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NEWSLETTER

International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC)

=Promoting Sustainable Lake Management=

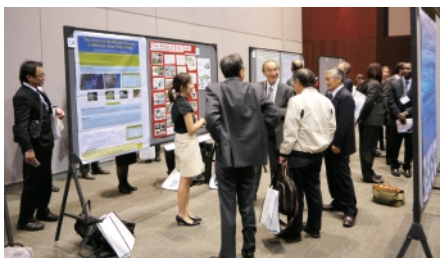
This Newsletter is also available in Japanese.

The 14th World Lake Conference

– A Great Step toward Global Promotion of ILBM

The 14th World Lake Conference in Austin, Texas, USA, October 31 – November 4, 2011, co-hosted by ILEC and River Systems Institute of Texas State University closed successfully under the theme of "Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages". The conference was participated by about 500 participants from 39 different countries, including researchers and experts, government officials, international representatives, NGOs, students, private sector people.

On October 31, Ms. Kathy Tovo, Member of Council of Austin City, Ms. Denise M. Trauth, President of Texas State University, Mr. Andrew Sansom, Director of River Systems Institute of Texas State University, Mr. Hironori Hamanaka, Director General of ILEC and Ms. Yukiko Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Japan, welcomed the participants and expressed their expectations from the conference. In her speech entitled "Experience of Lake Biwa", Ms. Kada discussed the concept of "Near Water" and "Far Water" from historical and international perspectives. She touched on the experience of Great East Japan Disaster which took place in Japan in March 2011 to remind the participants of the importance of "Near Water", mentioning that Japanese people rediscovered the value of "Near Water" after losing life-support infrastructure like water and toilet. She also introduced a traditional water use culture called "Kabata" being practiced in Harie, Shiga Prefecture, Japan, where people use spring water in their daily life. Two keynote presentations followed. Dr. Jorg Imberger, Professor of



University of Western Australia and Stockholm Water Laureate, gave a presentation on the threat to life in the deep lakes of the world from Global Warming and Increased Agricultural Activity. Dr. Charles Goldman, Distinguished Professor of Limnology Emeritus of University of California, Davis, USA, talked about his study on Lake Tahoe and the World Water Crisis.

The conference held 52 technical and thematic sessions, which covered a wide range of topics on studies and management practices of lakes and reservoirs around the world. Active discussion followed after each presentation. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ILEC who concluded a new MOU in April 2011 for further collaboration organized a joint session on global assessment and management of lakes and their basins (November 3). Poster exhibitions were organized during the daytime throughout the conference to facilitate the exchange of information and opinions among the participants. Two side events were organized, which include a Geographic Information System (GIS) workshop before the conference (October 29 & 30) and two field trips to Highland Lakes Cascade Reservoir System and Edward Aquifer/San Antonio Aquifer Storage Facility after the conference (November 4).

Focusing on "lake basins" which include lakes and their upstream/downstream water systems, as the conference title shows, conference mainly discussed ways on how to promote "Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM)" to sustainably manage lake basins. In order to facilitate this discussion, ILEC and Shiga University prepared a guidebook entitled "Development of ILBM Platform Process" which put together the results of the past ILBM initiatives being jointly carried out in various parts of the world. The guidebook was presented at ILBM Primer Session on October 31 and guided the discussion throughout the conference, including ILBM Case Study Session and International Policy Forum. At the end of the conference, participants recognized the usefulness of developing ILBM Platform to gradually improve the basin governance. The participants supported a global promotion of ILBM or IL²BM* and proposed a session to be organized at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held from June 4-6, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. The conference closed with the adoption of "Austin Declaration" which included the proposal. (For details, see www.ilec.or.jp).

*"ILBM" sees the basin as a combination of "Lentic Water" (like lakes) and "Lotic Water" (like rivers) forming a nesting structured water system can also be seen as "IL²BM" or Integrated Lentic-Lotic Basin Management.

