



# NEWSLETTER

– Save Water, Save Lakes –

International Lake Environment Committee Foundation

This newsletter is also available in Japanese.

## 30th Anniversary of ILEC: Our Origin and WLCs

Being based on the shore of Lake Biwa, Japan, ILEC has been addressing issues of our world's lakes and their basins since 1986 under the three pillars of its mission; namely; 1) Global Promotion of Lake Basin Management; 2) Organizational Support for the World Lake Conferences (WLCs), and 3) Environmental Training and Education. ILEC is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, thanks to its long-lasting and productive partnerships with its many "lake friends," colleagues and supporters around the world.

What triggered the foundation of ILEC was a keynote speech from the then-Executive Director M. K. Tolba of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the 1984 Shiga Conference on Conservation and Management of World Lake Environment (LECS'84), held in Otsu, Japan. This Conference, now recognized as the first WLC, was successfully organized by the Government of Shiga Prefecture, which is home to Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, with major participation by its citizens, local business owners, academia, and involvement of other lake stakeholders worldwide. The LECS'84, was a unique and unprecedented international conference focused specifically on lake management issues with involvement of such a wide range of participations. The Lake Biwa Declaration was launched at the end of the conference, summarizing key discussions from the event, and proposing guidelines of actions to be taken toward the future for sustainable management of lakes and their basins. Ever since then, the "Declarations" have traditionally concluded the fourteen WLCs subsequently organized all around the world, starting from the Mackinac Island of Michigan, USA, up to the most recent WLC in Perugia, Italy, where the WLCs have marked their 30 year long history in 2014.



LECS'84, (1984 Otsu, Japan)

Today, with the 16th World Lake Conference (WLC16) about to be convened in the beautiful island of Bali, Indonesia during November 7 - 11, 2016, this special issue of the ILEC Newsletter reflects on the history of the WLCs, with an overview of their Declarations, all featured on the next two pages. Before that, however, let us quote the aforementioned monumental keynote speech\* by Dr. M. K. Tolba, leading to the origin of ILEC and the WLCs: **"The process I have declared, including the concept of environmentally sound development, are designed to restore a healthy, nurturing relationship between parent and child, between people and lakes. The Earth's resources are not inexhaustible, and the time is not far off when our development practices must reach a sustainable steady state if we are to survive and prosper as a species. Freshwater lakes are a vital part of our natural resource heritage. Properly cared for, lakes will help support humankind indefinitely. But if lakes are abused beyond their limits, the parent, like the child, will die. ... I believe we should give special attention as to how**

**we can prevent the good work of this conference being forgotten. The subject we are considering is far too important. I am therefore proposing that we establish an international Shiga committee to follow up on the work of this conference, with a focal point established in this prefecture, you should try to meet annually or biennially at the site of another lake where steps have been taken to safeguard its environmental health."**

Although Dr. Tolba unfortunately passed away last March, his inspiring message to future generations will live on, as it has so far, with our continued work and collaboration for sound assessment and management of the world's lakes. ILEC will continue to vigorously pursue this mission, centered around the successful organization of future WLCs. We want to again thank all our readers, colleagues and friends for their continued support for ILEC, as well as their partnership as we face future lake challenges.

\* Cited from the LECS'84 Proceedings (Shiga Prefectural Government and National Institute for Research Advancement, 1984)

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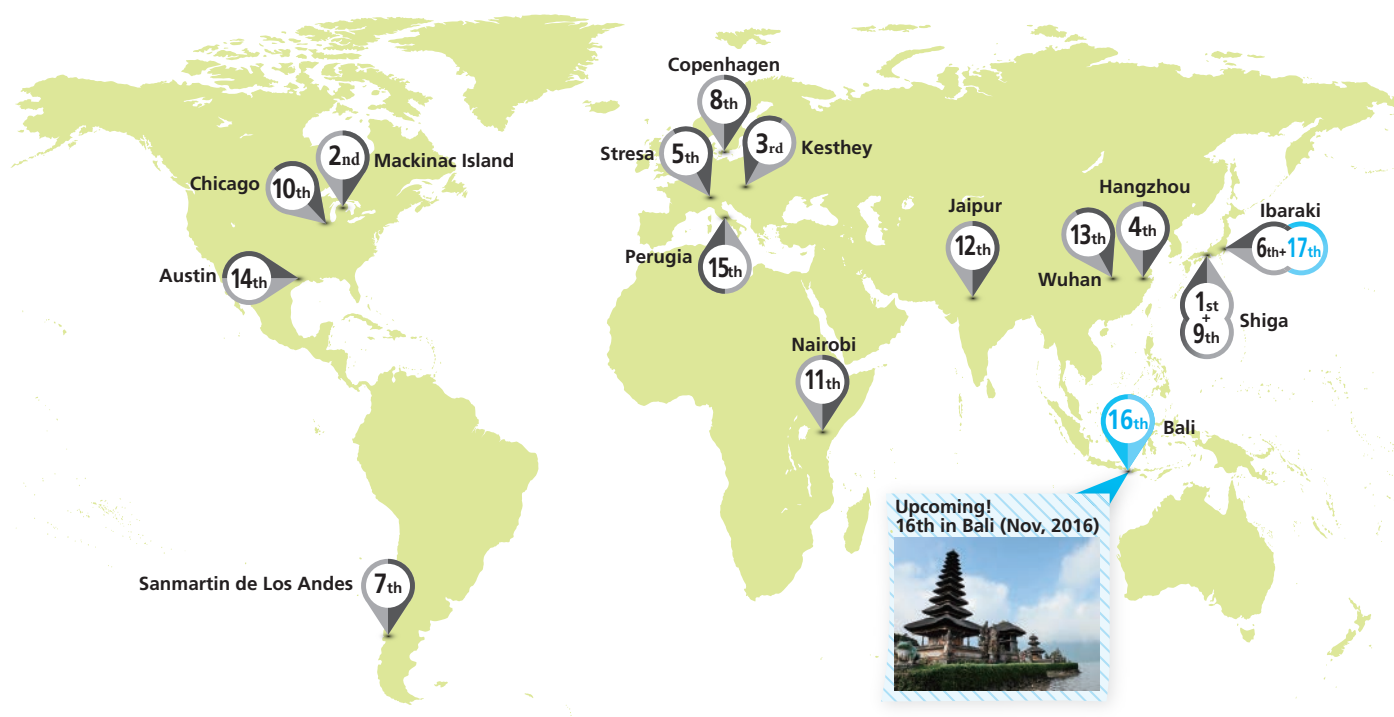
- 30th Anniversary of ILEC: Our Origin and WLCs
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# WLCs: Past and Hereafter

