



# NEWSLETTER

**International Lake Environment Committee Foundation**

*- Promoting Sustainable Lake Management -*

This Newsletter is also available in Japanese.

## Biwako Declaration 2001



Closing Ceremony ... Saying Goodbye... until Chicago 2003

**W**ater is life; lakes are vital for life on earth. Lakes support diverse ecosystems, river systems and cultures.

Lake environments are in crisis. The harmonious relationship needed between humans and nature in lake environments continues to be disrupted and has even deteriorated, despite the Biwako and Kasumigaura Declarations of 1984 and 1995.

We can only protect lakes by looking critically at the developed countries' lifestyles of the 20th century and recognizing the difficult socio-economic situation of developing countries. Since lakes are precious to all life on earth, we must make renewed efforts to conserve and restore lake environments.

The essential precondition for improvement and sustainability of lake environments is collaboration among individuals, organizations and communities to restore harmony between people and nature.

As concerned citizens, artists, administrators, politicians, journalists, scientists, students, NGOs, business and community leaders, we stakeholders have come together again on the shores of Lake Biwa to echo and embrace the spirit of the first world lake conference.

New themes have emerged from the new and diverse voices. We have heard a new emphasis on the conservation of lakes based on ecosystem management, and the close connection between lake management, culture, and spirituality. Understanding the fruits and limitations of this conference and reflecting our deep concern, we call for action.

In particular we must:

1. Build and strengthen partnerships among individuals and organizations within the lake community.
2. Disclose and share information, and promote environmental education, and build a capacity of people.
3. Promote scientific research and monitoring.
4. Promote integrated water resource management of lake and river basin systems.
5. Promote international cooperation and establish a global lake alliance.
6. Explore new and innovative financial arrangements.

9th International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Lakes, Biwako2001  
November 16, 2001

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Biwako Declaration 2001
- Citizens, Journalists, and Scientists
- NGO Workshop
- Aral Sea Crisis
- Prof. Bill William's Obituary
- Post-conference Training Course
- Joint Symposium
- Lakes of the World - Lake Nakuru
- ILEC/JICA Training Courses
- <http://www.ilecforums.org>

### Citizens, Journalists, and Scientists

By Dianne Dumanoski

ILEC Scientific Committee member,  
Journalist

One of the most important political developments over the past decade has been the explosive growth in the number of NGOs or non-governmental organizations around the world and the way they have been transforming environmental efforts at every level — from the local watershed to the global arena. Although most people would agree that citizen participation is "desirable" in environmental efforts, I would go further, based on my experience as an environmental journalist, and argue that these NGOs play an absolutely essential role and that our efforts to find our way to sustainable lakes and a sustainable way of life will not succeed without them. At the recent international lakes conference Biwako 2001, I discussed the interplay between scientists, journalists, and citizens and my thoughts about how we can improve the communication of scientific evidence and thereby foster citizen participation.

Oftentimes, people regard NGOs as lobbying groups whose primary role is to pressure politicians and bureaucrats into action. This is an important part of what NGOs do, but, in my experience, citizen activists make other significant contributions: they help identify emerging problems; their participation can lead to better policies and make it more likely that these policies have political and social support; they can serve as watch dogs to make sure policies are actually carried out.

Journalists act as information brokers in this process and they serve as the main link between scientists and the larger society. They sit at the center of a network of connection. A journalist is usually the only one involved who is in direct contact with everyone else. He or she gathers information from scientists, business and government and passes on what has been learned to the public. Journalists also bring the questions citizens raise to those who investigate problems such as scientists or to those who make decisions. But the best environmental journalists play a larger role than simply brokers of information or trans-

lators of complex scientific information into a form accessible to non-scientists. One of the most important things journalists do is help set the public agenda. They can shine the spotlight on society and identify something as a problem in need of a solution. Once an emerging problem comes into the spotlight, the news stimulates public interest and people want to know more. This, in turn, can stimulate interviews with scientists or new research into an emerging problem and it can stir NGOs into action. When an environmental issue becomes controversial, journalists working with scientists also play a valuable role by sorting out conflicting information or investigating the validity of public fears.