IN THIS ISSUE

ILBM SESSION

Primer Session (October 31): A new guidebook "Development of ILBM Platform Process" was introduced by Professor Masahisa Nakamura, Chairman of the ILEC Scientific Committee. The book puts together research findings of "Lake Governance Project" jointly implemented by Shiga University, the University of Shiga Prefecture and ILEC between 2008-2010, which covered more than 20 lake basins around the world. It introduces an ILBM framework and how to develop an ILBM platform as a way to sustainably manage lake basins while continuously strengthening and managing the basin governance. After that, ILBM-guided case studies were reported from Mexico, India, Nepal, Russia, Philippines, and Malaysia. Then, participants discussed how ILBM approach should be applied and refined. At the end of the session, Professor Nakamura introduced a new knowledge base "LAKES" (Learning Acceleration and Knowledge Enhancement System) and ILBM Training Module as key instruments to support and encourage ILBM activities.

Case Studies Session (November 2): Six case studies were presented in this session with a focus on different ILBM pillars. These presentations reflect the flexibility inherent in ILBM to analyze and plan strategically lake basin management schemes and concrete actions. Dr. Sandeep Joshi (India) and Dr. Obiero Ong'ang' (Kenya) emphasized the importance of appropriate technologies, while Mr. Hironori Hamasaki and Mr. Katsuki Matsuno's presentation on Lake Biwa (Japan) focused more on policy and planning as essential areas of governance. Mr. John Merino (USA) introduced his management experiences with boundary lothic waters, responding to historic transboundary agreements between Mexico and the United States. Mr. Alejandro Juarez (Mexico) presented a practical approach to assess ILBM six governance pillars by a selected group of stakeholders.

International Policy Forum for Sustainable Basin Management

An international forum with the above-mentioned title was held on November 1, 2011, attended by a wide range of participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, including government representatives, high-level officials, experts, and UNEP representatives from international agency. The forum consisted of three parts and discussed the ways for "Meeting Integrated Lentic and Lotic Basin Management Challenges. Prior to the discussion, Dr. W. Rast, professor of Texas State University gave an outline of ILBM approach.

Part Ⅰ: National Policy for Lake (Lentic-Water) Basin Management

Ms. Yukiko Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Japan and Ms. Helena Colter, Director of Integrated Basin Management, National Institute of Ecology, Mexico chaired the session. Prior to the session, Ms. Adelina Santos-Borja, a member of the ILEC Scientific Committee from Lake Laguna Development Authority, Philippines gave an overview of the ILBM Primer Session which took place the day before. After that, participants from Mexico, Philippines, Kenya, Italy, Guatemala, Nepal, Zimbabwe, and India presented management practices, current conditions and problems facing the lake basins in their countries.

Part Ⅱ: Global Framework of Action on Lake (Lentic-Water) Basin Management –Global Perspectives and the Roles of the International Organizations

Mr. Peter Guilruth, Director of UNEP-DEWA chaired the session. Three presentations were given:

1) Emerging Challenges in Lake Environment Conservation in Japan: An ILBM Perspective (Mr. Nobuo Yoshida, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan)
2) Climate Change and Lake Basin Management: Possible Role of ILBM (Mr. Hironori Hamanaka, Director General of ILEC)
3) Challenges facing ILBM – Perspectives from International Organizations (Dr. Salif Diop, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP)

After the presentations, participants discussed issues and challenges which international societies are facing, along with comments and requests to international organizations.

Part Ⅲ: Global Framework of Action on lake (Lentic-Water) Basin Management – Toward Rio+20 and Beyond

Professor Masahisa Nakamura, Chairman of ILEC Scientific Committee facilitated a discussion on international framework of action, inviting opinions and comments from all the participants. The session discussed basin issues, such as disaster preparedness, food security, transboundary water and basin management, as the themes for ILBM to address in the future. Also addressed are international and domestic challenges, including climate change, partnership with neighboring countries, history and culture, finance, participation, ecosystem conservation, non-point pollution control, capacity building, to grapple with long-term improvement of basin governance. Forum participants confirmed that promoting ILBM approach more broadly into international communities is an important agenda in the coming UN Rio+20 Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

UNEP-ILEC JOINT SESSION

- Global Programs and Strategies on Assessment of Lakes and Their Basins -

UNEP and ILEC concluded a new MOU on April 13, 2012 to work together for effectively responding to lake basin problems around the world. This joint session was the first collaboration based on the new MOU. The session included four presentations followed by active discussion.

