

Promotion of Integrated Lake Basin Management - Lake Basin Governance Project -

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The “Integrated Lake Basin Management” (ILBM) offers a framework to sustainably manage and conserve lakes and their basins, taking into account three unique features of lakes (1. integration of the nature and human activities in the basin, 2. long retention time, 3. complex response dynamics within the lake). The ILBM concept has evolved from the findings of lake basin management experiences of across continents, detailed in the report entitled “Managing Lakes and Basins for Sustainable Use”, produced as an output of the GEF(Global Environment Facility) financed and the World Bank executed project, implemented during the 2003-2005 period by ILEC. Since 2005, the usefulness of ILBM concept has been recognized by many organizations in different parts of the world, and now there is growing interest in applying the ILBM framework for meeting the challenge of sustainable management of "lentic" or non-moving water systems, such as lakes, reservoirs, wetlands and ponds, through improving their “*Basin Governance*”.

Unlike conventional approaches in which the government plays a central role in the problem solving, ILBM calls for improving the “Basin Governance”, where various management actions be facilitated through formal and informal means that are directly or indirectly responsive to the three features of lentic water system.

Because “Basin Governance” is relatively a new concept, ILEC has been working closely with the Japanese experts gathered in the “Basin Policy Research Forum” established jointly with Shiga University and the University of Shiga Prefecture in March 2007. As a result of such efforts, a research project was proposed for funding to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan for expanding the ILBM knowledgebase that was originally established in the above GEF report. A three-year project fund was awarded by the ministry, and the so-called “ILBM-Governance” project was initiated in April 2008. ILEC has since been collaborating with the two universities to pursue the project objectives of conducting consultative visits to the newly included ILBM case study lake basins.

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<Figure – Framework of Collaboration>

The project is being implemented by the three member organizations, each providing its respective feature “resources”. The role of ILEC is to provide the information available at ILEC that will be useful for the project, to coordinate local partners of the new ILBM cases with the help of ILEC Scientific Committee members around the world, and to co-organize workshops with local organizations wishing to promote ILBM. ILEC also works as a focal point for collecting and disseminating lake management information globally.

A process has been developed for compiling and analyzing a wide-ranging ILBM-related information using a “Lake Brief” format that will help elaborate the governance challenges facing the specific case study subject. The choice of target lakes and reservoirs were selected based on a broad range of considerations such as “region and location”, “features and characteristics” and “problems facing the lake”. In 2008, field visits were made to the following study sites.

Japan	Lake Biwa, Tone River and Kasumigaura-Teganuma and Inbanuma Basin, Lakes Shinji and Nakaumi, Lake Suwa
Outside Japan	South Asia: Lakes Hussainsagar and Ujjiani Reservoir (India), Lakes Phewa, Rupa and Begnas (Nepal) East Asia: Lake Laguna (Philippine), Lakes Chini and Bukit Melah, (Malaysia) North-western region of Russia: Lakes Ladoga, Peipsi/Chudskoe and Illumen Latin and Central America: Lake Chapala (Mexico) and Lake Atitlan (Guatemala)

Preparatory discussion for 2009 activities on selected lakes in Africa, Europe, North and South America has also been undertaken through correspondence and at an expert group meeting held in Stockholm in August 2008. A Workshop was held each in India and Mexico to help promote application of ILBM to local lake basin management cases.

Region	Venue	Date	Host organization
South Asia	Lake Hussain Sagar and Ujiani Reservoir in India	August 28-29, 2008	IAAB (Indian Association of Aquatic Biologists), ILEC
Latin and Central America	Lake Chapala (Mexico)	November 17-22, 2008	Corazon de la Tiera, Jalisco Environment Agency, Jalisco State Water Commission, IETSO University, ILEC

The Project's First-year Review Meeting will be held from 3rd through 8th March, 2009.

<Fig 1.>

A Framework of Collaboration in Lake Basin Governance Project

