

ILEC Initiative Toward the Establishment of "World Lake Day" (2018-2024)

October 14, 2018

17th World Lake Conference, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture

International Colloquium "Mainstreaming Lakes and Other Lentic Waters in the Global Water Agenda"

Dr. Hiroki, ILEC Director proposed the establishment of "World Lake Day (WLD)" as a symbolic action toward Sustainable Lake Management (SLM), under the theme "Mainstreaming Lakes in Global Agenda—Messages, Targets, Strategy, and Symbolic Actions."



October 27, 2020

UNEP-ILEC International Webinar

"Mainstreaming Lakes in the Global Water Agenda"



November 10, 2021

18th World Lake Conference, Guanajuato, Mexico (Online)

UNEP-ILEC Special Session

"Mainstreaming Lakes and Wetlands in the Global Water Agenda and SDGs"

Guanajuato Declaration

"Ensure specific and continuing recognition of the crucial roles played by lakes in regard to human health, well-being and economic development, and in addressing climate change impacts, by increasing their visibility in the global arena with such efforts as establishment by the United Nations of a World Lake Day or similar popular recognition activity on a global scale."



End of November 2021

The Indonesian government proposed a resolution for "Sustainable Lake Management," which included a request to establish WLD.

December 2021

ILEC sent emails to the CPR (Committee of Permanent Representatives) of UNEA member countries, seeking support for the SLM resolution.

March 2, 2022

The resolution on SLM that removes WLD was adopted at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2).



May 18, 2022

4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (4th APWS) Related Event

**3rd UNEP-ILEC International Webinar
"Taking a Major Step Toward Mainstreaming Lakes"**

Dr. Hiroki presented on "Mainstreaming Lakes in Global Agenda—Messages, Targets, Strategy, and Symbolic Actions" and proposed efforts to establish WLD at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



October 15, 2022

International Symposium 2022 "Fostering the Value of Lakes for Future Generations," and ILEC Scientific Committee General Meeting.

March 22-24, 2023

UN 2023 Water Conference

In Interactive Dialogue 3 on "Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment," joint Co-Chairs, Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Egyptian Representative, included the establishment of WLD in the recommendations:



"#11: In order to combat climate change, all countries and stakeholders should be united to achieve breakthroughs in urgent water challenges such as the degrading cryosphere, or deteriorating water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Establish symbolic days and years, such as the International Day for Glacier Conservation and World Lake Day, to unite global will and commitments for actions to meet urgent water challenges."

Dr. Rast, Chair of ILEC Scientific Committee, and Dr. Nakamura, ILEC Vice President, participated in UNEP and Indonesian government-hosted side events, presenting the "ILEC Water Action Agenda."

"ILEC Water Action Agenda" Excerpts

"Furthermore, the establishment of World Lakes Day will provide more opportunities for various stakeholder groups to recognize the value of lakes and to promote their activities. As bottom-up approaches and residents' ownership of lakes gradually advance and expand worldwide, sustainable lake management will be realized in which the basin residents play a proactive role rather than being left to only the government."

October 12, 2023

WWF10 Second Stakeholder Preparatory Meeting

Facilitated by Dr. Hiroki, a web meeting (Zoom) was held with Minister Baski, Dr. Takemoto, ILEC President, and Dr. Nakamura, during the 2nd Stakeholder Preparatory Meeting of WWF10. The meeting confirmed their mutual collaboration to advance efforts toward establishing WLD at the UNGA.



November 6, 2023

19th World Lake Conference Side Event

ILEC-UNEP International Colloquium "Promoting Sustainable Lake Management (SLM): Challenges, Achievements, and Lessons Learned"

The Indonesian government called on other governments to support the establishment of WLD, designating it as a day to reflect on the importance of lakes, the degradation of ecosystems, and the urgency of conservation. Furthermore, Shiga Prefecture and Michigan, USA made a presentation about "Lake Biwa Day" and "Michigan Lake Freshwater Week" initiatives. Dr. Takahashi, ILEC Director summarized the importance of strengthening cooperation among lake stakeholders to move towards WLD establishment.



November 7-9, 2023

19th World Lake Conference (WLC19), Balatonfüred, Hungary

Balaton Declaration

"Accelerate and enhance support for the forerunner national governments and concerned national and international non-governmental organizations to realize the designation of a "World Lake Day" at UNGA. Designation of a "World Lake Day" will enormously contribute to bringing global attention to the crucial role of lakes in addressing human freshwater needs, and ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, at all levels."



November 22, 2023

22nd High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP22) at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank, Manila

Ms. Santos-Borja, Vice Chair of ILEC Scientific Committee, participated and reported on the outcomes of WLC19, including WLD-related efforts.

May 20-24, 2024

10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

➤ **High-Level Panel 15: "Bandung Spirit Water Summit"**

In a ceremony, Minister Basuki promoted three proposals within the framework of South-South cooperation: the establishment of World Lake Day, the establishment of a "Center of Excellence for Water and Climate Resilience," and the importance of Integrated Water Resources Management for Small Islands.



Keynote Address: Video lecture by His Majesty the Japanese Emperor on "Water for Shared Prosperity" (Theme of WWF10).

Ministerial Declaration: Three proposals, including the promotion of establishing "World Lake Day," were adopted during the ministerial-level meeting held after the high-level panel (coordinator: Dr. Hiroki).

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON "WATER FOR SHARED PROSPERITY"

THE 10th WORLD WATER FORUM BALI, INDONESIA, 20-21 MAY 2024

"#5: Proposing the World Lake Day in the United Nations process to highlight the role of natural and artificial lakes as significant water resources that contribute to the availability and accessibility of water"

➤ **High-Level Panel 13: "Urgent Call to Save our Lakes- Promoting Global Agenda and Collaborative Efforts for Sustainable Lake Management and Raising Momentum of World Lake Day" (May 21)**

Dr. Nakamura, on behalf of Dr. Takemoto, gave a speech, highlighting ILEC's long-term cooperation with Indonesia, the efforts at WLC19, and UN 2023 Water Conference, particularly the unanimous support for WLD in the WLC19 Balaton Declaration.



Mr. Taizo Mikazuki, Governor of Shiga Prefecture shared lessons on water quality preservation in Lake Biwa, the cooperation of students (Uminoko) to protect lakes, and introduced initiatives for the restoration of Lake Biwa, such as "Lake Biwa Day" and the "Mother Lake Goals (MLGs).

➤ **Special Session 11: "Sharing of Knowledge, Spirit and Action on Sustainable Lake Management- Raising Momentum of World Lake Day" (May 23)**

Dr. Nakamura's keynote speech and a presentation "Our Action for Sustainable Management of Lake Biwa in Shiga Prefecture, Japan – Giving Momentum to "World Lake Day" by Mr. Yamamoto, Director, Lake Biwa Conservation and Restoration Division, Shiga Prefecture



Special Session 9: "ESTABLISHING COOPERATION FOR CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON WATER AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE" (May 22)

In group discussions on "Sustainable Lake Management," Ms. Santos-Borja, moderated a session.

September 24, 2024

Special High-level Event on "World Lake Day" at UNGA in NY

Dr. Takemoto delivered a high-level speech (via video), stating: "World Lake Day is not merely symbolic, but it is a powerful platform to promote international actions and community participation in achieving our common goals."