Dr. Richard Robarts, UNEP-GEMS (Global Environment Monitoring System) /Water, Canada introduced its water quality monitoring program and service to the global water quality community. Discussion pointed to the need to encourage more participation, particularly from developing countries and the need to upgrade the database to support an effective decision-making.

Dr. Salif Diop, UNEP Nairobi, reported critical managing issues of surface and groundwater resources in African river basins, with a focus on the case of the Mau Forest Complex in Kenya. The Mau has suffered from forest degradation which has impacted downstream communities, particularly during drought periods. There is a need to link Mau Forest rehabilitation program to ILBM efforts in the surrounding lakes.

Dr. Sean Avery, UNEP Nairobi, discussed hydrological impacts of Ethiopia's Omo Basin on Lake Turkana, a semi-arid lake in Northern Kenya which depends mostly on the Omo River for its surface water inputs. Discussion pointed to the need for transboundary water assessment tools that address factors on both sides of the international boundaries, with a potential role for UNEP to provide a platform for both countries to discuss the impact of the dam development and ways to mitigate downstream impacts.

Dr. Gabriel Eckstein, Texas Wesleyan, School of Law, presented his research on transboundary aquifers and provided information on trends and threats to the management of these aquifers. Discussion argued for the need for better science and understanding of aquifers as access and rights will become increasingly important in the coming future and should be addressed as part of ILBM initiatives.

The overall finding of the session was to continue the plan of combining lake level initiatives to promote ILBM in planning activities with opportunities to share such experiences in an international symposium such as the World Lake Conference.

NGO Session

An NGO session was organized in the afternoon of November 1, 2012 jointly chaired by Dr. Shinji Ide, professor of the University of Shiga Prefecture and Mr. Juan Skinner, a member of the ILEC Scientific Committee. The session was participated by a wide range of audiences not only from NGOs and governments, but also from mass-media and academia, including Ms. Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture and its Prefectural Assembly Members.

Seven NGO activities were presented from six countries around the world. From Japan, Harie Shozu-no Sato Committee of Takashima City, Shiga Prefecture presented on local water culture called "Kabata", a traditional system utilizing spring water within local households. Their unique practice attracted strong attention of the participants and mass-media, with many questions from the floor. Although it was their first participation in the World Lake Conference, the committee was able to advertise their "Kabata" culture throughout the world.

The other six presentations included various activities from Guatemala, Mexico, India, Philippines, and State of Texas (USA), each showing local characteristics. The session contributed to exchange information and experiences among NGOs of the world.

Harie Shozu-no Sato Committee presenting traditional "Kabata" culture

The 3rd World Lake Student Meeting

The 3rd World Lake Student Meeting was jointly organized by ILEC and WWCN (World Water and Climate Network) on the occasion of the 14th World Lake Conference. This was the 3rd meeting of this kind, the 1st one was in Otsu, Shiga, Japan (2008) and the 2nd one was in Wuhan, China (2009). 10 students were selected out of 56 applicants from around the world.

From October 25th to 28th, 2011, as part of the preparation for the 14th World Lake Conference in Texas, USA, the students gathered at the shore of Lake Tahoe to participate in a workshop, hosted by Tahoe Environmental Research Center of California University, Davis Campus. The Lake Tahoe is situated at the border of California and Nevada, USA, with a surface area of 500 ㎢ and the maximum depth of 500m. It is famous for its high transparency and a research field of Professor Charles Goldman, President of WWCN.

Workshop participants at Lake Tahoe

At the workshop, students learned about monitoring and data processing of lake environment. They gave presentations about their research. In addition, world-famous researchers who kindly participated in this workshop gave their latest research findings on Lake Tahoe and other world lakes. After these presentations, students had the opportunity to discuss with these experts about global lake environment issues.

At the 14th World Lake Conference, students organized a Student Session on November 2, 2011. They proudly made some recommendations based on their research results and knowledge they obtained from the pre-conference workshop.

All the students have a strong concern about ongoing global environment issues, from lake environment to climate change, and a keen interest in working on their research related to these issues. ILEC hopes that these young researchers will keep actively working in the future, and contributing to improving global lake environment conditions.