Given the growing importance of NGOs, how can we do a better job of getting scientific information to citizens? I would begin by working to eliminate obstacles that now exist in the fields of journalism and in science. Although one frequently blames the reporter for the shortcomings of a report, the main problem in journalism today stems from newspaper editors and managers, who do not appreciate the need to develop specialty beats. It takes a good deal of time for a reporter to acquire the experience and expertise needed to cover complex environmental issues and to develop relationships with key scientists. Over the past decade in the US, the trend has been toward fewer environmental specialists in the media rather than more.

On the scientific side of the equation, the education of scientists, which is too narrow and often reductionist, is a great obstacle. There is generally little or no emphasis in scientific training on developing the skills that will be needed to communicate to the broader community. The other major failing in the scientific field is that often no one is in charge of the big picture. In the environmental arena particularly, we have a pressing need to integrate individual, narrowly focused pieces of research into a more holistic understanding of the human impact on natural systems that can guide activism and support decisions that move human society toward sustainability.

### The World Lake Conference NGO Workshop

by Shinji Ide

Deputy Secretary General,  
Kosho Net, Japan

Kosho Net organized an NGO Workshop in Shiga, Japan, on November 10, 11, and 14, 2001 during the 9th World Lakes Conference. The total numbers of participants and speakers were 370 and 25, including 3 from overseas, respectively.

It was an exciting meeting in which a lot of NGO activists who play an active role in all parts of the country could exchange their frank views and be acquainted with each other. As an outcome of the workshop, 20 domestic NGOs with interests in water have cooperated in the process of creating the "Water Century NGO Declaration", which was adopted on November 15.

The contents of declaration can be seen at the following URL:

<http://www.ses.usp.ac.jp/2001biwa/Global/declarationF.html>

Compared with the 1st World Lakes Conference held in Shiga in 1984, NGOs were considerably more successful in advertising our existence in the Conference this time. Your comments on the declaration will be most welcome and appreciated.



Workshop in action.

### Workshop 'Aral Sea crisis and its rehabilitation'

By Nick Aladin,  
ILEC Scientific Committee member, Zoological Institute of Russian Academy, Russia

There is no longer just one Aral Sea. In 1989 it was divided into two separate lakes: one at the North - Small Aral, and one at the South - Big Aral, due to the decrease in the water level. Since that time hydrology, hydrobiology and the fate of both lakes have taken a different course. In the Small Aral water the balance is positive because the in-flowing river Syrdarya has enough water to compensate evaporation from the lake surface. In the Big Aral the water balance is negative because Amudarya has insufficient water to compensate for the evaporation. In the Small Aral the water level is increasing and salinity is decreasing whereas the situation is the opposite in the Big Aral where the water level is decreasing and salinity is increasing. About 10 years ago a dam was built in the Small Aral to maintain the increased water level. Unfortunately in April 1999 the dam collapsed due to the increase and at present the water from the Small Aral is running toward the desert between the two lakes. The present task of local people is to build a new dam. If this dam will be

built using modern technology the level of Small Aral will increase from +40 m (above the ocean level) to +46-48 m in a 20-25 year period. At the same time salinity will also decrease from 26-30 g/l to 14-16 g/l. The fate of the Big Aral is poor. The only possible way to rehabilitate the situation in this region is to improve artificial water reservoirs in Amudarya delta area. Unfortunately evaporation from the surface of Big Aral is 5-6 times larger than the discharge of the Amudarya river after withdrawals of riverine water for irrigation. The Big Aral is likely to continue to shrink and salinity in it is likely to continue to increase. Artificial freshwater reservoirs in the Amudarya delta will allow people to improve the local climate and make living conditions better. The Small Aral is enclosed within the territory of Kazakhstan and its fate could be decided by the Kazakh people. The Big Aral however belongs to two countries: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and cooperation between these countries is needed.

