

第13回世界湖沼会議 開会式 嘉田知事あいさつ（英語版）

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開会式 9：00～10：20

場所：中華人民共和国・武漢市

武漢国際会議展示センター

Congratulatory Remarks

Good morning, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am Yukiko Kada, Governor of Shiga Prefecture, Japan. It is great honor to be here with you today.

I am truly delighted at the grand opening of the 13th World Lake Conference has received, held here in Wuhan, China and jointly hosted by the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, the city of Wuhan, and the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation.

I am deeply appreciate for the efforts of everyone involved, and I feel privileged to stand here among so many individuals engaged in environmental conservation from all across the world.

The Origin of the World Lake Conference

Let me first explain about The Origin of the World Lake Conference.

Shiga Prefecture is home to Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan and one of the worlds few "ancient lakes," with a history of four million years. It is an ecological treasure trove of various endemic species, around which a unique freshwater fishing culture was born and raised until now. Lake Biwa is also an important freshwater resource which supplies drinking, industrial, and agricultural water for fourteen million people in the Kinki region of Japan, including Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto. Providing countless blessings, it is intimately connected to the daily lives and economic activities of nearby inhabitants.

The first World Lake Conference was held on the shores of Lake Biwa in the city of Otsu, as proposed by Shiga Prefecture in 1984, 25years ago.

Looking back at the circumstances surrounding that conference, we find the latter half of the 1960s welcoming a period of rapid economic growth in Japan, in which Lake Biwa played a role of increasing importance as an industrial and municipal water source. However, severe eutrophication occurred and it caused water quality to decrease and Lake Biwa soon found itself in a very precarious situation

in 1970's. All of us who were invested in Lake Biwa worked hard to overcome that problem. Thus, we opened the World Lake Conference to share our experience with the worldwide concerned people, so that it might help in resolving other lake environmental problems, and to engage scientists, politicians, citizens and residents in discussion without regard to their background.

After the success of the 1st World Lake Conference, this conference has been held in various places around the world roughly once every two years. Following the fourth World Lake Conference in the city of Hangzhou in 1990, I am very happy that once again the World Lake Conference is being held in here China.

Proposal for Addressing Lake Environment Problems

Next, let me raise the proposal for Addressing Lake Environment Problems. Before I became governor, I studied the interrelationship between water and people as an environmental sociology researcher. My field encompassed not only Lake Biwa, but lakes across the world, including Lake Tai in China. I feel that Lake Biwa has tremendous value, and I announced my candidacy for the Shiga Prefectural Governorship three years ago out of the desire to conserve its value and protect the futures of today's children and next generation.

Through my travels across the world and my involvement with Lake Biwa Research, I have come to believe that there are three types of approaches from which issues in lake environments could be addressed.

The first approach lies in natural science. Based in the chemical or physical sciences, it is an approach derived from information and knowledge related to the circulation of materials and energy. To be put into practical use, engineering knowledge is also needed. For example, if water quality has worsened, one solution can be to clean the water with a sewage processing plant.

The second approach is an ecological one. Utilizing knowledge of ecology and biology, it is a way to conserve living creatures and unique ecosystems, which brings out nature's potential power and the revitalizes the ecosystem.

The third and final approach lies in the field of humanities and social sciences, my area of expertise. Based in the lifestyle, traditional culture, and social structure of people living in an area, it is a way to improve interrelationship between people and the environment within existing systems. We, humans, are the ones who put contaminants and waste in the water. To address lake environmental problems at a fundamental level, it is necessary to rethink and reestablish the interrelationship between humans, water, the natural environment, and culture.

In studying the interrelationship between people's lives and water, I recorded people's life stories about the recent past, stories from about fifty years ago, while

visiting the areas surrounding Lake Biwa. Most people talked of their emotional attachment to lakes or rivers- vividly recounting playing in the lake in the childhood, drinking lake water, and using the lake for washing cloths or bathing. What struck me then was that what people care most about, more so than water quality, is their emotional or sometimes even spiritual ties with water.

Today in Japan we use water from the taps or faucet, which is afterwards sent to a treatment plant, from where it flows back to the rivers and lakes. The water we use in our daily lives is so far removed from rivers and lakes that our interest in rivers and lakes is fading.

I've heard in China that there is a word called "Insuishigen(飲水思源)". It's a word that reminds us to be cognizant of the interrelationship between water and our lives, and to not forget the source of the water we use each day.

To conserve the natural environment and happiness of the people, I believe it is necessary to not only have policies which utilize advanced technology and overhaul our social infrastructure, but which renew our interrelationship with the water we use every day and make its existence emotionally or spiritually closer to our lives.

The Significance of the World Lake Conference

Finally, let me raise The Significance of the World Lake Conference.

Our current lifestyles are intimately connected on a global level, both socioeconomically and environmentally. To promote the sustained use of our valuable and irreplaceable lakes now and in the future, not only for ourselves but for all the world's living creatures, we must work together and make full use of our knowledge and experiences.

This is not a simple task. However, I believe that by combining and expanding our efforts across our individual regions we can begin to address not only local, but also global problems including global warming issues. Gathered here are citizens, NGOs, scientists, and policy makers from across the world. At this conference I hope we can foster meaningful discussions and exchange related experience about the world's lakes. I sincerely pray for the success of this World Lake Conference, and hope its fruits can contribute to sustainable lake management and the resolution of lake environmental issues.

This concludes my greeting.
Thank you for listening.