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Point for discussion this month

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Governance's role in fresh water body management

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Eternal Words

As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our native earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet to say about us: "With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas," or, "They went on playing politics until their world collapsed around them."

~U Thant, speech, 1970

Dear Readers,

Last month of the year! It always comes with mixed feelings.

Assignments for the impact assessment studies, sewage treatment plant designs, Allahabad's ecological restoration of 5 polluted stream complex, water wastewater training programme, AFSAN-ILBM meeting in Pune under the auspices of ILEC, journey with Dr. Rajendrasinha ji downstream of Ujjani Reservoir, 14th World Lake Conference at Austin, meetings in Africa kept directors and officials of SERI busy round the year. It was really a power-packed year for SERI.

Cover photo is of International Policy Forum meeting in 14th World Lake Conference in which SERI's Sandeep Joshi was invited to represent India. It was a proud moment for him. He is a person of integrity for water cause. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Chairman of SCICOMM, ILEC started the discussion with focus on development of ILBM platform process in African and other countries. The session was chaired by Ms. Yukiko Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Japan.

He and CEO of SERI presented 7 research papers in the conference with different themes such as governance, accumulation of waste in Ujjani lake and its impacts, critical evaluation of ecotechnological installations, upstream - downstream cultural linkages etc. Overall, the conference facilitated exchange of views, intellectual inputs for sustainable lake management, governance issues, solutions and people's participation.

Abstract of one of the seven papers is given in this issue titled - Governance Environmental Accountability and Responsibility (GEAR) in sustainable lake management for esteemed readers. This conference was successfully organised by River Systems Institute, Texas University and International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC). Especially vice-chair Dr. Walter Rast took lot of efforts to make it happen.

Wish you all very happy and prosperous New Year 2012!!

Thank you,
Chief Editor

Governance's Environmental Accountability and Responsibility (GEAR) in Sustainable Lake Management

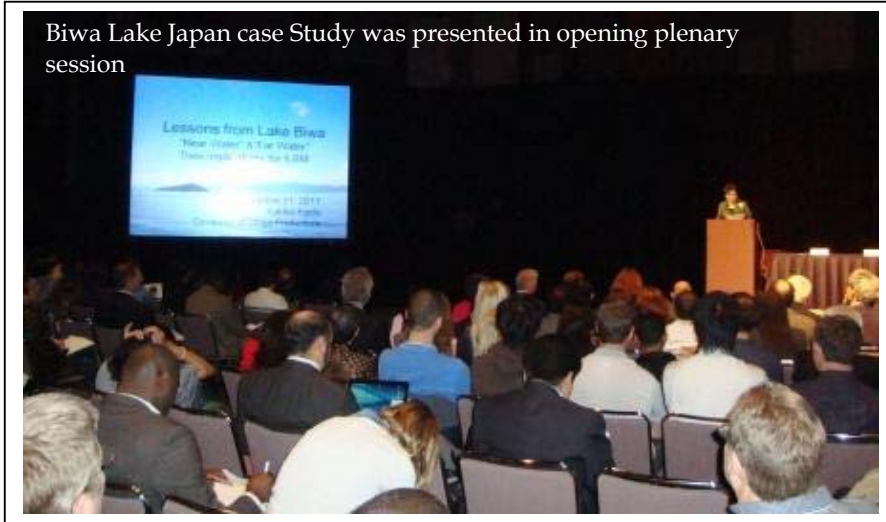
Governance has primary mandate and objective of looking after equitable opportunities for everybody, welfare and protection of the population and natural resources in the geographical area under its control. Industrial revolution in 17th century gradually initially and in today's context with incremental issues of green house effect and climate change has led to the paramount responsibility of maintaining the quality of water bodies for the sustenance of human race on the earth. The time taken for realization, capacity building and knowledge sharing of governing system based on environmental emergencies has resulted in unprecedented scaling up of numerous global, regional and local environmental problems. These issues are encircling the live hood, market and economy all over the world leading to the ecological warfare for the natural resources including clean water supply. Lakes are one of the major sources of water for population in its vicinity. They are responsible for regulating the micro climatic conditions and supplying food. Governance - representation of the people needs to strengthen the ecological existence of lakes for its well being - considering the water volume and flows, physico-chemical characteristics and ecological properties. Ecological services of the lakes are essential for the individual's health and cumulative growth. In this paper, the attempt has made to evolve the axioms, principles of Government's Environmental Accountability and Responsibility (GEAR) for the sustainable lake management through the adaption of six pillar approach of Integrated Lentic and Lotic Basin Management (IL²BM) with a comparative study of Indian lakes in different geoclimatic conditions. The attempt has been made to evolve action plan involving various stakeholders, civil society initiatives, scientific inputs, professional services and regulatory mechanisms to strengthen the governance for sustainable lake management.