### Bill Williams has passed away



A friendly face at the 9th World Lake Conference, Nov 2001, Japan.

With great sadness we announce the death of Professor Bill Williams, vice-chair of ILEC's Scientific Committee. Bill's courageous and prolonged battle against acute myeloid leukemia came to a peaceful end at 3:30pm Brisbane time on Saturday 26th January 2002, Australia Day. His wife Anne and two sons survive him.

Bill was a giant in the field of saline lakes. Through his work, Bill brought attention to this important, yet often overlooked area of limnology. For ILEC, Bill was indispensable: he edited the ILEC journal, "Lakes & Reservoirs: Research and Management", wrote Guidelines of Lake Management, Vol.6 "Management of Inland Saline Waters", played a leading role in the Scientific Committee--overall, he had a hand in almost everything good that ILEC has accomplished. His humor and wit were without parallel and we are sure all who knew him would agree that we were lucky to have known him. Shortly before he died, Bill was asked if he had any message for his friends at ILEC. "Tell them," he said, "I love them all."

### Post-conference Program — Training Course

A training course on Numerical Modelling of Lakes and Reservoirs was organised by UNEP-IETC, ILEC and Lake Biwa Works Office-Kinki Regional Construction Bureau - Ministry of Construction after Lake Biwa 2001 Conference, from 17 to 18 November 2001. It was an excellently organised two day course, during which Prof. Sven Eric Jørgensen from The Royal Danish School of Pharmacy, and Dr Yosuke Yamashiki from University of Kyoto presented a theoretical as well as practical approach and examples of numerical modelling.

The course covered:

- \* General explanation about modelling
- \* Introduction and training using PAMOLARE (Planning And Management Of Lakes And Reservoirs focusing on Eutrophication) pilot Version 2.0

- \* Explanation and training of Structure Dynamic Models

The course gave a very good opportunity to get an excellent overview on modelling for eutrophication management. Practical computer training with PAMOLARE software package was necessary for a better understanding of what kind of parameters are necessary for the modelling process. During a very interesting and stimulating discussion it was possible to ask about some specific examples of models use and its calibration and validation.

The atmosphere and the professional organisation of the course by UNEP-IETC/ILEC Shiga Office gave us a chance to enjoy that meeting. For future courses it would be useful to prolong the duration and add more practical exercises.

Malgorzata Tarczynska (Dr.)  
Department of Applied Ecology, University of Lodz  
Poland

## UNEP-IETC / SPG / ILEC JOINT SYMPOSIUM - Consensus on Need for a Global Alliance for Lakes Reached

**T**here is a growing acknowledgement that the world's lakes are in crisis. Increasing pressures on freshwater resources caused by population growth, accelerated eutrophication, invasive species, toxic contamination, over-fishing and habitat alteration, water diversion, acidification and climate change are seriously undermining the sustainability of many lake ecosystems. In response to these challenges, ILEC, IETC and Shiga Prefecture jointly hosted a 2-day International Symposium on Partnerships between Citizens and Local Governments for Sustainable Lake Management at the Lake Biwa Museum in early November 2001. The meeting was launched by the renowned songwriter, singer and UNEP special envoy Ms. Tokiko Kato who serenaded the packed audience with songs inspired, in part, by childhood days spent along Lake Biwa's shoreline. Mr. Yoshitsugu Kunitatsu (Shiga Governor) and Dr. Steve Halls (IETC Director) also offered some important insights into the nature of the current environmental crises and the need to attract the attention of a wider and more influential audience.

Reflections from childhood also featured in the key note address given by Ms. Lisa Borre, Director of the networking organisation LakeNet. Lisa went on to describe some of the urgent management challenges facing local authorities and communities and the need for socially inclusive, participatory approaches involving a wide range of stakeholders.

The meeting itself drew together 17 national NGOs and local government organisations from around the world, three major lake networking organisations and many local specialists, organisations and members of the general public. It focused on two main subjects areas:

1. Improving partnerships and networks between citizens and local governments, and
2. Heightening levels of awareness on the particular vulnerabilities and needs of lakes among policy makers, finan-

cial institutions, the media and citizens everywhere.

