

# SERInews

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*With you in Pursuit of Sustainable  
Management of Finite Water Resources*



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## Point for discussion this month **International cooperation for ILBM**

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## Eternal Words

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

~Native American Proverb

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

~Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

Dear Readers,

River and lake restoration is going to be the buzzword of the modern world for the imminent development while adapting to the global warming and subsequent climate change. Urban growth has used lentic-lotic water bodies as drinking water sources and dumping grounds for wastes. It is not only India's problem. You can cite many more examples in other parts of the world also. Industrialization and urbanization has used these resources at minimal expenses by putting the pressure of pollution on society to pay for. This is what modern economics is! It neglected payment of ecological services of lentic and lotic water bodies! Rather made huge profits at the cost of these water bodies!

Cover photo is of Lake Biwa in Japan which tells a story of indomitable, wilful movement of housewives which can change the eutrophicated status of lake which is vital water source for human consumption and other activities. This went far - compelled government to change the policies and legislation on water quality and intimidating the industries to change product - detergents to make them phosphorus-free! This is the power of determination of the most neglected section of society - housewives! And Lake Biwa has become a living example of this.

Dr. Madhavrao Chitale, India's first water laureate (Stockholm Water Prize winner) always says that people's own mandate and well-thought actions can revive the quality of our polluted water resources. In Pune's "Saving the Ujjani" programme he said that people's mandate would change the policies and actions of those who are sitting in the chair of governance.

Dr. Mohan Kodarkar, internationally acclaimed limnologist, used to say that the ecosystem approach is the viable solution for sustainable management of lakes and reservoirs. This was demonstrated by the people living in the catchment of Lake Biwa with coercive action of controlling use of detergents. This can be replicated anywhere in the world! Best wishes!!

Thank you,  
Chief Editor

**Summary of ILBM Review Meeting and International Symposium at UNEP-ILEC Headquarters, Kusatsu, Japan during Nov. 2, - 7, 2010.**

Sandeep Joshi, President of Indian Association of Aquatic Biologists (IAAB) - Pune-Mumbai Chapter and Chairman of Indian Environment Association (IEA) - Pune Chapter, recently visited Japan to present the Indian Scenario of Lake Management in the Final Review Meeting and International Symposium of a project entitled "Integrated Lake Basin Management (ILBM) - Basin Governance, Challenges and Prospects" that was held from 2-6 and on 7, respectively, in November, 2010, at ILEC (International Lake Environment Committee) Headquarters in Kusatsu, Japan organised by Dr. Masahisa Nakamura, Chairman, Scientific Committee, ILEC.

Specific aim of the Meeting and Symposium was to share global experiences with ILBM, as well as shedding some light on the transboundary issues of lakes and their catchments. Sandeep Joshi, as an Indian representative, presented studies of Ujjani Reservoir and its restoration efforts. ILEC has included Ujjani in its World Lake Vision because it has multidimensional issues including urban and agricultural landuses contributing to degradation of water quality in upstream causing severe problems downstream.

Sandeep Joshi talked about various approaches and solutions to save Ujjani using six pillar (policy, information, institution, participation, technology and finance) ILBM system and about the success story of Ecological Restoration of Ahar River, Udaipur. Seven of its numerous lakes have been selected for ILBM - Pushkar and Udaisagar in Rajasthan, Bhoj Wetlands in M.P., Ujjani reservoir and Nath Sagar in Maharashtra, Husseinsagar in Andhra Pradesh and Chilka in Orissa.

Following observations were made during the conference and the need to work further on these points was emphasized:

- Indian ILBM efforts started with NGO's and then the Government joined
- Indian initiatives in 7 lake-basins were appreciated in the symposium.
- Sharing and collaboration expected in the field of water-quality management and technological innovations from India with robust impact stories.
- Nepal needs support from other countries for its ILBM projects and initiatives. ILBM is moving at fast pace in India and other Asian countries.
- In spite of the long time taken for planning and decision-making, the actions can be taken "on ground" and in shortest possible time with the willing participation of the people.

- Dr. Nikoloy Aladin, from Russia, praised India's President for calling lakes the blue eyes of the Earth.
- Dr. Nakamura emphasized on sustainable use of resources and carrying-capacity of lakes. The need was expressed to assess the relationship of local actions and their global impacts. ILEC has come up with a new initiative on Global Warming and Climate-change.
- More in-depth studies on Lake Processes and Ecological Health need to be conducted and their positive and negative impacts on global warming also need to be recorded.

Dr. Walter Rast, Professor of Environmental Sciences in Texas University and Vice-chairman of ILEC, invited all the experts to participate in 14<sup>th</sup> World Lake Conference to be convened in Austin, USA during 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2011.

Sandeep Joshi attended the bioremediation conference in Manila, Philippines before going to Japan with Mr. Pravir Sinha of Green Infrastructure, Pune. He was invited by the University of Philippines Los Baños to share experiences of river and lake restorations. He visited the polluted Pasig river in Manila with Adelina C. Santos-Borja, Chief, Research and Development Division, Head, Carbon Finance Unit Laguna Lake Development Authority.