ILEC's mission is to address lake issues around the world and it has convened previous World Lake Conferences (WLCs) in many locations, attracting participants from many countries. The WLC was born to succeed the 1984's Shiga Conference on Conservation and Management of World Lake Environment, known as LECS'84, which was held on the shore of Lake Biwa, Japan. Following which, the last 14 WLCs have been convened in Argentina, China, Denmark, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, and USA. **The next Conference, WLC16 is about to be convened in Bali, Indonesia during November 7 to 11, 2016.** Then the upcoming WLC17 is scheduled in October 2018 in Ibaraki, Japan.

	Year	Venue	Theme	Main Host
LECS'84	1984	Otsu, Shiga, Japan	Toward a More Harmonious Inter-relationship between Man and Lakes	Shiga Prefectural Government
WLC2	1986	Mackinac Island, Michigan, USA	Water Contamination by Toxic Substances of Large Lakes in the World	Government of Michigan State
WLC3	1988	Kesthey, Hungary	Environmental Issues on Lakes such as Eutrophication, Acidification, Toxic Substances, Modeling, Approaches to Rehabilitation and Roles of Stakeholders	Ministry of Environment and Water Resource, Hungary
WLC4	1990	Hangzhou, Zhejiang, PROC	Eutrophication of Lakes	Academy of Environmental Science, PROC
WLC5	1993	Stresa, Piemonte, Italy	Strategies for Lake Ecosystems beyond 2000	National Institute of Hydrobiology, Italy
WLC6	1995	Tsukuba and Tsuchiura, Ibaraki, Japan	Harmonizing Human Life with Lakes toward the Sustainable Use of Lakes	Ibaraki Prefectural Government
WLC7	1997	Sanmartin de Los Andes, Argentina	Keep the Natural Lake Environment Clean for Future Generations	National Institute of Water, Argentina
WLC8	1999	Copenhagen, Denmark	Sustainable Lake Management	Copenhagen City
WLC9	2001	Otsu, Shiga, Japan	Partnership for Sustainable Life in Lake Environments: Making Global Freshwater Mandates Work	Shiga Prefectural Government
WLC10	2003	Chicago, Illinois, USA	Global Threats to Large Lakes	The International Association for Great Lakes Research
WLC11	2005	Nairobi, Kenya	Management of Lake Basins for their Sustainable Use: Global Experience and African Issues	Government of Kenya
WLC12	2007	Jaipur, Rajasthan, India	Conserving Lakes and Wetlands for Future	Ministry of Environment and Forests, India
WLC13	2009	Wuhan, Hubei, PROC	Lake Ecosystem Restoration: Global Challenges and the Chinese Initiative	Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences
WLC14	2011	Austin, Texas, USA	Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages	River Systems Institute, Texas State University
WLC15	2014	Perugia, Umbria, Italy	Lakes, the Mirrors of the Earth: Balancing Ecosystem Integrity and Human Wellbeing	Umbria Scientific Meeting Association
WLC16	2016	Bali, Indonesia	Lake Ecosystem Health and Its Resilience: Diversity and Risks of Extinction	Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
WLC17	2018	Ibaraki, Japan	Harmonious Coexistence of Humans and Lakes: Toward Sustainable Ecosystem Services	Ibaraki Prefectural Government



## An Invitation to Hosting Future WLCs :

ILEC is continuously seeking appropriate venues for future WLCs, consistent with its theme of assessing, managing and conserving lakes and other lentic water systems. Accordingly, ILEC is inviting interested parties, agencies and organizations to indicate their interest in hosting future conferences. The subsequent WLC18 is likely to be held in 2020, for which we seek for prominent bids from interested entities. For more details, please contact us at +81-77-568-4567 or infoilec "at" ilec.or.jp ("at"= @).