Over 200 people participated in the various presentations, panel discussions and working group sessions. Collectively they were successful in developing several important outputs, namely:

- 1) Description of an enabling environment for partnership development.
- 2) A hierarchy of partnership goals beginning with local level co-ordination and ending with global level advocacy (Fig. 1).
- 3) Recommendations on measures to improve information flows and networking.
- 4) Recommendations on measures to strengthen networking organisations.
- 5) A draft structure for a global alliance for lakes.



Figure 1: Hierarchy of Partnership Objectives

### Towards a Global Alliance for Lakes

The clear consensus reached on the need for a global alliance for lakes represents a major breakthrough in the development of a world lake lobby. It was further suggested that the alliance should have the following characteristics:

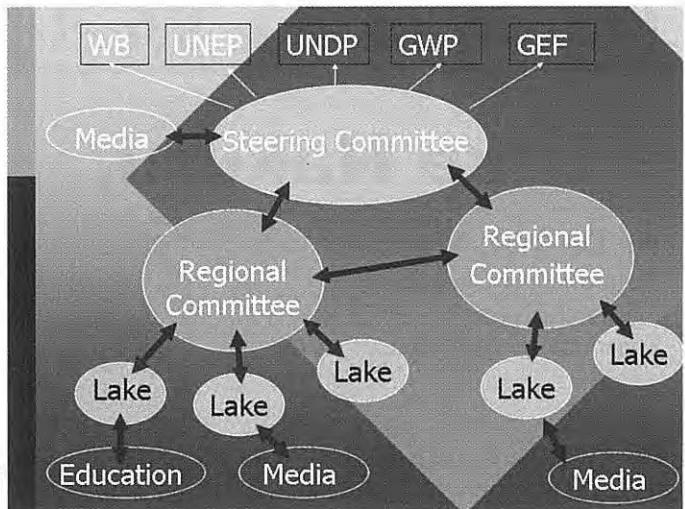
- 1) It should take the form of a highly organised global network with distinctive regional representation but that it should not involve the creation of any new organisation.
- 2) The alliance should be value-led, rights-based and consistent with the principles outlined in the World Lake Vision and Action Plan.
- 3) A broad range of stakeholders including private sector organisations should be involved in establishing the alliance.

- 4) A steering committee should be formed to manage these processes and that it should move swiftly to action.
- 5) An important priority for the alliance is to build strategic linkages with global policy makers and funding organisations including UNEP, WWC, GWP, WB, IUCN etc in order to meet advocacy related goals.
- 6) The alliance's role should be incorporated in the World Lake Vision and Action Plan.
- 7) The alliance should be officially represented at all major lake workshops and conferences.
- 8) The alliance should aim to attract media and education partners at all levels.

The proposed draft structure is shown in Fig. 2.

The meeting closed with a clear agreement on the need to get down to work quickly in order to both build the alliance and ensure that it is sufficiently well positioned to have a significant influence on the World Lake Vision document and the forthcoming World Water Forum in South Africa - points reinforced during the closing comments made by Mr Hiroya Kotani (ILEC Executive Director) and Ms. Jacqueline de Larderel, (Assistant Executive Director of UNEP).

Fig. 2 Structure for a Global Alliance



### Mono Lake — Success through collaboration

This November, California's Mono Lake was featured at a Joint Symposium on World Lake Protection held at Lake Biwa, Japan. Representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (the Department) and the Mono Lake Committee (MLC) traveled to Japan to explain their current collaborative working relationship in restoring Mono Lake.

"It was great to be able to share the lessons we've learned at Mono Lake with other lakes around the world that are in trouble", said Peter Kavounas, of the Department.

