameroon, the government is calling on donors or sponsors for study and implementation of a thorough survey of lakes in the country. This survey would be carried out in collaboration with national NGOs.

IETC's Lake Related Projects

In this brief article Dr. Habib N. El-Habr, acting Deputy Director of UNEP/IETC, tells us of two forthcoming projects of interest to ILEC Newsletter readers.

IETC has, among others, two projects focused on sustainable management of lakes/reservoirs and the related technologies applied for their conservation.

Urbanisation is increasing in most parts of the world. A major issue is how to provide good quality water to the increasing demands of urban centres due to both higher levels of population and increasing per capita demand due to changing lifestyles. It is also essential that the sources of water for urban centres are not contaminated due to domestic, industrial and agricultural activities.

There are some important lakes/reservoirs in different parts of the world which are the main sources of water for major urban centres, as well as providing water for agricultural and industrial uses. Water allocation between the various uses, as well as between the different prefectures or states of the countries concerned, is now creating

conflicts since the lakes/reservoirs can provide only a limited quantity of water on a sustainable basis. In addition, high nutrient loads from domestic, agricultural and forestry activities are contributing to serious eutrophication and growth of aquatic weeds, thus resulting in further environmental degradation.

The aim of the first of these projects will be to provide a focus for different countries, where major lakes/reservoirs are being used to supply water to urban centres. Emphasis will be on sharing of knowledge in terms of technology and management practices used for sustainable management of such lakes/reservoirs.

The second project is a case study looking at six lakes in Indonesia in terms of state of the environment and technology assessment needs for their sustainable management. We shall keep the ILEC Newsletter informed of our progress.