ILBM for African Lake Basin Management with Sanitation Challenges (ILBM-AFSAN)

The above-mentioned three-year project commissioned from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, which started in 2009 and came to an end this year. The project aims to support self-help effort of the local people in improving water and sanitation conditions in some lake basins in East Africa through ILBM approach.

In July 2011, as part of preparatory activities in Africa, a project team of ILEC invited some of our African partners from Kenya and Zimbabwe to a Consultative Workshop in Pune, India. The objectives were to give them a firsthand experience of how ILBM process evolves and to help them think about their own activities in Africa.

Local people washing at Lake Victoria shore

The workshop, along with a visit to Ujjani Reservoir, India, offered them an opportunity to discuss with Indian ILBM partners, including Dr. Sandeep Joshi and other local experts. African partners seemed to be impressed by active involvement of local people in Pune in the ILBM process.

In September 2011, the project team visited Kenya and Zimbabwe to discuss future work plans, including the upcoming workshop agenda.

In December, they organized three workshops in three different places - Lake Chivero (Zimbabwe), Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria (Kenya) and Lake Nakuru (Kenya) - with respective African counterparts. At the end of each workshop, it was agreed that ILBM Platform Steering Committee would be set up in each basin to lay the foundation for ILBM-guided activities to be developed and sustained. However, it seems that a number of challenges related to finance, technology, information and institutions have yet to be met, which may not to be resolved easily. There is a need for ILEC to follow-up the future development.

JICA Training Course

ILBM Training Course for Guatemala

The ILBM training course for Guatemala focused on lake basin management was organized from July 21 to August 5, 2011. Five young trainees from the Unit of Water Resources and Watersheds, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala participated in this training. Trainees received lectures at ILEC and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Osaka Center and visited a number of places for on-site training. The goal of this training course is to get trainees to become knowledgeable enough to be able to play an instrumental role in the promotion of ILBM-guided lake basin management in Guatemala. The course leader was Ms. Hiroko Kamata, Senior Advisor of JICA.

In this course, trainees learned the ILBM Governance, water purification methods using plants and soil, roles of government, irrigation and land improvement, management of toxic substances and organic agriculture, GIS, and environmental education. They also practiced water quality monitoring in Lake Biwa and visited a drinking water treatment plant, a sewage treatment plant, a night soil treatment center, an industrial effluent purification facility and Lake Biwa Museum.

Trainees monitoring water quality at Lake Biwa

At the end of the course, trainees developed their action plan for Lake Gueija and its watershed located at the border of Guatemala and El Salvador. The plan included practical programs based on the ILBM concept. They learned very hard not only about ILBM, but also about Japanese society and returned home with high evaluation of Japan. Their strenuous effort back in Guatemala is expected.

Integrated Basin Management for Lake Environment

The 7th training course for Integrated Basin Management for Lake Environment (22nd including the previous course) was organized with a focus on government officials in technical divisions and researchers from developing countries.

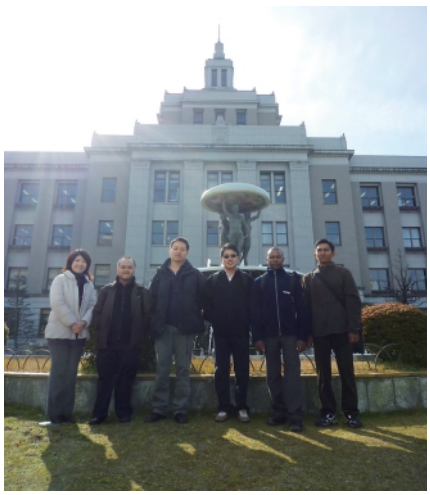
Trainees: 5

traineess from 4 countries (Myammer-1, Thailand-2, Uganda-1, Malaysia-1)

Duration:

from January 13 to March 8, 2012

* A total number of trainees during 1st - 22nd sessions: 217



Trainees in front of Shiga Prefectural Government Office

The 12th course for Environmental Education Focused on Fresh Water Environment was organized with a focus on young government staff teaching at higher education classes from developing countries.