Mono Lake is a saline lake in eastern California whose rich "soup" of shrimp and alkali flies supports millions of migratory birds. In the mid-20th century, the Department diverted the lake's tributary streams to

bring water to the growing city of Los Angeles. These diversions caused the lake level to fall dramatically, greatly increasing the lake's salinity, connecting the islands used by breeding birds to the mainland with its predators, and causing dust storms along the expanded alkali shoreline. In addition, the streams feeding the lake were damaged. The MLC, a non-governmental organization, formed to protect the lake, and the MLC's efforts eventually led to changes in public policy that balanced the needs of the city of Los Angeles with those of Mono Lake. Today, the city of Los Angeles continues to divert some water from the lake's tributary streams but much of the water is again flowing to the lake, restoring stream and lake habitat.

While, the Department and the MLC originally were adversaries, today

they are developing a new relationship based on collaborative approaches to restoration. The Department is charged with restoring Mono Lake's ecological resources; the MLC serves as a "watchdog" to this process as well as a collaborator in specific restoration activities. The MLC also helps explain restoration and the value of wise water use to the public.

At the Joint Symposium, the Department and the MLC described many of their current collaborative projects, including the scientific monitoring of restoration, semi-annual restoration meetings, various volunteer replanting and weed eradication efforts organized by MLC, joint pursuit of public funds for water reclamation projects in Los Angeles, and public outreach in the form of the MLC's Newsletter to 15,000 members and annual restoration events. The Department and MLC also described anticipated challenges - deciding when restoration is complete and what final flows will be - and how building of trust through collaborative efforts and good communication should help make future decision-making easier.

"It was a real honor to be invited to this joint symposium and to be in a position to make a contribution to ILEC's important work," said MLC's representative Heidi Hopkins.



Towards a global alliance for lakes, the participants had active discussions.

# Lakes of the World

## Lake Nakuru, "the lake of a million flamingos"

By Dr. W.J. Mavura

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**L**ocation. Lake Nakuru is one of the rift valley lakes in Kenya. Its alkaline water is typical of the lakes located in the Great Rift Valley of East Africa. It is a closed basin lake, with several influent rivers, but without any outlet. The lake has a mean area of 45km<sup>2</sup> and a depth of only 1.5m, though fluctuations occur depending on the climatic changes during the year. During the rainy seasons (October - December and March - June) the area and depth increase (up to 4m deep) as a result of addition of a large volume of water. During the dry season evaporation reduces the water volume drastically. The lake is located just south of the equator: 0° 22' S; 36° 05' E, at an altitude of 1,759 meters above sea level. The town of Nakuru with a population of about 300,000 is built on the upper, northern fringes of the lake and it is about 150km North West of Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The lake constitutes part of Lake Nakuru National Park with an area of 188km<sup>2</sup> covering the lake and adjacent terrestrial ecosystem.

**E**cology. The lake is famous for its large population of flamingos with their characteristic long, thin legs and pink feathers. It is estimated that there are 1.5 million lesser flamingos, *Phoeniconaias minor*. In fact the lake has been referred to as "the lake of a million flamingos". They are the principle primary consumers of the algal production in the alkaline lake (Vareschi, 1978).

The high pH (10.5) and electrical conductivity (mean 36 mS/cm,



Photo: ILEC

lowest 20 mS/cm) preclude the establishment of many aquatic species. *Spirulina platensis* is the most dominant algal species that can survive in these extreme abiotic conditions and constitute the main diet of the lesser flamingos (Githaiga, 2001). Over a million flamingos descend on the lake and feed on spirulina for several months. Each day a population of this size harvests about 180 tons of the cyanobacteria from the lake and within 24 hours this harvest is replaced. This is an enormously high rate of productivity (Vareschi, 1979).

**E**conomic Importance. Lake Nakuru National Park is a habitat for a number of wildlife including: buffalos, gazelles, rhinos, and several types of birds such as the cormorants and the world famous flamingos. The park has a direct economic benefit to the Government of Kenya. The wildlife in the park is a great attraction to tourists from all over the world. Tourism in Kenya is ranked as the second major source of foreign currency after agriculture.