-Sandeep Joshi

(Abstract of the paper presented at 14th WLC)

Glimpses of 14 World Lake Conferences, Austin, Texas

Biwa Lake Japan case Study was presented in opening plenary session



Delegates Attending Plenary Session by Ms. Yukiko Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture



Mr. Sandeep Joshi representing India in International Policy Forum



Meeting with African Delegates to work out solution for their pollution problems



Mr. Sandeep Joshi presenting paper on Convergence of upstream downstream population for better Ecological Health



Discussions on the paper on Ujjani Reservoir Case Study



Discussions about the Eco-Restoration of Ahar River Udaipur, an ILBM impact story



Visit to Edward Aquifer, San Antino





14th World Lake Conference
Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding
Linkages
AUSTIN DECLARATION

The participants present at the 14th World lake Conference, 31 October to 4 November, 2011 in Austin, Texas, USA:

Acknowledging that water is fundamental for all life, being finite, sensitive and irreplaceable in its many uses;

The participants Recommend:

- That government, NGOs, civil society, industry and agriculture strive for practical, participatory approaches for managing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, rivers, groundwater, coastal and other water systems for sustainable use and for human and ecosystem health, including the potential impacts of climate change and extreme water-related events such as drought and floods;
- Full consideration of the hydrology linkages between flowing and pooled freshwater systems is essential for effective water management, as exemplified in the integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) approach promulgated by the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC);
- That integrated water management approaches be undertaken through gradual, continuous and holistic improvement of basin governance, including sustained efforts for integration of institutional responsibilities, policy directions, stakeholder participation, scientific and traditional knowledge, technological possibilities and funding prospects and constraints;
- That management of water system, whether flowing or pooled, be recognized as a continuing effort comprising assessment, action, evaluation and revision over time, rather than as single programme or action;
- That Governments and water stakeholders at all levels recognize that continuous and adequate financial support, as well as appropriate technical and governance capacity, is fundamental for managing water systems for sustainable use;

- Using past experiences and lessons in a wide range of environmental and socioeconomic settings for addressing the challenges of sustainable water resources, as exemplified in the current unprecedented drought in Texas and south-western United States, to guide the development and implementation of integrated water management actions and programmes for addressing freshwater goals that appropriately consider the hydrologic linkages between water systems, and their scientific, socioeconomic and governance implications;
- That governments, NGOs, and civil society strive to propel the principles and linked scientific and governance components of integrated water management, as exemplified in the ILBM approach, into mainstream discussions in the global water dialogue and as one of the components to be considered in the RIO+20 discussions and deliberations.

The participants make these recommendations with a view to advancing the management of lakes, reservoirs, rivers, groundwater and coastal water systems, and their environmental and governance interlinkages, to meet human needs and maintain aquatic ecosystems and their services for present and future generations.

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The Past of World Lake Conferences:

- [13th Conference Wuhan 2009](#)
- [12th Conference Taal 2007](#)
- [11th Conference Kenya 2005](#)
- [10th Conference Chicago 2003](#)
- [9th Conference BIWAKO 2001](#)
- [8th Conference Lake'99](#)
- [7th Conference LACAR'97](#)
- [6th Conference Kasumigaura'95](#)
- [5th Conference STRESA'93](#)
- [4th Conference HANGZHOU'90](#)
- [3rd Conference BALATON'88](#)
- [2nd Conference MAKINAC'86](#)
- [1st Conference LECS'84](#)

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