Trainees:

3 trainees from 3 countries (China-1, Kosovo-1, Malaysia-1)

Duration:

August 29 to October 14, 2011

* A total number of trainees during 1st – 12th sessions: 85

A Group Discussion at ILEC

Lakes of the World

Lake Turkana (Ethiopia, Kenya)

Environmental Assessment and the Establishment of Management Mechanisms for Sustainable Development in the Lake Turkana Basin, UNEP initiative January 2012

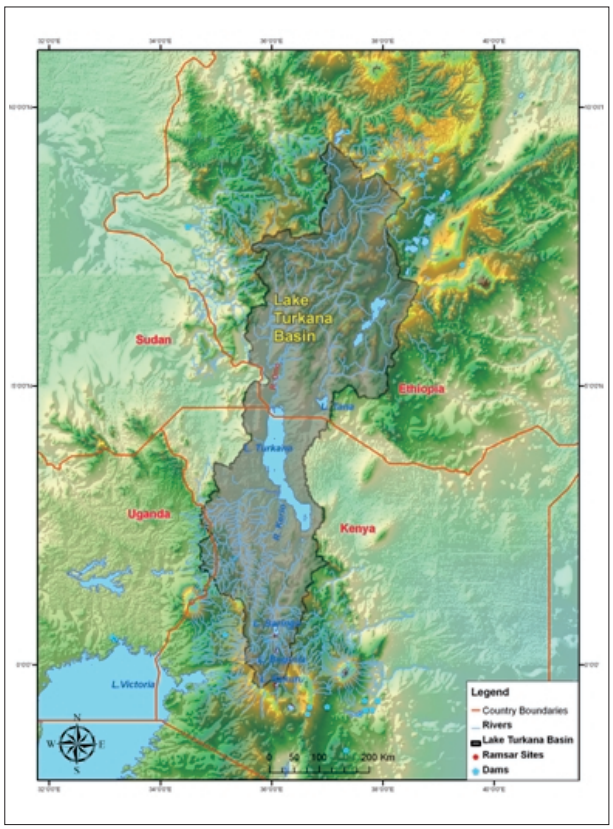
The Lake Turkana Basin is a transboundary basin which covers an estimated 206,216 ㎢ from the northwestern part of Kenya in the Great Rift Valley to southwestern portion of Ethiopia.

Lake Turkana is Africa's fourth largest lake, the world's largest permanent desert lake and the world's largest alkaline lake. It is 250 ㎞ long with a mean width of 30 ㎞ and a surface area of about 6,750 ㎢. The average depth is 35 m while the maximum depth is 115 m. The rocks of the surrounding area are predominantly volcanic.

The lake basin is hot and very dry. Temperatures are fairly uniform throughout the year, with an average daily range of about 24-38℃, and a relative humidity between 40-60 per cent. The mean annual rainfall in most of the lake surroundings is less than 250 mm. The occurrence of rainfall is erratic and unpredictable.

The Omo River is the most dominant source of water to Lake Turkana (90%). The river has formed a delta, which has continued to expand encroaching further south into the lake over the recent years. The extension of the delta is considered to result from the large-scale soil erosion in deforested areas in the watershed of the Omo River.

The region is extremely poor and prone to frequent droughts with a history of violence and tension caused by insecurity and competition for water and grazing areas. The area has been a regular recipient of humanitarian aid and relief food. The drought has also resulted in the escalation of armed conflicts over resources amongst the people inhabiting the Turkana region, across borders. Pasture lands are almost extinct.



Challenges to sustainable development in the Lake Turkana basin

The fundamental environmental challenges and associated issues that need to be addressed include first of all the considerable degradation of land, water and biodiversity resources in the lake basin. They have major impacts on rural communities mostly populated with nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralists, to produce economically and to conserve natural ecosystems and are amongst factors leading the region to be extremely poor.

The reduced availability of freshwater due to abstraction of river water for irrigation and damming and the degradation of freshwater quality due to its high alkalinity and total dissolved solid concentration, could have devastating effects on biological diversity, ecological life support system in the basin, reduction of fish stocks and other aquatic species in the lake, as well as livelihoods and food supply.