**E**nvironmental Management. Arising from the nature and location of

Lake Nakuru: a closed system fed by several rivers (Njoro, Lamurdia, Nderit, Makalia and Ngosur) and as terminal point of the sewerage system of Nakuru town coupled with the direct inflow of storm water from Nakuru municipality, the lake is quite susceptible to pollution. The nature of pollutants include agrochemicals such as pesticide and herbicide residues, fertilizers and industrial waste. The catchment area is predominantly agricultural with small and large scale farms where agrochemicals are used intensively. Some of these are washed down into the lake by the rains. The pollutants of industrial origin include heavy metals, greases and solid waste. Routine studies over the past 25 years have shown that the concentration of both heavy metals such as mercury, chromium and nickel, and pesticides residues in the lake sediments have increased steadily from 1975 to 2000 (Ndetei, Raini and Mavura, 2001). Although no direct link has been established, the unusual deaths of flamingos in Lake Nakuru observed in the recent past might be caused by the poisonous effects of these pollutants.

Several environmental programs are in place to advise the locals

against environmentally unfriendly practices such as: indiscriminate cutting of trees, in the lake's catchment area which leads to serious siltation to the lake, improper handling of waste from industries within Nakuru town, etc. Such programs are run by the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and other non-governmental organisations. The WWF in collaboration with Egerton University has been running a project called Lake Nakuru Conservation and Develop-

ment Program (LNCDP) which involve, among other activities routine monitoring of the amount of pollutants entering the lake. The aim being to trace the origin of the pollutants and consequently advise the sources, most often industrial establishments such as tanneries and battery factories on how best to handle the waste products before they dispose of them.

The behavior of birds in and around the lake is another major undertaking

by the WWF. Under this program the migratory behavior of flamingos and other birds living in the lake ecosystem have been studied and recorded. Through these studies it has been established that the flamingos that inhabit the rift valley lakes within the Eastern African countries, lay their eggs and hatch their chicks in Lake Natron in northern eastern Tanzania only. Lake Natron is far from any urban setting and the ecosystem there is much less polluted and it is much safer for reproduction.

## ILEC/JICA TRAINING COURSES

### Environment Education Course Focused on Aquatic Environment

My participation in the 2nd Environmental Education course focused on the aquatic environment has broadened my knowledge and opened my mind to issues that I have hitherto relegated to the background. The course brought to the fore a very simple understanding of the relationship between man and his environment and the need to impart or share ideas with the view to making the environment a better place to live in.

#### Realities

During the course, we came to the realisation that behaviour change is very difficult to accomplish, especially when it affects intimate personal habits. Behavioural patterns however can be changed quickly, and on a large scale, if the community involved in environmental education activity understands the benefits of the new practice. Also it can be achieved only when the support systems or services and the required means exist and only when the community understands that the benefits outweighs the cost in terms of finance, energy and time.

There are many priorities such as the need for food, water and shelter that prevent people from becoming aware of environmental problems. In the majority of the cases, people will not be concerned and active in fostering a better self and better world unless their basic needs are satisfied even though they may be provided with environmental education.

#### Strategies

Armed with the knowledge, skills, values and experiences, environmental educators should be determined to emphasise that survival of humanity depends on the maintenance of nature in a state that supports human life while nature's continuity and functioning depends on its protection from human impacts.

As much as a holistic approach is very important in the promotion of environmental issues, emphasis on children's education is vital since habits related to environment are learned very early in life. Again environmental values will be more effective if they are taught early so that they become an integral part of the learner's morality. The sooner the children understand environmental issues the more likely it is that new habits will be performed throughout their lives and adopted by their community.

It is with these convictions that the course provided the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills and strategies among others to effectively enhance environmental education.

#### Conclusion

The re-awakening of consciousness to impart knowledge of environmental education wherever I find myself was one of the high points in my course of study. In light of this, I will want to share the knowledge acquired with teachers, students and pupils among

others through seminars and workshops. Again, I will want to ensure that environmental education is incorporated in most projects of my institute especially the community based ones. Let us live in harmony with our environment. The environment needs our care.