# The Declarations of Past WLCs

It has been commonly addressed in the past WLC discussions that “it is essential for humans to have healthy lakes for the future generation, and with the emerging concerns of accelerating deterioration of lakes, we must restore the lakes in sustainable condition, while recognizing socioeconomic situation.” Initiated in the 1984’s Lake Biwa Declaration, the WLCs have been concluded with statements from participants, announced as “Declarations”, which evolved along the social development of the times. Here are some highlights of the past WLC Declarations:



Development by research of adaptation strategy to meet the challenges of climate change

Development of guidelines / protocols to control invasive aquatic species

Encouragement of active participation of stakeholders including women and youth in local communities

Establishment of an International Year for Lakes to be considered by the UN

Enhancement of local capacities for sustainable management

Establishment of a center for excellence in Africa for promoting a new generation of scientific knowledge

Fund mobilization for supporting the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**2005 Nairobi**

Establishment of an Asian center of excellence for training and education

Promotion of lake / wetland restoration & management through twinning arrangements with international support

Development of institutional & financial mechanisms for international cooperation

**2007 Jaipur**

Particular attention to be directed to linkages between **flowing and pooled freshwater systems**, the regulating / provisioning / cultural services

Implementation of integrated water management actions & programs in hydrological & socioeconomic aspect

Education for multi-stakeholders, including women and youth, of their impacts on aquatic ecosystems

Strive for putting the Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) approach into mainstream discussions in the global water dialogue

Continuous & adequate financial support are essential for sustainable managing of freshwater systems

**2011 Austin**

**2014 Perugia**

Greater attention to be given to the role of lakes as barometers of climate change impacts & risks

Achievement of sustainable lake ecosystem services to be ensured by multi-stakeholders

Education for evolving cultural ties that exist between lakes & human societies

The ILBM as a major advance to achieve sustainable ecosystem services



**2016 Bali**

**1984 Shiga**

Models applicable to environmental management of drainage basins, surveying & monitoring, strategies for controlling diffuse sources of pollutants

Institutionalization of environmental impact assessment in decision - making

Awareness among the public of preventing future environmental deterioration

Education & training in lake behavior to overcome deficiencies in human resources

International exchange of information & experience in lake behavior & management

**2009 Wuhan**

Technological development in the lake management to promote eutrophication control & ecological restoration

Development of **low-carbon economy / circular economy / green economy**

Promotion of community-oriented approach for protecting ecosystem services

Promotion of the ILBM as the primary approach for lake basin management

Exploration of new financial instruments to address sustainable lake ecosystem services





# Obituary: Two Inspirational Figures in ILEC History Pass Away

Last March, two inspiring individuals associated with the birth and growth of ILEC over the past years unfortunately passed away. We send our wishes that they may rest in peace, and also offer our sincere condolences to their families, their many friends and colleagues.

Geneva, March 28, 2016 - Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Dr. Mostafa Kamal Tolba, passed away at the age of 93. Dr. Tolba was a key figure behind the birth of ILEC. His seminal contribution dates back to 1984 on the shore of Lake Biwa, Japan, where the Shiga Conference on Conservation and Management of World Lake Environment (LECS'84), which is now considered to be the very first World Lake Conference (WLC), was held. As the then Executive Director of UNEP, he proposed the establishment of an international committee to realize the trans-generational succession of the Conference and to facilitate the development of a rational management plan for lakes and reservoirs and their basins. (The related article is featured on the cover page of this Newsletter.) Without his proposal, ILEC and WLCs may have not been established and flourished over time.



The late Dr. Tolba at LECS'84 (Otsu, Japan, 1984)

Copenhagen, March 5, 2016 - One of ILEC's founding members, Dr. Sven Erik Jørgensen, passed away at the age of 82. He was a world-renowned and award-winning ecologist and chemist, including the Stockholm Water Prize Laureate (2004) and the 1st Prigogine Prize Winner (2004). During his professional career, he was Professor Emeritus in the field of environmental chemistry at the University of Copenhagen. In his 20 years of service at ILEC, he helped this newly-born Foundation grow and expand its world-wide activities, notably with his major leadership as Scientific Committee Chair, from 1995 to the year of his resignation, 2006.



The late Dr. Jørgensen at WLC3 (Keszthely, Hungary, 1988)

## Thank You for Your Support!

- In the Fiscal Year 2015, ILEC received sponsorship from the following Supporting Member Organization (60,000 JPY or more)



\*The online donation will soon be available on our website.

### Donate to ILEC

Since 1986, ILEC has been promoting rational and sound management of world lakes and their catchment areas consistent with sustainable development policies through its global partnership with UNEP and other international/national agencies.

Your donation supports our activities. For more details, please contact us at the following number of E-mail address.



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