The basin has high potential for energy sources, especially hydropower production. Hydropower dependence is yet particularly risky in the face of climate change impacts on river and developing renewable energy supplies that are less vulnerable to climate change could diversify the national energy supply as the basin has immense solar, wind and geothermal energy sources that have yet to be exploited. Oil exploration efforts offshore of Lake Turkana are also a prospect which can significantly raise the threat of pollution in the basin.

The Lake Turkana Basin could be a key attraction for tourists, major tourism destination areas including Lake Turkana National Parks, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and other wildlife sanctuaries in the area.

UNEP has prepared the project for sustainable development in the Lake Turkana Basin and the aim is to support long-term solutions to the current environmental and social problems facing the Turkana region.

The objective of the UNEP project is to assist the countries, and stakeholders of the Lake Turkana to enhance their capacity to sustainably manage the ecosystem services provided by the lake. Specifically, the project aims at minimizing the expected pressure of natural resources for conflict prevention and disaster reduction, through knowledge-based policy intervention, technology transfer, investment on key infrastructure and monitoring the health of the ecosystem components.

The project will be implemented by UNEP in cooperation with the Governments of Kenya and Ethiopia. The project will be supportive of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) with scientific contribution of ILEC and with the participation of UNEP's Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) - Water programme and global network.

Dr. Tatsuo Kira -Founder of ILEC - Deceased

Dr. Tatsuo Kira, who established the ILEC Foundation, passed away on July 19, 2011 at the age of 91. Dr. Kira played a major role in organizing the first World Lake Conference in 1984, and in establishing ILEC in 1986. He also served as the first chairman of the ILEC Scientific Committee, as well as leading the preparation of ILEC's "World Lake Database" and "Guidelines for Lake Management." These pioneering works have influenced and guided lake management around the world. The passing of Dr. Kira is a great loss, not only to ILEC, but also to lake people around the world. With his spirit in mind, we are determined to continue to work diligently and faithfully for the conservation of the global lake environment with our partners.

In Memory of Dr. Tatsuo Kira

Saburo Matsui
Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University,
Former ILEC Scientific Committee Member

It was with the planning committee for the 1st World Lake Conference that I had the first opportunity to work with Dr.Tatsuo Kira. The committee was established at the request of Mr. Masayoshi Takemura, then-Governor of Shiga Prefecture, and brought together major figures of the time, including Dr. Tatsuo Kira, Director of Lake Biwa Research Institute, Dr. Michio Hashimoto, Professor, Tsukuba University who played a key role as a government official in resolving the Kanemi oil poisoning case and cadmium-induced itai-itai disease case, Dr. Hisao Onoue, Professor of Environmental Economics, Shiga University, Dr. Taizo Miura, Professor, Kyoto University who was conducting a biological study on the ecosystem of Lake Biwa, Dr. Akio Morishima, Professor of Environmental Law, Sophia University, Dr. Keikichi Kihara, Professor, Chiba University who was an environmental advocate in the mass media, and myself, then-Associate Professor of Kanazawa University. At that time, I was engaged in the environmental assessment of planning for the Lake Biwa North-East Basin-wide Sewage Works.

The committee's first job was to develop the overall concept of the conference. At that time, the construction of Konan Chubu Basin-wide Sewage Works was a case on trial. It was necessary for the committee to provide a "place" for policymakers and government officials to discuss relevant matters with citizens working on conservation issues, and an "opportunity" for scientists to present their findings to citizens in understandable terms. Under these circumstances, the concept of "unified efforts of three parties," including "government," "citizens" and "scientists" emerged, and later becoming the guiding principle for the series of World Lake Conferences. This approach also was supported and encouraged by Dr. Mostafa Tolba, then-Executive Director of UNEP in his keynote speech at the 1st World Lake Conference.

After the World Lake Conference series began, I visited a number of countries with Dr. Kira and his wife. We enjoyed good conversations in the trains and cars during our journey, while looking through our windows. Along rivers, grass-fields and forests, he was always kind and patient in replying to my many questions about the local vegetation, in view of my limited knowledge of the plants. It was good 'on-the-job' training to me on plant ecology. On the other hand, in a field of urban and industrial landscapes, I had pleasant opportunities to reply to his questions about urban amenities and industrial facilities. It is a pleasant memory of our intellectual exchange to integrate our observations on nature and society.