By Robert Agbobi Jr.  
CSIR-Water Research Institute  
Ghana

### NGO Training Course in Lake Water Quality Management

A one-month residential workshop was conducted in Japan for NGO members in developing countries through the cooperation between ILEC and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This workshop was aimed at creating awareness among the participants to conserve and manage lakes in a sustainable way. There were seven participants from seven different countries from Asia.

The main objectives of the workshop were to share knowledge and experience for the conservation of lakes and to understand the challenges from both a local level and a global level. We also were to learn techniques for water purification and to learn easy practical methods of monitoring the water quality, and finally to network with different organisations from around the world.

After participating in the Joint Symposium held by UNEP/IETC, Shiga and

ILEC on 8 November, we understood the major threats facing the world's lakes. We also learned about some promising solutions and touched upon the subjects of building partnerships between citizens and local government, global policies, and communication between scientists and decision makers.

On the second day of the symposium, we were divided into three groups and discussed how awareness on the need for partnership for lake management can be raised at different levels, as well as the issue of evolving a possible framework for promoting and exchanging experiences between organisations

and individuals concerned with lake management. Finally, we looked at whether there was a case for a global alliance of lakes and if so, what it might look like?

On the third day we visited and interacted with local citizens from Moriyama and were impressed to see that all the citizens were very concerned about the environment. They had had great success in bringing fireflies back to the local environment by maintaining a healthy and clean habitat. If nothing else, it proved that anything is impossible, if the citizens are aware and interested in working towards a unified

goal.

After the symposium we participated in the World Lake Conference and also had a chance to talk to local government officers about their work.

On the whole, our course was a very fruitful one. Our deep appreciation goes to JICA, members of ILEC, citizens from Moriyama city and Nakamura-san, who sacrificed her time and made great efforts to share her valuable experiences with us and at the same time made our stay very pleasant and comfortable.

Gautam Gurung  
MDO, Nepal

## <http://www.ilecforums.org>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the ILEC forums. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Search', 'Members', and 'Help'. Below this is a banner with the text 'A place for the ILEC community to keep in touch and discuss ideas'. The main content area displays a list of forums. The first forum listed is 'ILEC/JICA students' with 1 topic and 0 replies. The second is 'World Lake Vision' with 5 topics and 0 replies. The third is 'Joint Symposium' with 2 topics and 11 replies. The fourth is 'General Discussion' with 1 topic and 0 replies. Below the forum list, there is a section for '2 user(s) active in the past 15 minutes' and a 'Board Statistics' section which includes information about registered members and posts.

If you have access to the Internet you have probably visited the ILEC website. ILEC now has another presence on the Internet in the shape of an electronic forum. The illustration on this page is what you will see if you access the ILEC forums via the ILEC forums home page: [www.ilecforums.org](http://www.ilecforums.org). We hope that those of you who do have access to the Internet will use this new way of communicating with the ILEC community.

Here are some simple instructions on registering. First of all, type [www.ilecforums.org](http://www.ilecforums.org) into your Internet browser software. On that page, click where it is **Click here to Enter** and you will be taken to the forums. Just under the big ILEC logo you will see >> **Welcome Guest Log In :: Register**. Click on **Register** and follow the instructions on the screen. You will need to choose a login name and a password and provide a valid email address. Once you are registered you will be able to enter any of the forums and post messages in reply to other

people's comments or start a new topic. For example, if you want to read a topic in the World Lake Vision forum, click on the words World Lake Vision on the front page of the forums and you will be taken into that forum. Inside the forums you will see different topics started by other people. To read a topic you just have to click on the topic title and once in that topic, you can add a reply by clicking on the Add Reply button.

If you have ever used an open Internet electronic forum before you should find all of the above fairly easy, but if you haven't or if you find something confusing, send your questions by email to [forumadmin@ilecforums.org](mailto:forumadmin@ilecforums.org) and the ILEC forum administrators will do their best to answer them and get you started. Like it says on the forums itself, it is a place for the ILEC community to keep in touch and discuss ideas and we hope you will join us there soon.



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