In 1988, a workshop for environment conservation of Lake Songkhla in Malay Peninsula of Thailand was held. Dr. Kira made a site visit to a rainforest, in which he had begun field research soon after the end of the Second World War. This was his first visit to the site in forty years, and I accompanied him. He saw a complete change in the rainforest during this visit, and was very sad for its total degradation. His deep regret of this situation made me realize clearly that local degradation of nature is contributing to global changes in the environment.

Another memory of Dr. Kira is from the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The summit did not give due consideration to the importance of the water environment, a regret for both of us. Since then, and even up to the present time, environmental awareness of the freshwater environment, including lakes, continues to have a low profile, allowing their environmental degradation to continue on a global scale. In Dr. Kira's memory, it is our task to stop this regrettable trend. We need to keep this promise when we pray for his kind soul to rest in peace.

Dr. A.K. Pattanik Joins the ILEC Scientific Committee

ILEC welcomed Dr. Ajit Kumar Pattnaik from India as a new member of the ILEC Scientific Committee as of November, 2011. His current position is Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority, Orissa, India. He also serves as Project Director of the World Bank-aided Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project and President of Chilika Central Fishermen Co-operative Society. Specialized in phytodiversity, wetland research, integrated lake/coastal zone management, forestry and botany, he has headed a successful restoration of Chilika Lake with ecosystem approach and adaptive planning. Prior to his appointment to the committee, he has actively been involved in many of the past ILEC activities in Chilika Lagoon related to the Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM). We all hope that he will play an important role in further promotion of ILBM in South Asia, including India.

A New MOU Concluded with UNEP

ILEC concluded a new MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with UNEP on April 13, 2011. This MOU was an action to follow-up a consolidation of UNEP-IETC's two offices in Japan, Shiga and Osaka Offices, into one Osaka Office (March 2012) because of the change of its mandate to focus on solid waste management for urban environment, which created a need of developing a new framework for global lake environment conservation between UNEP and ILEC. The two parties agreed to cooperate with promoting the Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) based on this new MOU. The signing ceremony took place at Shiga Prefecture Guest House on the same day. The new MOU was signed by Mr. Hamanaka, Director General of ILEC and Mr. Peter Guilruth, Director of UNEP-DEWA under presence of Mr. Kondo, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, Mr. Suginaka, Director of Global Environment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, and Ms Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture, and Dr. Nakamura, Chairman of the ILEC Scientific Committee. As part of the collaboration, UNEP and ILEC organized a joint session entitled "Global Programs and Strategies on Assessment of Lakes and Their Basins" at the 14th World Lake Conference held in Austin, Texas, USA on November 3, 2011.

Activities of ILEC (April 2011 - March 2012)

2011

April ~ June

- Conclusion of MOU with UNEP (Shiga, Japan, April 13)
- Teel-Conference with UNEP about Joint Activities (May 16, June 9)
- 1st preparatory meeting for WLC14 with Texas State University (Austin, Texas, USA, May 17-21)

July ~ September

- ILBM Consultative Workshop (Pune, India, August 1-5)
- ILBM Training Course for Guatemala (July 21 - August 5, Sponsored by JICA)
- 2nd preparatory meeting for WLC14 with Texas State University (Austin, Texas, USA, August 21 - 25)
- 3rd Japanese Organizing Committee for WLC14 (Ostu, Shiga, September 9)
- 12th Environment Education Focused on Fresh Water Environment (August 29 - October 14, Sponsored by JICA)
- Field Visit to Africa for AFSAN Project (Kenya, Zimbabwe, September 18 - 29, Commissioned by Ministry of the Environment, Japan)

October ~ December

- WLC14 (October 31 - November 4, Austin, Texas, USA in collaboration with River Systems Institute of Texas State University)
- Field Visit to Africa for AFSAN Project & ILBM Workshop (Kenya, Zimbabwe, November 25 - December 16, Commissioned by Ministry of the Environment, Japan)

2012

January ~ March

- 7th Training Course: Integrated Basin Management for Lake Environment (January 13 - March 8, Sponsored by JICA)

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FOUNDATION (ILEC)

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